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**UK Research
and Innovation**

SI **AAL**

Socially Inclusive Ageing across the Lifecourse



Socially inclusive ageing: a life-course study of new ageing populations

Being socially healthy, not being lonely or isolated, having strong relationships and feeling part of the local community, promotes the health and wellbeing of older people. People with good social health live longer than those with poor social health, have better physical and mental health and are less likely to drink alcohol to excess, smoke or be sedentary and not physically active. Promoting and supporting good social relationships is one way to contribute to a key government policy, the health ageing grand challenge, which aims to increase healthy active life by five years by 2035 and reduce the up to 20-year difference in this between the most and least privileged groups in Britain.

Our understanding of the social health of older people is limited because research often excludes certain groups of older people. Our project includes three groups of older adults who may have experienced significant discrimination across their life-course which may have affected their social health in later life. Our first group are those people who migrated from the Caribbean/Indian sub-continent to the UK between 1950-1975. These people often came for work and never intended to grow old here. Our second group are those ageing with disabilities, physical or mental that they have had from birth or acquired during childhood. Due to increases in survival rates, people born with cerebral palsy or Down syndrome can now expect to live, on average, into their 60's. Our third group are older adults who identify as LGBTQ+.

Unfortunately, services designed to improve social health rarely work. We think this is because they measure social health at *one* time point. Using existing survey data we will compare social health and how it changes over time for people aged 40 and older from our 3 groups and compare this with the experiences of people of the same age and gender drawn from the wider community. This way, we can map the pathways into and out of poor social health; the characteristics of those groups who move /into and out of poor social health, and the events that are linked to these changes (e.g., divorce) or other things like wealth or involvement in community spaces. We will also conduct interviews with people from each of our three groups to understand their experiences of ageing and their social health through the stories they have to tell.

The information from our project will collect may help us to design services, policies and interventions that are timelier and more tailored to the needs of individual older people, helping to promote a healthier and more active old age. We will work together with older people, those who develop policies and service providers to pull together the things we have learned and share it with as many people as possible. We will work with older adults and service providers to develop resources such as guidelines and toolkits, and networks for sharing information. This will allow more people to use the results of our research and help design better services.

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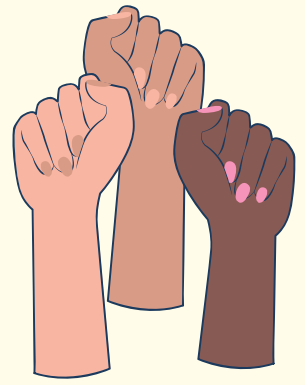
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COLONIALISM, RACISM & PREJUDICE: A TIMELINE



1497

John Cabot is sent by King Henry VII on an expedition to discover a route to Asia via the Atlantic. Cabot managed to reach the coast of Newfoundland and believed he had made it as far as Asia.

1511

John Blanke is thought to be the first Black Briton to have an image of him recorded. His face can be seen inscribed into a 60ft long roll depicting the prestigious Westminster Tournament of 1511 – an elaborate party which Henry VIII put on to celebrate the birth of a son.

1556

The Tudor conquest of Ireland leads to land confiscation to be used for plantations.

1597

An Act of Parliament is passed which allowed transportation of convicted criminals to the colonies.

1600

Queen Elizabeth I grants a Royal charter to the English East India Company. It was formed to trade in the Indian Ocean region, initially with the East Indies (the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia), and later with East Asia. The company seized control of large parts of the Indian subcontinent, colonised parts of Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. The EIC had its own armed forces in the form of the company's three Presidency armies, totalling about 260,000 soldiers, twice the size of the British army at the time.

1617

Sir Walter Raleigh begins his voyage to find 'El Dorado'. Meanwhile a smallpox epidemic sweeps through New England, decimating the Native American population.

1502

Henry VII commissions another voyage, a joint venture between the English and Portuguese to North America.

1547

Italian explorer Sebastian Cabot, employed by the English Crown, returns to England with information about the Spanish and Portuguese overseas explorations.

1552

English naval officer Thomas Wyndham brings back sugar and molasses from Guinea.

1562

English naval commander John Hawkins begins his involvement in the slave trade between West Africa and the New World. Hawkins, alongside Francis Drake, are given permission for privateering raids against Spanish ports in the Americas.

1604

Attempts made to establish a colony in Guiana.

1607

Captain John Smith and the Virginia Company manage to establish the first permanent settlement in the Americas at Jamestown.

1615

Defeat of the Portuguese at Bombay in a dispute with the English over trading rights.

1619

The first African slaves arrive in Jamestown, Virginia, to satisfy the labour needs of the rapidly growing North American colonies.

1620

The Mayflower sets sail from the port of Plymouth and begins the journey with around ±100 passengers, mainly Puritans seeking a new life away from persecution across the Atlantic.

1627

Settlements established in Barbados.

1633

English trading post established in Bengal.

1655

The island of Jamaica is taken from the Spanish and annexed.

1664

The English gain control of the Dutch colony of New Netherland, renaming the settlement New York.

1668

English East India Company takes over Bombay.

1719

Ireland declared inseparable from Britain by the British Government.

1727

- War breaks out between Spain and Britain, resulting in the siege of Gibraltar by the Spanish.
- Quakers raise the subject of the abolition of slavery in the colonies.

1769

- The Great Famine of Bengal kills over 10 million people.
- Captain James Cook arrives in Tahiti before making his way to New Zealand.

1770

Captain James Cook claims New South Wales for Britain.

1775

The American war of Independence breaks out and lasts until 1783.

1628

Settlements established on Nevis.

1624

- The English set foot in Surat (India).
- Settlements successfully established at St. Kitts.

1630

Puritans establish Massachusetts Bay Colony.

1639

The English settle at Madras.

1660

The founding of the Royal African Company. The Navigation Acts are passed in order to protect trading networks and products from rival powers such as the Dutch.

1666

The Bahamas are successfully colonised.

1713

The Treaty of Utrecht successfully concludes the War of the Spanish Succession. This treaty allows Britain to make territorial gains in the Americas and Mediterranean, including Newfoundland, St Kitts, Hudson's Bay as well as Gibraltar and Minorca. The treaty also included Britain's right to import slaves into Spanish colonies.

1731

English factory workers prevented from emigrating to America.

1763

Treaty of Paris redistributes imperial lands; areas of Lower Canada, land up to the Mississippi, Florida, India and Senegal are ceded to Britain. The British return Cuba and Manila to the Spanish as part of the treaty.

1773

- The Boston Tea Party, a reaction to Britain's ability to levy taxes, is established.
- Phillis Wheatley becomes the first African-American poet to be published

1784

Britain passes Pitt's India Act. This established the system of dual control of India and these changes continued through 1858. The company's territories in India were called the "British possession in India" for the first time.

1787

The British politician William Wilberforce, a member of the Clapham Sect, began his campaign to end slavery in British colonies. This led to a free colony being established in Sierra Leone.

1793

Congress passes the Fugitive Slave Act, which made it a federal crime to assist an enslaved person trying to escape. Though it was difficult to enforce from state to state, especially with the growth of abolitionist feeling in the North, the law helped enshrine and legitimize slavery as an enduring American institution.

1801

Irish Act of Union unites Britain and Ireland.

1805

Victory for Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar allows the Royal Navy to have control of the seas.

1807

Prohibition of shipment of slaves in British ships or to British colonies.

1816

The Congress of Vienna is another attempt to establish peaceful terms between European powers. Britain returned Dutch and French colonies.

1821

Sierra Leone, Gambia and the Gold Coast form British West Africa.

1783

- Conclusion of the international conflict of the American War of Independence, impacted by French involvement, with the Treaty of Versailles.
- Britain is forced to recognise the independence of 13 colonies. Florida ceded back to the Spanish; Senegal ceded back to France.
- As part of the agreement however Britain retained imperial control in the West Indies and Canada.

1788

- Britain claims Australia. The English settlers confiscated land and other economic resources and destroyed or obliterated indigenous institutions of self-government, replacing them with the structures of colonial governments and repressing cultural and knowledge systems, reducing quality of food, depriving basic nutrients and causing physical debilitation and death, destroyed indigenous religions, and undermined moral and ethical values.
- The first ships carrying convicted criminals from England arrived at Botany Bay, Australia. This marked the beginning of several hundred people being transported, usually for petty crimes, across the world.

1806

Cape of Good Hope occupied by the British.

1813

English East India Company loses its trading monopoly with India.

1819

Singapore founded by Sir Stamford Raffles.



1833

Abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire.

1839

The Opium Wars between China and Britain, resulting from the trade of opium leading to widespread addictions; the trade was forbidden in China and any opium found was destroyed. The British viewed this as an attack on free trade and destruction of British property- war ensues.

1840

New Zealand becomes officially British, after which systematic colonization there follows rapidly. Partly owing to pressure from missionaries, British control is later extended to Fiji, Tonga, Papua, and other islands in the Pacific Ocean.

1841

Britain occupies the island of Hong Kong.

1842

Treaty of Nanking concluded the Opium Wars and ceded Hong Kong to the British.

1843

Maori revolt against British rule in New Zealand.

1853

Construction of railways in India.

1857

Deep resentment toward British policies leads to a widespread but unsuccessful rebellion by the Sepoys (native Indian soldiers employed by the East India Company) against British rule in India.

1858

East India Company dissolved.

1831

- Nat Turner leads the only effective slave rebellion in U.S. history.
- On the night of 21st August, he and a small band of followers (around 75 Black people) killed his owners, the Travis family, and set off toward the town of Jerusalem, where they planned to capture an armoury and gather more recruits. The group killed 60 white people in two days before armed resistance from local white people and the arrival of state militia forces overwhelmed them just outside Jerusalem. 100 enslaved people, including innocent bystanders, lost their lives in the struggle. Turner escaped and spent six weeks on the run before he was captured, tried and hanged.
- A new brand of radical abolitionism emerges in the North, partly in reaction to Congress' passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 and the tightening of codes in most southern states. One of its most eloquent voices was William Lloyd Garrison, a crusading journalist from Massachusetts, who founded the abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator* and became known as the most radical of America's antislavery activists.
- The earliest mention of the Underground Railroad appears when enslaved man Tice Davids escaped from Kentucky into Ohio and his owner blamed an "underground railroad" for helping Davids to freedom.
- A Washington newspaper reported an escaped enslaved man named Jim had revealed, under torture, his plan to go north following an "underground railroad to Boston." Vigilance Committees (created to protect escaped enslaved people from bounty hunters in New York in 1835 and Philadelphia in 1838) soon expanded their activities to guide enslaved people on the run. By the 1840s, the term Underground Railroad was part of the American vernacular.



1859

- John Brown's Raid: A native of Connecticut, John Brown struggled to support his large family and moved restlessly from state to state throughout his life, becoming a passionate opponent of slavery along the way. On the night of 16th October 16, he led a small band of ±50 men in a raid against the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Their aim was to capture enough ammunition to lead a large operation against Virginia's slaveholders. Brown's men, including several Black people, captured and held the arsenal until federal and state governments sent troops and were able to overpower them.
- John Brown was hanged on 2nd December.

1863

- The Emancipation Proclamation, officially Proclamation 95, was a presidential proclamation and executive order issued by Abraham Lincoln on 1st January during the Civil War.
- The Proclamation changed the legal status of more than 3.5 million enslaved African Americans in the secessionist Confederate states from enslaved to free. The Proclamation allowed for former slaves to "be received into the armed service of the United States."
- Lincoln justified his decision as a wartime measure, and as such he did not go so far as to free enslaved people in the border states loyal to the Union, an omission that angered many abolitionists.
- The Emancipation Proclamation deprived the Confederacy of the bulk of its labour forces and put international public opinion strongly on the Union side; 186,000 Black soldiers would join the Union Army by the time the war ended in 1865, and 38,000 lost their lives. The total number of dead at war's end was 620,000 (out of a population of some 35 million), making it the costliest conflict in American history.

1861

Bitter sectional conflicts had been intensifying between North and South over the course of four decades, erupting into civil war, with 11 southern states seceding from the Union and forming the Confederate States of America.

1862

- The Battle of Antietam, also called the Battle of Sharpsburg, occurred on 17th September, at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland.
- It pitted Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia against Union General George McClellan's Army of the Potomac and was the culmination of Lee's attempt to invade the north.
- The battle's outcome would be vital to shaping America's future, and it remains the deadliest one-day battle in all of American military history.
- Five days after the bloody Union victory at Antietam in September, Lincoln issued a preliminary emancipation proclamation.

1865

- Abraham Lincoln assassinated.
- Though the Union victory in the Civil War gave 4 million enslaved people their freedom, significant challenges awaited during the Reconstruction period. The 13th Amendment officially abolished slavery, but the question of freed Black peoples' status in the post-war South remained.
- As white southerners gradually reestablished civil authority in the former Confederate states, they enacted a series of laws known as the Black Codes, designed to restrict freed Black peoples' activity and ensure their availability as a labour force.
- The first Klan (KKK) is founded in Pulaski, Tennessee by six former officers of the Confederate army.

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1868

The 14th Amendment broadens the definition of citizenship, granting "equal protection" of the Constitution to people who had been enslaved. Congress required southern states to ratify the 14th Amendment and enact universal male suffrage before they could rejoin the Union, and the state constitutions during those years were the most progressive in the region's history.

1876

Queen Victoria takes the title Empress of India.

1878

British occupation of Cyprus.

1880

The First Boer War between the British and the South African Republic.

1885

- Local Indian leaders form the Indian National Congress to promote independence from Great Britain.
- Most southern states in the US now have laws requiring separate schools for Black and white students.

1892

Dadabhai Naoroji, Elected Liberal MP for Finsbury, is the first Indian nationalist politician to win a seat in parliament, despite Lord Salisbury's jibe that the British people would not accept a 'Black man' as an MP. Naoroji's election provoked mixed reactions: some saw it as 'an odd choice for an English constituency', others considered an Indian voice to be 'extremely valuable and useful'. Public figures including Labour politician Keir Hardy and Florence Nightingale endorsed him.



1867

Impatient with the leniency shown toward the former Confederate states by Andrew Johnson, Radical Republicans in Congress overrode Johnson's veto and passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867, which placed the South under martial law.

1870

- British troops are withdrawn from Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
- The 15th Amendment, adopted in 1870, guarantees that a citizen's right to vote would not be denied—on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." During Reconstruction, Black Americans won election to southern state governments and even to the U.S. Congress. Their growing influence greatly dismayed many white southerners, who felt control slipping ever further away from them.

1884

European nations meet in Berlin to divide Africa. Britain wins the most territory, which stretches from South Africa to Egypt.

1889

The British South Africa Co. Royal Charter is awarded; Rhodesia established.

1894

Uganda becomes a protectorate.

1896

Separate but Equal: On 18th May, the U.S. Supreme Court issues its verdict in Plessy v. Ferguson, a case that represented the first major test of the meaning of the 14th Amendment's provision of full and equal citizenship to African Americans. The Court upheld a Louisiana law requiring the segregation of passengers on railroad cars. By asserting that the equal protection clause was not violated as long as reasonably equal conditions were provided to both groups, the Court established the "separate but equal" doctrine that would thereafter be used for assessing the constitutionality of racial segregation laws.

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1899-1902

- Outbreak of the Second Boer War, fought between the British Empire and the two Boer States known as the Republic of Transvaal and the Orange Free State. An accumulation of tension over a century's old rivalry between the two powers, escalated by the profits gained from the Witwatersrand gold mines, led to the Boer Ultimatum.
- The British government assumes direct responsibility for the entire region of Nigeria, previously entrusted to a commercial company.
- By 1900, "persons of color" were required to be separated from white people in railroad cars and depots, hotels, theaters, restaurants, barber shops and other establishments.
- The Ivory Bangle Lady is the name given to remains discovered in York in 1901. The remains have been dated to the second half of the 4th Century. She was found with jet and elephant ivory bracelets, earrings, pendants, beads, a blue glass jug and a glass mirror.
- Six separate Australian colonies combine to form the independent Commonwealth of Australia
- Thousands of women and children die in the concentration camps used by the British army for displaced Boer families.
- The British take sole control of Swaziland.

1911

The British monarch George V holds a great durbar in Delhi to celebrate his coronation as emperor of India.

1915

- Mahatma Gandhi returns to India after more than 20 years in South Africa.
- The second Klan (KKK) was founded atop Stone Mountain, Georgia, by William Joseph Simmons.
- The British West Indies Regiment (BWIR) is formed as a separate Black unit within the British Army.



1903

Edward VII, the first British monarch to travel to India, holds a great coronation durbar in Delhi.

1904

British troops under Francis Younghusband enter Tibet's holy city of Lhasa.

1906

- Mahatma Gandhi, confronted by racial discrimination in South Africa, launches a programme of passive resistance (satyagraha).
- The All-India Muslim League is set up at a meeting of the Muhammadan Educational Conference in Dhaka.

1907

New Zealand becomes independent as a self-governing dominion.

1909

- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded.
- Among the NAACP's stated goals were the abolition of all forced segregation, the enforcement of the 14th and 15th Amendments, equal education for Black and white students and complete enfranchisement of all Black men.
- Mahatma Gandhi, on a visit to India, publishes a pamphlet entitled Hind Swaraj ("Indian Home Rule").

1914

- British rule is consolidated in Nigeria by the merging of north and south as a single colony.
- The British government changes the status of Egypt from a Turkish province to a British protectorate.
- Bound by treaty to defend Belgium, Britain declares war on Germany. Black Britons volunteered at recruitment centres and were joined by West Indian colonials. Throughout the war, 60,000 Black South African and 120,000 other Africans also served in uniformed Labour Units.

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1919

- Afghanistan (formerly Northern Persia) gains independence from British India through the Anglo-Afghan Treaty.
- Mahatma Gandhi becomes a leader of the Indian National Congress.
- More than 300 die when British troops fire on a peaceful demonstration in Amritsar.
- Between January and August 1919, there were anti-Black 'race riots' in seven towns and cities in Britain, including Cardiff, Liverpool, South Shields, Glasgow, and London's East End. While Police bias meant that nearly twice as many Black people as White people were arrested during the race riots, the courts acquitted nearly half of Black arrestees whilst most of the White people were convicted.

1921

- The Young Kikuyu Association is formed in Kenya, to fight for African rights and the restoration of Kikuyu land.
- The Tulsa race massacre: A thriving black area, Greenwood (dubbed "Black Wall street") endured two days of attacks by white mobs resulting in the deaths of up to 300 people, a further 10,000 left homeless, and 1,400 business premises destroyed.

1924

The British government takes on the administration of Northern Rhodesia from the British South Africa Company.

1925

- The Coloured Alien Seamen Order of 1925 is notorious for being the first attempt by a British government to restrict the employment of Black workers. The India Office and Colonial Office received numerous protests from seamen who claimed that police were using the order to target men who were obviously British subjects.

1917

The Balfour Declaration announced support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.

1920

- In the 1920s, the migration of Black Americans from the rural South to the urban North sparked an African American cultural renaissance that took its name from the New York City neighbourhood of Harlem but became a widespread movement in cities throughout the North and West.
- The Harlem Renaissance marked the first time that mainstream publishers and critics turned their attention seriously to African American literature, music, art, and politics.
- Blues singer Bessie Smith, pianist Jelly Roll Morton, bandleader Louis Armstrong, composer Duke Ellington, dancer Josephine Baker and actor Paul Robeson were among the leading entertainment talents of the Harlem Renaissance, while Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston were some of its most eloquent writers.
- League of Nations mandates give Britain responsibility for Iraq, Transjordan and Palestine.

1922

- Unilateral Declaration of Egyptian Independence but control over the Suez Canal Zone was maintained until 1956.
- Mahatma Gandhi is arrested by the British in India as an agitator and is sentenced to six years in prison.

1926

The Balfour Report, by former UK prime minister A.J. Balfour, suggests the way forward for the British Commonwealth of Nations.

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1930

- Mahatma Gandhi leads a 240-mile march from Ahmedabad to the sea to defy the British salt tax, launching a campaign of civil disobedience.
- Ethel Scott is the first black woman to represent Great Britain at an international athletics competition.

1936

African American Jesse Owens wins the 100 metres, 200 metres, long jump and 4x100 metre relay at the Berlin Olympics. Germany's Nazi leader Adolf Hitler had hoped the event would demonstrate Aryan supremacy.

1941

- During WW2, many African Americans were ready to fight for what President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the "Four Freedoms" (freedom of speech, worship, want and fear) even though they lacked those freedoms at home.
- More than 3 million Black Americans registered for service during the war, with 500,000 seeing action overseas.
- According to War Department policy, enlisted Black and white people were organised into separate units.
- Frustrated Black servicemen were forced to combat racism even as they sought to further U.S. war aims; this became known as the "Double V" strategy, for the two victories they sought to win.
- The war's first African American hero emerged from the attack on Pearl Harbor, when Dorie Miller, a young Navy steward on the U.S.S. West Virginia, carried wounded crew members to safety and manned a machine gun post, shooting down several Japanese planes.

1945

Gamal Abdel Nasser and army colleagues form a secret party, the Free Officers, to fight for an independent Egyptian republic.

1931

- The term British Commonwealth of Nations is applied to largely self-governing dependencies that acknowledge an increasingly symbolic British authority.
- The Commonwealth will ultimately evolve into a free, voluntary association of sovereign states that maintain ties of friendship and cooperation and that continue to acknowledge the British monarch as symbolic head of their association.

1939-1945

- Troops from the British empire play a crucial role. Around 2,600,000 men and 100,000 women actively serve in the war.
- There are 1,200 in the Caribbean regiment; 5,500 in the RAF as ground crew; 300 Africans and Caribbeans in the RAF as air crew; 13 Victoria Crosses are awarded to "colonial soldiers"; and the UK imports huge quantities of grain, tea, fish and other commodities from the British empire.

1942

- Mahatma Gandhi launches the Quit India Movement, calling on a large crowd in Bombay to 'do or die' in the struggle to expel the British.
- Mahatma Gandhi and nearly all the leaders of India's Congress party are arrested and will remain in prison until the end of the war.

1943

- Graduates of the first all-Black military aviation program headed to North Africa as the 99th Pursuit Squadron.
- Their commander, Captain Benjamin O. Davis Jr., became one of the first African American generals (his father—General Benjamin O. Davis Sr.—was the first).
- The Tuskegee Airmen saw combat against German and Italian troops, flew more than 3,000 missions, and served as a great source of pride for many Black Americans.

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1947

- The Mountbatten Plan partitions the subcontinent into Hindu-controlled India and Muslim-controlled Pakistan on 3rd June.
- India gains independence on 15th August.
- Louis Mountbatten becomes the first governor-general.
- Jawaharlal Nehru becomes prime minister of India.
- Muslim leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah becomes the first governor-general of the new state of Pakistan.
- The first ships to carry large groups of West Indian people from Jamaica to the United Kingdom were the *SS Ormond*, which docked at Liverpool on 31st March with 241 passengers and the *SS Almanzora*, which arrived at Southampton on 21st December with 200 passengers.
- Jackie Robinson plays his first game with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

1948

- Mahatma Gandhi is by a Hindu extremist, Nathuram Godse.
- President Harry Truman issues Executive Order 9981 to end segregation in the Armed Services.
- Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) gained independence.
- Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) gained independence
- End of British mandate in Israel (formerly Mandatory Palestine). Palestine later declared independence from Israel in 1988.
- British Nationality Act 1948: gave Citizenship of the UK and Colonies to all people living in the United Kingdom and its colonies, and the right of entry and settlement in the UK.
- The Afrikaner nationalists take power in South Africa and legalise white domination under what is known as apartheid (derived from the Afrikaans word for separateness).
- South Africans are divided into different racial categories: whites, coloureds (mixed race people), Indians and Pakistanis, and Bantus (Black Africans).

1948 (continued)

Empire Windrush

- Empire Windrush arrived with a group of 802 migrants at the port of Tilbury, near London, on 22nd June. Empire Windrush was a troopship enroute from Australia to England via the Atlantic, docking in Kingston, Jamaica, to pick up servicemen who were on leave.
- An advertisement had appeared in a Jamaican newspaper offering cheap transport on the ship for anybody who wanted to travel to the United Kingdom. Many former servicemen took this opportunity to return to Britain with the hopes of re-joining the RAF, while others decided to make the journey just to see what England was like.
- Unlike the previous two ships, the arrival of the Windrush received a great deal of media attention and was reported by newspaper reporters and Newsreel cameras.
- The arrivals were temporarily housed in the Clapham South deep shelter in southwest London, about two miles (three kilometres) away from Coldharbour Lane in Brixton. Many intended to stay in Britain for a no more than few years and a number did return to the Caribbean, but the majority remained to settle permanently.
- The arrival of the passengers has become an important landmark in the history of modern Britain, and the image of West Indians filing off the ship's gangplank has come to symbolise the beginning of modern British multicultural society.
- The arrival of West Indian immigrants on the Empire Windrush was not expected by the British government, and not welcome. George Isaacs, the Minister of Labour and National Service stated in Parliament that there would be no encouragement for others to follow their example.

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1951

- Henrietta Lacks visits The John Hopkins Hospital complaining of vaginal bleeding. Upon examination, Dr Howard Jones discovers a large, malignant tumour on her cervix. At the time, this hospital is one of only a few hospitals to treat poor African-Americans.
- Lacks begins radium treatments for cervical cancer. A sample of her cancer cells Retrieved during a biopsy was sent to a nearby tissue lab. It was discovered that her cells were unlike any of the others the doctor had seen before. Where other cells were die, Henrietta's cells doubled every 20 to 24 hours.
- These cells, nicknamed "HeLa" cells, are used today to study the effect of toxins, drugs, hormones, and viruses on the growth of cancer cells without experimenting on humans. They have been used to test the effect of radiation and poisons, to study the human genome, to learn more about how viruses work, and were used to develop the polio and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Henrietta Lacks died aged 31 on 4th October.

1952

Malcolm Little is released from prison after serving six years on a robbery charge; while incarcerated, he had joined the Nation of Islam (NOI, commonly known as the Black Muslims), given up drinking and drugs and replaced his surname with an X to signify his rejection of his "slave" name. Malcolm X soon became leader of the NOI.

1954

- George Grivas leads a guerrilla movement, EOKA, fighting for Cyprus's independence from Britain and union with Greece.
- Brown v. Board of Education, a consolidation of five cases into one, is decided by the Supreme Court, effectively ending racial segregation in public schools. The Court rules that racial segregation in public schools violated the 14th Amendment's mandate of equal protection of the laws of the U.S. Constitution to any person within its jurisdiction.
- The landmark verdict reversed the "separate but equal" doctrine; Chief Justice Earl Warren famously declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."
- Though the Court's ruling applied specifically to public schools, it implied that other segregated facilities were also unconstitutional. The ruling provoked serious resistance, including a "Southern manifesto" issued by southern congressmen denouncing it.
- Though some southern schools moved towards integration relatively without incident, in other cases (e.g., Arkansas and Alabama), enforcing it would require federal intervention.
- Billy Boston is the first black rugby league player to represent Great Britain.

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1956

- The Sudan, declining the opportunity of union with Egypt, opts for independence as a separate state.
- *Browder v. Gayle*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court's decision declaring Montgomery Bus Company's segregation seating policy unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

1957

- Kwame Nkrumah leads the Gold Coast into independence under a name of historic resonance, Ghana.
- Malaya gains independence.
- Abdul Rahman Putra becomes the first prime minister of independent Malaya.
- Althea Gibson (American tennis player and professional golfer, and one of the first Black athletes to cross the colour line of international tennis) becomes the first black Wimbledon female champion.
- Murder of Willie Edwards Jr., who was forced by Klansmen to jump to his death from a bridge into the Alabama River.
- Sixty Black pastors and civil rights leaders from several southern states (including Martin Luther King, Jr.) meet in Atlanta, Georgia to coordinate nonviolent protests racial discrimination and segregation.
- Nine Black students known as the "Little Rock Nine" are blocked from integrating into Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dwight D. Eisenhower eventually sends federal troops to escort the students, however, they continue to be harassed.
- Eisenhower signs the Civil Rights Act of 1957 into law to help protect voter rights. The law allows federal prosecution of those who suppress another's right to vote.

1955

- Emmett Till, a 14-year-old from Chicago is murdered in Mississippi for allegedly flirting with a white woman, violating the strict racial codes.
- Three days later, two white men (the woman's husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam) dragged Till from his great uncle's house in the middle of the night. After beating him, they shot him to death and threw his body in the Tallahatchie River. The two men confessed to kidnapping Till but were acquitted of murder charges by an all-white, all-male jury after an hour of deliberations.
- Till's mother held an open-casket funeral for her son in Chicago, hoping to bring public attention to the brutal murder. Thousands of mourners attended, and *Jet* magazine published a photo of the corpse. International outrage over the crime and the verdict helped fuel the civil rights movement.
- Three months later, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. Parks was arrested for violating the city's racial segregation ordinances, which mandated that Black passengers sit in the back of public buses and give up their seats for white riders if the front seats were full. Parks, a 42-year-old seamstress, was also the secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP. As she later explained: "I had been pushed as far as I could stand to be pushed. I had decided that I would have to know once and for all what rights I had as a human being and a citizen."
- Four days after Parks' arrest, an activist organisation called the Montgomery Improvement Association (led by a young pastor named Martin Luther King Jr.) spearhead a boycott of the city's municipal bus company. As African Americans made up 70% of the bus company's riders at the time, and the great majority of Montgomery's Black citizens supported the bus boycott, the impact was immediate.



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1959

- Lee Kuan Yew becomes the first prime minister of the newly independent state of Singapore.
- Kelso Cochrane, a Black man, is murdered by a gang of white youths in west London. The murderers are not caught.
- The first ever 'Caribbean Carnival' is held in St Pancras town hall. The carnival took place in the hall for five years before moving to a street festival in 1964 and becoming Notting Hill Carnival.

1960

- Cyprus becomes an independent nation.
- British and Italian colonies merge as the independent Somali republic, also known as Somalia, with Aden Abdullah Osman as president.
- Nigeria wins independence, with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as prime minister, but its stability is threatened by tribal and regional factions.
- British prime minister Harold Macmillan acknowledges that the British Empire is crumbling, declaring that a "wind of change" is blowing through Africa.
- Four Black students from the Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, North Carolina, sat down at the lunch counter in a local branch of Woolworth's and ordered coffee. Refused service due to the counter's "whites-only" policy, they stayed put until the store closed, then returned the next day with other students. Heavily covered by the news media, the Greensboro sit-ins sparked a movement that spread quickly to college towns throughout the South and into the North, as young Black and white people engaged in various forms of peaceful protest against segregation in libraries, on beaches, in hotels and other establishments.
- Six-year-old Ruby Bridges is escorted by four armed federal marshals as she becomes the first student to integrate William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. Her actions inspired Norman Rockwell's painting *The Problem We All Live With* (1964).
- In South Africa, 69 peaceful anti-apartheid demonstrators are killed by police in the Sharpeville massacre.

1958

- Mildred and Richard Loving were one of the first interracial couples legally married in the US and their union marked a pivotal moment in marriage rights for mixed-race families. At 2 a.m. on July 11, 1958, Mildred was lying next to her husband Richard when police began knocking on their door, demanding to know about the nature of their relationship. At the time, interracial marriage was illegal in Virginia and the newly-wed couple was guilty of breaking the law. Richard spent the night in prison, and his sister had to pay a \$1,000 bond for his release. Mildred spent three nights in a small women's cell and was released to her father. The couple was then given a choice: spend 25 years in prison or leave Virginia. They chose exile and abandoned the state for nine years, making periodic trips back to visit family while trying to avoid being detected.
- Amidst the civil rights movement, ACLU lawyers Bernard S. Cohen and Philip J. Hirschkop decided to take on the couple's case. They tried to have the case vacated and the ruling overturned without success. They then tried appealing the decision to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, but the court ultimately stuck to the original ruling.
- The case eventually made its way to the Supreme Court, where a majority of members decided on June 12, 1967, that laws banning interracial marriage were unconstitutional.
- In August 1958, members of the Teddy Boys (a white nationalist youth group) witnessed an argument between a mixed-race couple: the Swedish Majbritt Morrison and Jamaican Raymond Morrison) and verbally abused them.
- The following night, white men marked and then attacked the homes of black people around Notting Hill with homemade bombs. The violent attacks lasted from the 30th of August to the 5th of September and yet racism, perpetuated even by politicians such as Oswald Mosley, continued against the West Indian community in Notting Hill.
- Mary Jackson becomes NASA's first black female engineer.

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1962

- Ian Smith's white supremacist party, the Rhodesian Front, wins power in Rhodesia's election.
- The former British colony of Uganda becomes an independent republic, with Milton Obote as prime minister.
- A crisis erupts when the state-funded University of Mississippi (known as "Ole Miss") admits a Black man, James Meredith. When Meredith arrived at Ole Miss under the protection of federal forces including U.S. marshals, a mob of more than 2,000 people formed on the Oxford, Mississippi campus. Two people were killed and close to 200 injured in the ensuing chaos, which ended only after President Kennedy's administration sent some 31,000 troops to restore order.
- Commonwealth Immigrants Act is passed with the aim of reducing immigration from the former British empire. Six years later the controls are tightened further.
- Jamaican-born Wilton Samuel Jackson becomes Britain's first black train driver.

1961

- Former British colony Sierra Leone becomes an independent state within the Commonwealth.
- Joshua Nkomo founds ZAPU, the Zimbabwe African People's Union, in the British colony of Southern Rhodesia.
- Patrice Lumumba, first prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is murdered. His death sparks outrage and demonstrations across the world.

1963

- Zanzibar becomes an independent nation and a member of the Commonwealth.
- Kenya becomes independent, with Jomo Kenyatta as prime minister.
- Governor George C. Wallace stands in a doorway at the University of Alabama to block two Black students from registering. The standoff continues until President John F. Kennedy sends the National Guard to the campus.
- On 28th August, 250,000 people (both Black and white) participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the largest demonstration in the history of the nation's capital and the most significant display of the civil rights movement's growing strength.
- Martin Luther King Jr speaks of the struggle facing Black Americans and the need for continued action and nonviolent resistance. "I have a dream," King intoned, expressing his faith that one day white and Black people would stand together as equals, and there would be harmony between the races: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character."
- White supremacists bomb the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama during Sunday services; four young African American girls were killed in the explosion. The church bombing was the third in 11 days after the federal government had ordered the integration of Alabama's school system. The perpetrators were Klan members Robert Chambliss, convicted in 1977, Thomas Edwin Blanton Jr. and Bobby Frank Cherry, convicted in 2001 and 2002. The fourth suspect, Herman Cash, died before he was indicted.
- Assassination of NAACP organizer Medgar Evers in Mississippi.
- Guy Bailey (originally from Jamaica) is refused a job as a bus driver for the Bristol Omnibus Company, despite having the appropriate qualifications. When Bailey arrived, he was refused an interview and recalled how the receptionist stood and went to the manager's office, heard her call through his door: "Your two o'clock appointment is here, and he's black", and how the manager informed him; "We don't employ black people." Paul Stephenson, who taught Guy Bailey in his evening school, suspected the rejection based on skin colour and purposefully sent him to the interview to test this theory. Stephenson invited the press and encouraged a bus boycott. The boycott quickly gained popularity and politicians including Bristol Southeast MP Tony Benn declared that he would "stay off the buses, even if [he had] to find a bike". Labour leader Harold Wilson said that he was "glad that so many Bristolians [were] supporting the [boycott] campaign... we wish them every success". On August 27th, 500 bus workers in Bristol had voted in favour for "the employment of suitable coloured workers as bus crews" - the bus boycott had succeeded.



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1964

- Ian Smith, prime minister of Rhodesia, arrests leading black politicians Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe.
- Hastings Banda is prime minister of the newly independent nation of Malawi, formerly Nyasaland.
- Kenneth Kaunda becomes president of the independent republic of Zambia, previously Northern Rhodesia.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, preventing employment discrimination due to race, color, sex, religion or national origin. Title VII of the Act establishes the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to help prevent workplace discrimination.
- Three volunteers, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, both white New Yorkers, and James Chaney, a Black Mississippian, disappeared on their way back from investigating the burning of an African American church by the Ku Klux Klan. After a massive FBI investigation (code-named "Mississippi Burning") their bodies were discovered on August 4 buried in an earthen dam near Philadelphia, in Neshoba County, Mississippi. In June 2005, Klan member Edgar Ray Killen was convicted of manslaughter.
- Murder of two Black teenagers, Henry Hezekiah Dee and Charles Eddie Moore in Mississippi. In August 2007, based on the confession of Klansman Charles Marcus Edwards, James Ford Seale, a reputed Ku Klux Klansman, was convicted. Seale was sentenced to serve three life sentences. Seale was a former Mississippi policeman and sheriff's deputy.
- Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders are sent to prison by the apartheid regime. The struggle for their release spawns a mass movement across the world. Many South African exiles, both black and white, move to the UK.
- Malcolm X breaks from the Nation of Islam after months of rumours following his suspension from the organisation for saying that the assassination of President Kennedy was a case of "chickens coming home to roost".

1965

- The Gambia becomes an independent member of the Commonwealth, with Dawda Jawara as prime minister.
- On 21st February, during a speaking engagement in Harlem, three members of the NOI rushed the stage and shot Malcolm X some 15 times at close range. After Malcolm's death, his bestselling book *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* popularised his ideas, particularly among Black youth, and laid the foundation for the Black Power movement of the late 1960/1970s.
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) made Selma, Alabama, the focus of its efforts to register Black voters in the South. An Alabama state trooper shot a young African American demonstrator in nearby Marion, and the SCLC announced a massive protest march from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery. On 7th March, 600 marchers got as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge outside Selma when they were attacked by state troopers wielding whips, nightsticks, and tear gas.
- Alabama murder of Viola Liuzzo. She was a Southern-raised Detroit mother of five who was visiting the state in order to attend a civil rights march. At the time of her murder, Liuzzo was transporting Civil Rights marchers related to the Selma to Montgomery March.
- On March 21, after a U.S. district court ordered Alabama to permit the Selma-Montgomery march, some 2,000 marchers set out on the three-day journey, this time protected by U.S. Army troops and Alabama National Guard forces under federal control. "No tide of racism can stop us," King proclaimed from the steps of the state capitol building, addressing the nearly 50,000 supporters.
- President Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress, calling for federal legislation to ensure protection of the voting rights of African Americans. The result was the Voting Rights Act, which Congress passed in August 1965.
- The Voting Rights Act sought to overcome the legal barriers that still existed at the state and local levels preventing Black citizens from exercising the right to vote given them by the 15th Amendment. Specifically, it banned literacy tests as a requirement for voting, mandated federal oversight of voter registration in areas where tests had previously been used and gave the U.S. attorney general the duty of challenging the use of poll taxes for state and local elections.
- The Race Relations Act 1965 was the first piece of legislation in the UK to address the prohibition of racial discrimination and followed previously unsuccessful bills. The Act banned racial discrimination in public places and made the promotion of hatred on the grounds of 'colour, race, or ethnic or national origins' an offence. The Bill received Royal Assent on 8th November, and came into force a month later on 8th December. It was introduced by the Government in response to the increasing number of people who had moved to the UK from other Commonwealth countries; at the time of the Act being passed there were nearly one million immigrants living in the UK. It was criticised for failing to address vital areas where discrimination was most prevalent, namely employment and wider aspects of acquiring accommodation.

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1966

- Former chief Seretse Khama becomes the first president of an independent Botswana.
- The emergence of Black Power as a parallel force alongside the mainstream civil rights movement occurred during the March Against Fear, a voting rights march in Mississippi in June. The march originally began as a solo effort by James Meredith. He had set out in early June to walk from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi, more than 200 miles, to promote Black voter registration and protest ongoing discrimination in his home state. After a white gunman shot and wounded Meredith on a rural road in Mississippi, Martin Luther King, Jr, Stokely Carmichael and Floyd McKissick decided to continue the March Against Fear in his name. They and fellow marchers were harassed by onlookers and arrested by local law enforcement while walking through Mississippi. Speaking at a rally of supporters in Greenwood, Mississippi, on June 16, Carmichael (who had been released from jail that day) began leading the crowd in a chant of "We want Black Power!" The refrain stood in sharp contrast to many civil rights protests, where demonstrators commonly chanted "We want freedom!"
- Firebombing death of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer Sr. in Mississippi. In 1998 former Ku Klux Klan wizard Samuel Bowers was convicted of his murder and sentenced to life. Two other Klan members were indicted with Bowers, but one died before trial and the other's indictment was dismissed.
- In July, in Bogalusa, Louisiana, a stronghold of Klan activity, Clarence Triggs was found murdered.
- The formation of the Black Panther party by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in California. Martin Luther King Jr. initiates Poor People's Campaign to unite people of all races.

1967

- There are 40 riots and 100 other disturbances across the United States, most notably in Newark and Detroit.
- The first African-American Supreme Court judge, Thurgood Marshall, is elected.
- After the governor of the Eastern region of Nigeria declares Biafra an independent state, a civil war ensues that costs almost a million lives.
- TV images of malnourished children with bloated stomachs shock the world.

1968

- President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, also known as the Fair Housing Act, providing equal housing opportunity regardless of race, religion or national origin.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated on the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee. In the aftermath of King's murder, a mass outpouring of grief and anger led to riots in more than 100 U.S. cities.
- Black Power demonstration at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, where Black athletes John Carlos and Tommie Smith raised black-gloved fists in the air on the medal podium.
- New Race Relations Act receives Royal Assent, making it illegal to refuse housing, public services, and employment on the grounds of ethnicity.
- "Rivers of Blood" speech by British MP Enoch Powell on 20 April to a meeting of the Conservative Political Centre in Birmingham, UK. His speech strongly criticised mass immigration, especially Commonwealth immigration to the United Kingdom and the proposed Race Relations Bill.



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1969

- James Earl Ray is convicted of the murder of Martin Luther King Jr; he entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to 99 years in prison; no testimony was heard. King's assassination, along with the killing of Malcolm X three years earlier, radicalised many moderate African American activists, fuelling the growth of the Black Power movement and the Black Panther Party.
- Shirley Chisholm is the first African-American woman elected to Congress, taking office in January 1969.
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou is published.

1971

- Idi Amin overthrows Milton Obote of Uganda. During Amin's brutal reign some 300,000 Ugandans are killed and 80,000 Ugandan Asians deported. Many of them come to live in Britain, adding to the growing racial tension.
- Angela Davis is put on the FBI's most wanted list over her links to the Black Panther Party.
- Bernard Coard publishes the landmark pamphlet *How the West Indian Child is Made Educationally Subnormal in the British School System*. The book inspires a movement for equal access to educational opportunity for black schoolchildren.
- A new Immigration Act is passed, further restricting migration from Commonwealth countries.

1970

- The trials of the 'Mangrove Nine' were the first time a judge admitted "evidence of racial hatred" in the Metropolitan police.
- In the late 1960s, Frank Crichlow's restaurant 'The Mangrove' was one of the most important cultural centres for Notting Hill's West Indian community. 'The heavy mob', a group of almost colonial-era officers in the area, campaigned to have the restaurant shut down, claiming it was used as a drugs den despite no evidence to suggest so and repeated raids (twelve times between January 1969 and July 1970).
- Darcus Howe, who worked at 'The Mangrove' encouraged Crichlow to gather the community together for support against the police's repeated raids, organising a campaign for the police to "get their hands off The Mangrove".
- On the 9th of August, together with Britain's Black Panther movement, 150 people marched against the police. Violence erupted after heavy-handed policing and the government, at a loss of what to charge the protesters for, charged them for 'incitement to riot' (they found they could not deport Howe, nor could they charge them under the Race Relations Act, for fear of the protesters being seen as martyrs). The magistrate dropped charges against 'The Nine' who were charged as the police's statements equated the protests with criminality, yet 'The Nine' were arrested once again during dawn raids when the authorities reinstated charges.
- The judge declared that institutional racism was present in the Metropolitan Police, which as can be imagined, was not expected in the 1970s. The Met's assistant commissioner asked for the judge's statement to be retracted, but it never was.



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1973

- National Black Feminist Organisation is founded. The advances of the civil rights movement had combined with the rise of the feminist movement to create an African American women's movement. "There can't be liberation for half a race," declared Margaret Sloan.
- Tom Bradley is elected the first black mayor of Los Angeles.
- Trevor McDonald joins ITN and later becomes first black British newsreader on national TV.

1974-1975

The Portuguese colonies Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique gain their independence after a long struggle.

1975

- Arthur Ashe Jr He was the first black player selected to the United States Davis Cup team, and the only black man ever to win the singles title at Wimbledon.
- David Pitt becomes a life peer, Lord Pitt of Hampstead. He later becomes chair of the British Medical Association.

1976

- Demonstrations begin in South Africa against the teaching in schools of Afrikaans (the language of the country's white rulers). In Soweto the police fire on unarmed crowds, killing hundreds. One of the first children killed is 12-year-old Hector Pieteron.
- Negro History Week, created in 1926, becomes Black History Month.
- The Fosters, a sitcom with an all-black cast, arrives on British TV, making a star out of Lenny Henry, among others.
- The Race Relations Act strengthens laws against discrimination and establishes the Commission for Racial Equality.
- The Grunwick Strike of 1976-1978 (Grunwick was a mail order film processing company) was one of the most important and significant strikes of the 1970s. At its height it involved thousands of trade unionists and police in confrontations outside a small film processing factory in North London, with over 500 arrests on the picket line and frequent police violence. It was also one of the first strikes to involve a group of Asian women, among them Jayaben Desai, who became a national figure.

1972

- Representative Shirley Chisholm of New York became a national symbol of both movements as the first major party African American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States. Though she failed to win a primary, Chisholm received more than 150 votes at the Democratic National Convention. She claimed she never expected to win the nomination. It went to George McGovern, who lost to Richard Nixon in the general election.
- The outspoken Chisholm, who attracted little support among African American men during her presidential campaign, later told the press: "I've always met more discrimination being a woman than being Black. When I ran for the Congress, when I ran for president, I met more discrimination as a woman than for being Black. Men are men."
- Affirmative action to redress racial discrimination is given a legal basis with the passing of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act.
- Clive Sullivan, who had both Jamaican and Antiguan heritage, captained the Great Britain team which won the 1972 Rugby League World Cup. Sullivan was the first black captain for a Great Britain team, in any sport.

1977

- Steve Biko, a South African black consciousness leader, is killed in police custody.
- The TV series Roots, based on the novel by Alex Haley, is a major hit. Not only does it secure the highest TV ratings ever but it also deepens the debate about race as many Americans, both black and white, learn the story of slavery in the United States for the first time.
- The National Front, an extreme rightwing party, is prevented by anti-Nazi protesters from marching through Lewisham, south-east London.

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1979

Blair Peach is killed during an anti-racist demonstration. The circumstances of his death remain unclear to this day.

1980

- White rule ends in Rhodesia after a bloody struggle, and the state of Zimbabwe is declared. Robert Mugabe becomes prime minister and stays in power until 2017.
- Murder of Akhtar Ali Baig in East Ham.
- Riots in St Paul's, a district of Bristol. This is a harbinger of the far more serious riots to sweep Britain a year later. A disproportionate number of young black men are stopped under the 1824 Vagrancy Act (originally designed to stop begging) during this period. This stop and search was more commonly known as the "sus law". Black people, while a small part of the general population, are 17% of the prison population by this point; 36% of young prisoners are black. This feeds much of the resentment that will explode in riots the following year.

1981

- 1981 British Nationality Act.
- New Cross fire: In January, 13 young African-Caribbeans die in a house fire. The seeming refusal of the police to take seriously claims by witnesses that the house had been fire-bombed by racists leads to a deepening anger among the African-Caribbean community.
- The Brixton riots break out in April and are replicated up and down the country (most notably in Toxteth, Liverpool). Years of marginalisation, heavy-handed policing and general alienation explode, leaving millions of pounds-worth of damage and injuring hundreds. In their wake, the Scarman Report makes recommendations to challenge racial disadvantage. The sus laws are also repealed.
- Moira Stuart becomes the first Black female news presenter on national British television.

1978

- Margaret Thatcher says that many British people feel "swamped" by a different culture, during the build-up to the following year's general election. In doing so, she wins over voters from the far-right National Front.
- Rock Against Racism carnival brings together black and white teenagers. This movement helps introduce reggae to a wider audience and changes the nature of punk. Artists like Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols and Big Youth in Jamaica form a musical symbiosis that helps shape the way British music develops.
- Viv Anderson becomes the first black footballer to play for England's senior men's team.
- Beginning in the 1960s, the term "affirmative action" was used to refer to policies and initiatives aimed at compensating for past discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion or national origin.
- After Allan Bakke, a white California man, applied twice without success, he sued U.C. Davis, claiming that his grades and test scores were higher than those of minority students who were admitted and accusing UC Davis of "reverse discrimination." *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the use of strict racial quotas was unconstitutional and that Bakke should be admitted; on the other hand, it held that institutions of higher education could rightfully use race as a criterion in admissions decisions in order to ensure diversity.
- In the wake of the Bakke verdict, affirmative action continued to be a controversial and divisive issue, with a growing opposition movement claiming that the so-called "racial playing field" was now equal and that African Americans no longer needed special consideration to overcome their disadvantages. In subsequent decisions over the next decades, the Court limited the scope of affirmative action programs, while several U.S. states prohibited racially based affirmative action.

1982

5000 Argentinian troops land in the Falkland Islands, provoking war with Britain.

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1983

- Guion “Guy” Bluford Jr is the first African American to go into space, on the Challenger Space Shuttle.
- President Ronald Reagan passes a bill for an annual holiday to mark Martin Luther King’s birthday.

1985

Riots in Tottenham are sparked by the death of Cynthia Jarrett during a police raid on her home in the Broadwater Farm estate.

1986

- A bronze bust of Martin Luther King is set in the halls of Congress, the first of any African American.
- The Oprah Winfrey Show begins its run which would go on to become the highest rated in TV history. Celebrated for her ability to talk candidly about a wide range of issues, Winfrey spun her talk show success into a one-woman empire—including acting, film and television production and publishing. She notably promoted the work of Black female writers, forming a film company to produce movies based on novels like *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, and *Beloved* by Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison. One of the most influential individuals in entertainment and the first Black female billionaire, Winfrey is also an active philanthropist, giving generously to Black South Africans and to the historically Black Morehouse College.

1991

- Bill Morris becomes the first black leader of a major British trade union.
- Ben Okri wins the Booker prize for his novel *The Famished Road*.
- In March, officers with the California Highway Patrol attempted to pull an African American man named Rodney King over for speeding on a Los Angeles freeway. King, who was on probation for robbery and had been drinking, led them on a high-speed chase, and by the time the patrolmen caught up to his car, several officers of the Los Angeles Police Department were on the scene. After King allegedly resisted arrest and threatened them, four LAPD officers shot him with a TASER gun and severely beat him. Caught on videotape by an onlooker and broadcast around the world, the beating inspired widespread outrage in the city’s African American community, who had long condemned the racial profiling and abuse its members suffered at the hands of the police force. Many demanded that the unpopular L.A. police chief, Daryl Gates, be fired and that the four officers be brought to justice for their use of excessive force.

1984

- Tessa Sanderson becomes the first British African-Caribbean woman to win Olympic gold, receiving the medal for her javelin performance in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.
- Police and Criminal Evidence (Pace) Act stipulates that the police must give a reason why they are stopping someone.
- Cape Town’s Archbishop Desmond Tutu wins the Nobel peace prize for his outspoken criticism of the apartheid regime. Meanwhile, an international boycott of cultural and trade links with South Africa grows.

1987

- Labour MP Diane Abbott becomes the first black female to be elected to the House of Commons. Also elected are Bernie Grant, Paul Boateng and Keith Vaz.
- Black History Month is made a fixture in the UK for the first time.

1988

Congress overrides a presidential veto to pass the Civil Rights Restoration Act. Jesse Jackson gets 1,218 votes at the Democratic convention but fails to win his party’s nomination for the US presidency.

1989

- Colin Powell is appointed head of the US armed forces, another African-American first.
- African American Douglas Wilder is elected state governor in Virginia.

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1993

- Murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence: Stephen Lawrence was a Black British teenager from Plumstead, southeast London, who was murdered in a racially motivated attack while waiting for a bus in Well Hall Road, Eltham on the evening of 22nd April when he was 18 years old. The case became a cause célèbre: its fallout included changes of attitudes on racism and the police, and to the law and police practice. It also led to the partial revocation of the rule against double jeopardy. Two of the perpetrators were convicted of murder on 3 January 2012.
- Paul Ince becomes the first black captain of the senior men's England football team.
- Toni Morrison, author of *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved*, becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel prize for literature.

1994

- Nelson Mandela, released from prison in 1990, is elected president of a multiracial South Africa.
- Mass genocide in Rwanda. As many as half a million Rwandans die as the Hutu-dominated army, militias and others massacre the Tutsi population.
- Apartheid in South Africa officially ends.

1997

- British troops recapture Port Stanley, after which the Argentinian forces in the Falklands surrender.
- Fifteen years after the Falklands War there are 1700 British troops in the islands, guarding 2200 residents.
- Kofi Annan is the first sub-Saharan African to be elected to the top position within the United Nations as he takes on the role of secretary general.
- After 32 years in power, the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko is deposed. In the ensuing civil war, lasting several years, an estimated five million people are killed.
- Hundreds of thousands of black women take part in the Million Woman March. The focus this time is on healthcare, education and self-help.

2000

Damilola Taylor is murdered. This incident raises questions about gang culture and urban poverty.

1992

- Riots in Los Angeles: The King case was tried in the suburb of Simi Valley, and in April a jury found the officers not guilty. Rage over the verdict sparked the four days of the L.A. riots, beginning in the mostly Black South-Central neighbourhood. By the time the riots subsided, some 55 people were dead, more than 2,300 injured, and more than 1,000 buildings had been burned. Authorities later estimated the total damage at around \$1 billion. The next year, two of the four LAPD officers involved in the beating were retried and convicted in a federal court for violating King's civil rights; he eventually received \$3.8 million from the city.
- Jamaican-born Lurline Champagnie becomes the first black woman to stand as a parliamentary candidate for the Conservative Party.

1995

Million Man March is organised by Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. The aim of the march, in Washington, is one of "atonement" for African-American males.

1998

- Chris Ofili wins the Turner Prize.
- A public inquiry, headed by Sir William Macpherson, examined the original Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) investigation of Stephen Lawrence's murder, and concluded that the investigation was incompetent and that the force was institutionally racist. It also recommended that the double jeopardy rule should be repealed in murder cases to allow a retrial upon new and compelling evidence: this was effected in 2005 upon enactment of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. The publication in 1999 of the resulting Macpherson Report has been called "one of the most important moments in the modern history of criminal justice in Britain".

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2002

Paul Boateng is appointed chief secretary to the Treasury, becoming the first black cabinet minister. The following year Baroness Amos becomes the first black female cabinet minister.

2003

Guyana-born Valerie Amos becomes the first black woman to serve as a Cabinet minister.

2005

- An estimated 1,700 people die as Hurricane Katrina passes over the United States gulf coast. The African-American population bears the brunt of the flood when the levees break around New Orleans, but the federal government is slow to respond.
- This throws into bold relief the problems of class, race, and the persistent legacy of slavery in the US. The black urban poor are seen to get little assistance from the government, in the full glare of the international media.
- The death of two young men of North African origin while running away from the police in north-eastern Paris leads to rioting across France. The government imposes a range of emergency measures including curfews.
- John Sentamu becomes the first black Archbishop of York.

2009

- In January, Barack Obama is inaugurated president, in a ceremony attended by John Lewis, who spoke alongside Martin Luther King at the 1963 March on Washington. A record crowd, estimated at 1.8 million, come to witness this moment.
- Dawn Butler, who has Jamaican ancestry, became the first black female to speak from the despatch box in the House of Commons.



2001

- Colin Powell Becomes Secretary of State; making him the first African American to serve as America's top diplomat.
- Condoleezza Rice becomes national security adviser, and Roderick Paige becomes secretary of education. The cabinet of the incoming president George W Bush contains more African Americans than any before.

2004

- Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai becomes the first African woman to receive the Nobel peace prize.
- Jason Robinson becomes the first black captain of the England rugby union team.

2006

- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf takes office as president of Liberia, becoming African's first elected female head of state.
- Frank Bowling becomes the first black artist to be elected to the Royal Academy of Arts.

2008

- Barack Obama is elected as the first African American president of the United States; defeating Republican John McCain to become the 44th US president.
- His victory, coming just four decades after black Americans' right to vote was secured, is heralded around the world as a major historic event.

2010

South Africa hosts the football World Cup finals, the first time the tournament has been held in Africa.

2011

- South Sudan separates from Sudan and becomes Africa's 54th independent nation.
- Mark Duggan is shot dead by the police in Tottenham, north London. His killing sparks riots which quickly spread across the UK. A Guardian investigation, Reading the Riots, shows mistrust of the police is a major factor in the unrest.

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2012

- Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old, is shot dead by George Zimmerman. A year later, after Zimmerman is acquitted of Martin's murder, the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter is used for the first time.
- American artistic gymnast Douglas is the first African American to take the Olympic individual all-around champion title, winning the accolade at London 2012.
- Nicola Adams gains global fame as the first female boxer to become an Olympic Champion in 2012.

2014

- The contagious disease Ebola spreads quickly across Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, killing 11,000 people.
- Eric Garner dies after being put in a chokehold by arresting officers in Staten Island, New York. In the video later released, he is heard pleading "I can't breathe" 11 times.
- Michael Brown, 18, is shot six times by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. Large scale protests take place. Demonstrators, who believe he was surrendering to the police when shot, chant, "Hands up, Don't shoot." Black Lives Matter becomes an internationally known campaign.
- Tamir Rice, 12, is shot dead by a police officer while holding a toy gun.
- Boko Haram kidnaps over 200 girls from a school in Chibok, north-east Nigeria. An international campaign, #BringBackOurGirls, is launched. Some girls are eventually released but 100 remain missing.
- 12 Years a Slave, directed by Steve McQueen, takes the Best Picture award at the Oscars. Over the following years, Black movie-making reaches new heights: hits include Get Out, Hidden Figures and Moonlight (this story of a black gay man wins the Best Picture Oscar in 2017). Biggest hit of all is the Marvel superhero movie, Black Panther, one of the most-watched movies of all time.

2013

- Britain expresses regret and agrees to pay compensation to those it had tortured during the Mau Mau's 1950s uprising against colonial rule in Kenya. Veterans of the insurgency had won a legal action in the High Court.
- Malorie Blackman, author of Noughts and Crosses, becomes the UK's children's laureate.
- The Black Lives Matter movement is founded.
- Nelson Mandela dies aged 95 after a prolonged respiratory infection.

2015

- Dominican-born Patricia Scotland is elected the first female Commonwealth Secretary-General.
- Catherine Ross, originally from Saint Kitts as a child, founds the SKN (Skills, Knowledge, and Networks) Heritage Museum, which became Museumand: The National Caribbean Heritage Museum, a "museum without walls" based in Nottingham.
- Chineke!, an orchestra for black and minority-ethnic musicians, is founded. In 2017 the orchestra performs at the Royal Albert Hall for BBC Proms.
- Nine African-Americans are shot dead by a white supremacist during a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina.
- The Rhodes Must Fall campaign begins to remove a statue of Cecil Rhodes at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Rhodes, a 19th-century mining magnate and politician, was seen as an ardent British imperialist and white supremacist. A month later the statue is removed. But the campaign moves to Oxford university, where another statue of him sits within Oriel college. The college refuses to take down the statue but, years later, it reconsiders its decision.
- A database is established at University College London, aiming to record every individual compensated by Britain at the abolition of slavery in 1833, and to show how widespread slave ownership was.
- Britain's bill to pay these slaveowners is finally paid off - after 182 years.
- Poverty and instability across Africa and the Middle East spark a huge increase in migration to Europe. Hundreds drown while crossing the Mediterranean. Those who survive arrive mainly in Italy, provoking a political crisis across the European Union over border controls. Immigration fears fuel the UK's Brexit debate.

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2016

- The National Museum of African American History and Culture is opened in Washington DC. The biggest museum of its kind, it demonstrates the significance of African Americans in US and world history. President Obama leads the opening ceremony.
- Sarah Reed dies in Holloway prison, London. Reed, who had suffered from mental illness following the death of her baby daughter in 2003, had in a separate incident been violently assaulted by a police officer.
- Colin Kaepernick, an African-American footballer, chooses not to stand during the national anthem during a preseason game. He explains: "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of colour." He is vilified, but "taking a knee" becomes a symbol of resistance to racial oppression across the world.



2017

- Edward Enninful becomes editor-in-chief of British Vogue magazine. His multi-ethnic first edition features mixed-race model Adwoa Aboah on the cover. Vanessa Kingori becomes the magazine's publishing director.
- Barack Obama ends his term as US president, to be replaced by Donald Trump, who used racist messaging throughout his election campaign.
- White supremacists rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. They march shouting racist and antisemitic slogans. On the second day of the protests, a neo-Nazi deliberately drives into a crowd of counter-protestors, killing Heather Heyer. President Trump says there are very fine people on both sides".
- On 14th June, a high-rise fire broke out in the 24-storey Grenfell Tower block of flats in North Kensington, West London, and burned for 60 hours. 72 people died, two later in hospital, with more than 70 injured and 223 escaping. It is the worst UK residential fire since WW2.
- In November, British newspapers report that the Home Office had threatened Commonwealth immigrants who arrived before 1973 with deportation if they could not prove their right to remain in the UK.

2018

- In April, Prime Minister Theresa May apologises to leaders of Caribbean countries about the way immigrants had been treated, promising compensation to those affected. In what has become known as the Windrush Scandal, Home Secretary Amber Rudd initially denied the existence of, and later denied being aware of aggressive departmental deportation targets, but eventually resigned on 29th April after news outlets published documents indicating that she knew of the targets. Landing cards relating to earlier passenger arrivals in the UK had been destroyed in October 2010.
- Windrush scandal: A Guardian investigation reveals that thousands of Caribbean migrants who had the right to settle in the UK have been denied NHS treatment and legal rights, wrongly detained, or in some cases deported. A public outcry ensues because these people and their families had been invited to Britain to help it rebuild after the WW2.
- Meghan Markle weds Prince Harry. Invited performers include cellist prodigy Sheku Kanneh-Mason, and London gospel singers the Kingdom Choir.
- DNA analysis of a 10,000-year-old skeleton found in Cheddar Gorge suggests that the first modern Britons had dark brown skin.
- Somali-born Ilhan Omar and African-American Ayanna Pressley are elected to the US Congress. Together with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib they form "The Squad", four women of colour pushing for progressive change.
- Democrat Stacey Abrams loses the election for governor in Georgia, a defeat in which voter suppression of the black electorate plays a large part.

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2019

- The first hijab-wearing jockey to compete in a British horse race, Mellah wins the Magnolia Cup in August, riding to victory at the same time as studying for her A-Levels. In November, Mellah wins the Times Young Sportswoman of the Year award.
- Bernardine Evaristo becomes the first Black British winner of the Booker Prize for her novel *Girl, Woman, Other*.

2021

- Georgia elects two Democrat senators, giving Abrams' party control of the US Senate. One of the senators, Rev Raphael Warnock, is the first African American to represent Georgia.
- Kamala Harris becomes the First Woman and First Black US Vice President.
- Alice Dearing is the first black female swimmer to represent Britain at an Olympic competition when she competed in the 10km marathon swim.
- Amanda Gorman becomes the youngest poet ever to perform at a presidential inauguration, calling for "unity and togetherness" in her self-penned poem *The Hill We Climb* to both the dignitaries present in Washington DC and a watching global audience. Two months later, Gorman described being "tailed" by the security guard who she said offered no apology after she was able to prove she lived in her own apartment building.
- Six Dr Seuss books will no longer be published because of racially insensitive imagery, including: *If I Ran the Zoo*, *Scrambled Eggs Super*, *McElligot's Pool* and *On Beyond Zebra!*
- *Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities: The Report is published*; it concludes that the UK is not yet a "post-racial country" – but its success in removing race-based disparity in education and, to a lesser extent, the economy, "should be regarded as a model for other white-majority countries" and "no longer" had a system rigged against minorities. Equality groups criticise the report, claiming it does not reflect "lived in experiences" of minorities in Wales; The Runnymede Trust think tank says it felt "let down" by the report.
- Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce recommend that all shortlists for senior Church of England posts must include at least one ethnic minority candidate.

2022

- US President Joe Biden signs legislation, The Emmett Till Antilynching Act, that designates lynching as a federal hate crime. The law follows more than 100 years and 200 failed attempts by US lawmakers to pass anti-lynching legislation.
- Ronald Hope, the first black person to be made an inspector in the Metropolitan Police, dies aged 68.
- Bristol bus boycott leaders receive city's highest honour.

2020

- A public inquiry, *the Windrush Lessons Learned Review*, is published in March.
- COVID-19 spreads across the planet, killing thousands, and disproportionately impacting on Black, Asian and minority-ethnic people. Health workers and those in frontline jobs face the biggest risks from the coronavirus.
- Stacey Abrams mounts a campaign for voter registration and in the 2020 presidential elections a large black turnout tips the state for Joe Biden.
- Footballer Marcus Rashford takes on the government, arguing that free school meals for Britain's poorest children should be extended during the COVID pandemic, forcing the government into a series of U-turns.
- Ahmaud Arbery, while out jogging near Brunswick in Georgia, is confronted by two white residents, and shot dead. Initially police take no action, but when the video of the incident is made public and goes viral, charges are brought.
- Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old medical worker, is shot dead by plainclothes police officers while asleep in her home in Louisville, Kentucky.
- George Floyd, arrested in Minneapolis on suspicion of using a fake banknote, is filmed being held down by the neck, under the knee of a white police officer, Derek Chauvin. Passers-by protest, but another officer prevents them intervening. After 4 minutes, Floyd loses consciousness, but in total Chauvin holds his knee down for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Protests immediately spring up: people take to the streets across America. As public anger grows, Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder. The protests grow globally, as the sense of injustice over Floyd's death resonates with racial minorities elsewhere.
- After the killing of Rem'mie Fells and Riah Milton, two black trans women, in the US within 24 hours, a campaign grows declaring that Black Trans Lives Matter.
- Demonstrators in Bristol target a city-centre statue of 17th-century slave trader Edward Colston. He had been involved in transporting 84,000 people into slavery (±19,000 had died during the transatlantic voyage). Protestors tear down his statue, then drag it through the streets and throw it into the river Avon.
- Grenfell Tower inquiry: Leslie Thomas QC, representing bereaved families, said the 2017 fire "did not happen in a vacuum. A majority of the Grenfell residents who died were people of colour. Grenfell is inextricably linked with race. That is the stark reality that cannot be ignored."
- Azeem Rafiq, a former England U19 and Yorkshire captain, claims his experiences of racism at Yorkshire left him on the brink of suicide, after his reports of racist behaviour were "ignored" by the club. Later, Naved-ul-Hasan becomes the second player to allege racism at Yorkshire saying "systematic taunting" occurred at the club.

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