



British Empire

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GENERALLY ABOUT THE EMPIRE

- The British Empire was founded in the late 16th century by Queen Elizabeth I. At its largest extent in 1919 (after the treaty of Versailles), the Empire stretched from Canada all the way to New Zealand and it covered 35.5 million squared kilometers also it had a population of approximately 458 million people and as we all know <<the sun never sets on the British Empire>>. But how come the small island of Britain became such a big and strong powerhouse?





THE FOUNDATION OF BRITISH EMPIRE AND THE FIRST COLONIES

- *To understand the British expansion we have to go back to the reign of Henry VIII , after this cruel king's death , his daughter Elizabeth I the last monarch of the house of Tudor became the leader of the united British isles and established the British Empire . The colonization era had began in 1495 , when the strongest west European power started the exploration and annexation of American lands .*
- *The next move for Britain was the exploit of the resources of the Indian subcontinent and the formation of the British Raj . The British Raj consisted of India , Pakistan and Bangladesh. Also, the British colonized Malaysia most of Oceania and a lot of small islands in the Pacific Ocean .*

THE FIRST REBELLIONS, THE NEW COLONIES IN AFRICA , AND EUROPE

- This meant that now Britain became a colonial empire and had to satellite their colonies so as not to start rebellions . This was really hard because of the mainland's position in the world . The colony that apparently rebelled successfully was the USA after the well-known American war of independence of 1775 , which ended in 1783 with the declaration of independence .
- The British were able to conquer some European lands such as Gibraltar and Cyprus , but that was nothing compared to Africa . In 1905 a treaty named as The Scramble for Africa was signed by the strongest European countries such as German Empire , French colonial Empire , British Empire , Spain , Portugal and the Kingdom of Italy .The British got most of east Africa with the exception of some German and Portuguese lands.





GREAT WAR AND WW2

- During WW1 Britain was neutral , until the German attack on Belgium so as not to have to deal with the Maginot line and attack northern France. After the German attack the British joined the war and fought both the Ottomans and the Germans . After the end of ww1 they gained some more colonies in Middle east such as Palestine and Syria .In WW2 , they did not want that much to expand because their precious island was under attack .They fought in Greece , Sicily and Normandy (D DAY). After the end of ww2 they got an occupation zone in Germany , which they united with the French and Americans and later became the Federal republic of Germany .The end of the 1940s saw the British Empire at its worst years and after a few decades it dissolved .

**THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND ALLIES
WILL DESTROY THE NAZI TYRANNY**