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European countries came to America to increase their wealth and expand their influence on world affairs. The Spaniards were among the first Europeans to explore the New World and the first to settle in what is now the United States.By 1650, however, England established a dominant presence on the Atlantic coast. The first colony was founded in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Many of those who settled in the New World escaped religious persecution. Pilgrims, founders of Plymouth, Massachusetts, arrived in 1620. In both Virginia and Massachusetts, the colonists prospered with some Native American help. New World grains such as corn kept colonists from starvation, while in Virginia tobacco provided a valuable monetary culture. By the early 1700s, enslaved Africans constituted a growing proportion of the colonial population. By 1770, more than 2 million people lived and worked in 13 North American colonies in The United Kingdom. American colonies of England, and then the United Kingdom of Great Britain in America Part of the series on European colonization of America The first wave of European colonization british Curon Danish Dutch Dutch German Hospitaller Norwegian German German Hospitaller Norwegian Scottish Spanish Swedish colonization of Canada Colonization of the United States Colonization History portalvte British colonization of America is the history of the establishment of control, settlement and decolonization of america's continents by England, Scotland and (after 1707) The colonization effort began in the 16th century with England's failed attempts to establish permanent colonies in North America. The first permanent British colony was founded in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Over the next few centuries, new colonies were established in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Although most British colonies in America eventually gained independence, some colonies chose to remain under British jurisdiction as British Overseas Territories. Evidence supports that North America was inhabited by people who migrated through the North Atlantic Ice Shelf 18-20,000 years ago from an area that is now France and Spain, and then from the Far East of Russia/Siberia through the Bering Strait 12,500-13,500 years ago (Northern Native Americans retain mixed DNA profiles today). The first documented Scandinavian-European settlement (after excavations) was founded along canada's coastal Leif Erickson from Greenland in 1000 AD under the name Vinland, which lasts 3 years. Later, european exploration of North America was resumed by the expedition of Christopher Columbus in 1492, sponsored by Spain. English research began almost a century later. Walter Raleigh founded the short-lived colony of Roanoke in 1585. Jamestown settlement grew into a colony colony In 1620, the Puritan group established a second permanent colony on the Massachusetts coast. Several other English colonies were established in North America in the 17th and 18th centuries. With the permission of the Royal Charter, Hudson's Bay created Rupert's Land In the Hudson Bay catchment. The British also established or conquered several colonies in the Caribbean, including Barbados and Jamaica. England captured the Dutch colony of New Holland during the Anglo-Dutch wars of the mid-17th century, leaving North America divided between the English, Spanish and French empires. After decades of war with France, Great Britain took control of the French colony of Canada, as well as several Caribbean territories, in 1763. With the help of France and Spain, many North American colonies gained independence from Great Britain thanks to the victory in the American War of Independence, which ended in 1783. Historians call the British Empire after 1783 the second British Empire; during this period, Britain increasingly focused on Asia and Africa rather than America, and was increasingly focusing on trade rather than territorial possessions. However, Great Britain continued to colonize parts of America in the 19th century, taking control of British Columbia and establishing colonies of the Falkland Islands and British Honduras. Britain also gained control of several colonies, including Trinidad and British Guiana, after France's defeat in the Napoleonic Wars in 1815. In the mid-19th century, Britain began the process of granting self-government to the remaining colonies in North America. Most of these colonies joined the Confederation of Canada in the 1860s or 1870s, although Newfoundland did not join Canada until 1949. Canada gained full autonomy after the adoption of the Westminster Statute of 1931, although it retained various ties with the United Kingdom and still recognizes the British monarch as head of state. After the outbreak of the Cold War, most of the remaining British colonies on the American continent gained independence between 1962 and 1983. Many of the former British colonies are part of the Commonwealth of Nations, a political association composed mainly of the former colonies of the British Empire. Background: Early study and colonization of America Additional information: Pre-Columbian epoch, Age of Discovery and European colonization of America By the end of the 16th century the Iberian Union of Spain and Portugal colonized much of America, but other parts of America have not yet been colonized by European powers after the first voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492 . Spain and Portugal established colonies in the New World, beginning the European colonization of America. France and England, the other two major powers of the 15th century Western hired researchers shortly after the return of Columbus's first voyage. In 1497, King Henry VII of England sent an expedition led by John Cabot to explore the coast of North America, but the lack of precious metals or other riches deterred the Spaniards and The British from permanent settlement in North America in the early 16th century. Later, researchers such as Martin Frobisher and Henry Hudson went to the New World in search of the Northwest Passage between the Atlantic Ocean and Asia, but were unable to find a viable route. The Europeans founded fishing on Grand Banks in Newfoundland and traded in metal, glass and fabric for food and fur, starting the North American fur trade. In mid-1585, Bernard Drake began an expedition to Newfoundland, which crippled the Spanish and Portuguese fishing fleets, from which they never recovered. This will have implications in terms of British colonial expansion and settlement. Meanwhile, in the Caribbean, British sailors defied Spanish trade restrictions and hunted Spanish treasures. At the end of the sixteenth century Protestant England was drawn into a religious war with Catholic Spain. In an effort to weaken Spain's economic and military might, British privates such as Francis Drake and Humphrey Gilbert pursued Spanish shipping. Gilbert proposed colonizing North America on a Spanish model, with the aim of creating a lucrative English empire that could also serve as a base for the privates. After Gilbert's death, Walter Raleigh embarked on a North American colonization mission, sponsoring a 500-man expedition to Roanoke Island. In 1584, the colonists established the first permanent English colony in North America, but the colonists were ill-prepared for life in the New World, and by 1590 the colonists had disappeared. There are different theories as to what happened to the colonists there. The most popular theory is that the colonists left in search of a new area to settle in Chesapeake, leaving the stragglers to integrate with the local Indian tribes. A separate attempt at colonization in Newfoundland also failed. Despite the failure of these early colonies, the British still have an interest in colonizing North America for economic and military reasons. Early colonization, 1607-1630 Additional information: English Overseas Estate Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, was founded during the reign of King James I of England In 1606, King James I of England provided charters to both the Plymouth Company and the London Company for the purpose of establishing permanent settlements in North America. In 1607, the London Company established a permanent colony in Jamestown on the Chesapeake Bay, but the colony of Popham Company was short-lived. Colonists Colonists Jamestown faced extreme adversity, and by 1617, only 351 of the 1,700 colonists who were transported to Jamestown had survived. After Virginians found the profitability of growing tobacco, the settlement's population grew from 400 settlers in 1617 to 1,240 settlers in 1622. The London-based company went bankrupt in part because of frequent fighting with nearby American Indians, which resulted in the English crown taking direct control of the Virginia colony, Jamestown and its environs became known. In 1609, an English ship traveling to Virginia crashed off the coast of Bermuda; although the crew was eventually rescued, England subsequently colonized Bermuda and founded the city of St. George. Between the late 1610s and the American Revolution, the British sent between 50,000 and 120,000 convicts to their American colonies. Meanwhile, the Plymouth Council of New England sponsored several colonization projects, including a colony founded by a group of English Puritans known today as the Pilgrims. The Puritans took an intensely emotional form of Calvinist Protestantism and sought independence from the Church of England. In 1620, the Mayflower transported pilgrims across the Atlantic, and pilgrims established the Plymouth Colony in Cape Cod. Pilgrims survived an extremely difficult first winter, when about fifty of the hundred colonists died. In 1621, the Plymouth Colony was able to establish an alliance with the neighbouring Wampanoag tribe, which helped the Plymouth Colony adopt effective agricultural practices and engage in the fur and other materials trade. Further north, the British also established the Newfoundland Colony in 1610, which was mainly focused on cod fishing. The Caribbean would have provided some of England's most important and lucrative colonies, but not before several attempts at colonization failed. The attempt to establish a colony in Guiana in 1604 lasted only two years and was unsuccessful in its main purpose of finding gold deposits. Colonies in Saint Lucia (1605) and Grenada (1609) are also quickly stacked. Inspired by the success of Virginia, in 1627 King Charles I granted Barbados a charter to settle the uninhabited Caribbean island of Barbados. Early settlers failed in their attempts to grow tobacco, but found great success in growing sugar. Rising. 1630-1689 English Overseas Possessions in 1700 colonies of the West Indies Additional information: The history of the British West Indies Success of colonization efforts in Barbados contributed to the creation of more Caribbean colonies, and by 1660 England had established Caribbean sugar colonies in St. Kitts, Antigua, Nevis and Montserrat, the English colonization of the Bahamas began in 1648 after a Puritan group known as the Eleuther adventurers founded Eleuthera Island. England established another sugar colony in 1655 after a successful invasion of Jamaica during the Anglo-Spanish War. England captured Tortola from the Dutch in 1670, and then took possession of the nearby islands of Anegada and Virgin Gorda; these islands later form the British Virgin Islands. In the 17th century, sugar colonies adopted a system of sugar plantations successfully used by the Portuguese in Brazil, which depended on slave labor. Before the abolition of the slave trade in 1807, Britain was responsible for transporting 3.5 million African slaves to America, a third of all slaves transported across the Atlantic. Many slaves were captured by the Royal African Company in West Africa, although others came from Madagascar. These slaves soon began to form a majority of the population in the Caribbean colonies, such as Barbados and Jamaica, where strict slave codes were partially established to contain slave uprisings. The creation of the Thirteen Colonies Additional information: The colonial history of the colonies of New England USA After the success of the colonies of Jamestown and Plymouth, several more English groups have established colonies in the region that became known as New England. In 1629, another group of Puritans led by John Winthrop founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and by 1635 about ten thousand English settlers lived in the region between the Connecticut River and the Kennebec River. After defeating Pequot in Pequot War, Puritan settlers founded a Connecticut colony in a region that was formerly controlled by pequots. The Rhode Island Colony and Providence Plantations was founded by Roger Williams, a Puritan leader who was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony after he advocated a formal split with the Church of England. Because New England was a relatively cold and barren region, New England colonies relied on fishing and long-distance trade to sustain the economy. The Story of New England would not have been complete without the discussion of John Hull, the pine shilling, his central role in the creation of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Old Southern Church. In 1652, the Massachusetts Legislature authorized John Hull to produce coins (coin master). The Hull Mint produced several denominations of silver coins, including shilling pine, for more than 30 years until the political and economic situation made the operation of the mint no longer practical. Mostly political for Charles II is deemed The Corps Mint treason in the United Kingdom which had the punishment of hanging, drawing and teaching. April 6, 1681 Edward Randolph administrator) turned to the king, informing him that the colony was still clicking on its own coins, which he considered treason, and believed that it was enough to revoke the statute. He asked that the order for a warrant for the quo (a legal lawsuit requiring the defendant to show what authority they have to exercise certain rights, powers or

deductibles that they claim to hold) be issued against Massachusetts for violations. In 1632, Cecil Calvert, the 2nd Baron of Baltimore, founded Maryland, north of Virginia. Maryland and Virginia became known as the Chesapeake Colonies, and experienced similar immigration and economic activities. Although Baltimore and its descendants intended the colony to be a haven for Catholics, it attracted mostly Protestant immigrants, many of whom despised the Calvert family's religious tolerance policy. In the mid-17th century, the Chesapeake colonies, inspired by the success of slavery in Barbados, began mass importing African slaves. Although many early slaves eventually gained their freedom, after 1662 Virginia adopted a policy that passed enslaved status from mother to child and granted slave owners almost complete domination over their human property. Encouraged by the apparent weakness of Spanish rule in Florida, Barbadian planter John Collton and seven other charles II supporters in England founded the province of Carolina in 1663. Settlers in the Carolina Colony created two main settlements, many Virginians settled in the north of the province and many English Barbadians settled in the southern port city of Charles Town. In 1729, after the Yamazea War, the Carolinas were divided into the crown colonies of North Carolina and South Carolina. The colonies of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina (as well as georgia, which was founded in 1732) became known as the Southern Colonies. The Middle James II Colonies founded the Colony of New York and the Dominion of New England. He succeeded his brother as King of England in 1685, but was overthrown in the Glorious Revolution of 1688, beginning in 1609, Dutch merchants established fur trading posts on the Hudson River, the Delaware River and the Connecticut River, eventually creating the Dutch colony of New Holland, with the capital in New Amsterdam. In 1657, the New Netherlands expanded to the conquest of New Sweden, a Swedish colony concentrated in the Delaware Valley. Despite commercial success, New Niederland failed to attract the same level of settlements as the English colonies. In 1664, during a series of wars between the British and the Dutch, English soldier Richard Nichols captured New Holland. The Dutch briefly regained control of parts of New Holland during the Third Anglo-Dutch War, but surrendered their claims to the territory in the Treaty of 1674 ending the Dutch colonial presence in North America. In 1664, the Duke of York, later known as James II of England, gained control of the English colonies north of the Delaware River. He created the province of New York from the former Dutch territory and renamed New Amsterdam to New York. He also created the provinces of West Jersey and East Jersey from the former Dutch land west of New York, giving the territories to John Berkeley and George Carteret. East Jersey and West Jersey were later merged as the province of New Jersey in 1702. Charles II awarded William Penn, the son of the outstanding Admiral William Penn, the land located between Maryland and Jersey. Penn called the land a province of Pennsylvania. Penn also leased the colony of Delaware, which received its own legislature in 1701. A devout quaker, Penn sought to create a haven of religious tolerance in the New World. Pennsylvania attracted quakers and other settlers from all over Europe, and the city of Philadelphia quickly became a thriving port city. With its fertile and cheap land, Pennsylvania became one of the most attractive places for immigrants in the late 17th century. New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware became known as the Middle Colonies. Hudson's Bay Company in 1670, Charles II included the Royal Charter of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), which granted it a monopoly on the fur trade in an area known as Rupert's Land. HBC's forts and trading posts were frequently attacked by the French. In 1695, the Scottish Parliament granted the Charter of the Company of Scotland, which in 1698 established a settlement on the Isthmus of Panama. Besieged by neighboring Spanish colonists of New Granada and suffering from malaria, the colony was abandoned two years later. The Darien scheme was a financial disaster for Scotland - a quarter of the Scottish capital was lost in enterprise - and ended Scottish hopes of establishing its own overseas empire. The episode also had serious political implications, persuading the governments of England and Scotland of the merits of union countries, not just the Crown. This happened in 1707 with the Treaty of Union, establishing the Kingdom of Great Britain. Expansion and Conflict, 1689-1763 Settlement and expansion in North America Thirteen colonies and neighboring states in 1748 After the change of his brother in 1685, King James II and his lieutenant, Edmund Andros, sought to assert the crown's power over colonial affairs. James was overthrown by the new joint monarchy of William and Mary during the Glorious Revolution, but William and Mary quickly restored many of James's colonial policies, including the mercantile Navigation Laws and the Council The Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Plymouth Colony, and the Province of Maine were incorporated into the province of Massachusetts Bay, while New York and the Massachusetts Bay Colony were reorganized into royal colonies, and the governor was appointed king. Maryland, which survived the revolution against the Calvert family, also became a royal colony, although the Calverts retained most of their land and income in the colony. Even those colonies that retained their charters or owners were forced to take much greater royal control than existed before the 1690s. According to historian Alan Taylor, the population of the Thirteen Colonies (the British North American colonies that eventually form the United States) in 1750 was 1.5 million. More than ninety percent of the colonists lived as farmers, although cities such as Philadelphia, New York and Boston prospered. After the defeat of the Dutch and the introduction of the Navigation Laws, British colonies in North America became part of the global British trade network. The colonists traded food, wood, tobacco and various other resources for Asian tea, West Indian coffee and West Indian sugar, among other items. Native Americans, far from the Atlantic coast, supplied the Atlantic market with beaver wool and deer skins and sought to maintain their independence by maintaining a balance of power between the French and the British. By 1770, the production of thirteen colonies was forty per cent of the British Empire's gross domestic product. Until 1660, almost all immigrants to the English colonies of North America migrated freely, although the majority paid for their passage, becoming servants. Improving economic conditions and the weakening of religious persecution in Europe have increasingly faded the recruitment of labour in the colony in the 17th and 18th centuries. Partly because of this shortage of free labor, the slave population in British North America grew sharply between 1680 and 1750; the increase was due to a mixture of forced immigration and slave reproduction. In the southern colonies, which relied most on slave labour, slaves supported the vast plantation economies that the increasingly wealthy elite was famous for. By 1775, slaves made up a fifth of the population of the Thirteen Colonies, but less than ten percent of the population of the middle colonies and colonies of New England. Although a smaller portion of the English population migrated to British North America after 1700, the colonies attracted new immigrants from other European countries, including Catholic settlers from Ireland and Protestants. As the 18th century progressed, the colonists began to settle far from the Atlantic coast. Pennsylvania, Virginia, Connecticut and Maryland claim land in the Ohio River Valley, and colonies are fighting for expansion westward. Conflicts with the French and Spanish Additional information: The second hundred years of the war and the French and Indian wars After the end of the French and Indian wars in 1763, North America was dominated by the British and Spanish Empires Glorious Revolution and the succession of William III, who long resisted French hegemony as the Stadtholder of the Dutch Republic , guaranteed that England and its colonies come into conflict with the French Empire of Louis XIV after 1689. Under the leadership of Samuel de Champley, the French founded the St. Lawrence River in 1608 and became the center of the French colony of Canada. France and England ended a proxy war through Native American allies during and after the Nine Years' War, while the powerful Iroquois declared their neutrality. The war between France and England continued in the war of queen Anne, the North American part of the larger war for the Spanish inheritance. In 1713, in the Treaty of Utrecht, which ended the war for Spanish heritage, the British conquered possession of the French territories of Newfoundland and Acadia, the latter of which was renamed Nova Scotia. In the 1730s, James Oglethorpe proposed colonizing the area south of the Carolinas to provide a buffer against Florida, and he was part of a group of trustees who gained temporary ownership of The Province of Georgia. Oglethorpe and his compatriots hoped to create a utopian colony that prohibited slavery, but by 1750 the colony remained sparsely populated, and Georgia became a crown colony in 1752. In 1754, an Ohio-based company began construction of the fort at the confluence of the Allegheny River and the Monongahela River. Larger French forces initially persecuted Virginians, but were forced to retreat after the Battle of Jumonville Glen. After reports of the battle reached the French and British capitals, the Seven Years' War broke out in 1756; The North American component of this war is known as the French and Indian Wars. The British won a series of victories after 1758, conquering most of New France by the end of 1760. Spain entered the war on the side of France in 1762 and quickly lost several American territories to Great Britain. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 ended the war, and France surrendered almost all of New France to the east of the Mississippi River to the British. France separately swiped its lands west of the Mississippi Spain, and Spain was the one that left Florida in the United Kingdom. With the newly acquired territories, the British established the provinces of East Florida, West Florida, and quebec, all of which were placed under military governments. In the Caribbean, Britain retained Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica and Tobago, but regained control of Martini, Havana and other colonial possessions of France or Spain. Americans broke away, 1763-1783 Additional information: American Revolution and American Revolutionary War North America after 1763 Treaty of Paris British issues of North America believed the unwritten British Constitution protected their rights and that the government system, with the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the monarch dividing power found the ideal balance among the democracy of oligarchy and tyranny. However, the British were saddled with huge debts after the French and Indian wars. Because much of Britain's debt was generated by the defence of the colonies, British leaders believed that colonies should contribute more, and they began to impose taxes, such as the Sugar Act of 1764. The strengthening of British control over the Thirteen Colonies upset the colonists and turned the impression of many colonists that they were equal partners in the British Empire. Meanwhile, in an effort to avoid another costly war with Native Americans, Britain issued a 1763 Royal Declaration that restricted the settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. However, it was effectively replaced five years later by the Fort Stanwix Treaty. Thirteen colonies were increasingly divided among patriots opposed to parliamentary taxation without representation, loyalists who supported the king. In the British colonies close to the Thirteenth Colony, however, the protests were muted as most colonists adopted new taxes. These provinces had a smaller population, largely depended on the British military and had fewer traditions of self-government. At the Battle of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the Patriots recaptured British forces accused of seizing militia arsenals. The Second Continental Congress met in May 1775 and sought to coordinate the armed resistance of Great Britain. It created an improvised government that recruited soldiers and printed its own money. Announcing a permanent break with Great Britain, delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America on 4 July 1776. The French formed a military alliance with the United States in 1778 after the defeat of the British at the Battle of Saratoga. Spain joined France to retake Gibraltar from the UK. A combined Franco-American operation captured the British invasion army in Yorktown, Virginia, forcing them to surrender in October 1781. The capitulation shocked Britain. The King wanted struggle but he he he control of parliament and peace talks have begun. In the Treaty of Paris of 1783, Britain lost all of its North American territory south of the Great Lakes, with the exception of two Florida colonies that were occupied by Spain. Having won the combined Franco-Spanish naval forces in the decisive Battle of the Saints in 1782, Britain retained control of Gibraltar and all its pre-war Caribbean possessions, with the exception of Tobago. Economically new nation has become the UK's main trading partner. The Second British Empire, 1783-1945 British Empire in 1921 See also: New Imperialism Loss of a large part of British America defined the transition between the first and second empires, in which Britain shifted its attention from America to Asia, the Pacific, and then Africa. Influenced by the ideas of Adam Smith, Britain also broke away from mercantile ideals and began to give priority to the expansion of trade, rather than territorial possessions. In the nineteenth century, some observers described Britain as an unofficial empire based on exports of goods and financial investment around the world, including the newly independent republics of Latin America. Although this informal empire does not require direct British political control, it has often included the use of gunboat diplomacy and military intervention to protect British investment and ensure the free flow of trade. From 1793 to 1815, Britain was almost constantly at war, first in the French Revolutionary Wars and then in the Napoleonic Wars. During the wars, Britain took control of many French, Spanish and Dutch Caribbean colonies. Tensions between the UK and the US escalated during the Napoleonic Wars, when Britain tried to cut off American trade with France and boarded American ships to impress people in the Royal Navy. After the largely inconclusive war of 1812, the pre-war borders were reaffirmed by the Treaty of Ghent of 1814, ensuring that Canada's future would be separated from the future of the United States. After the final defeat of the French emperor Napoleon in 1815, Great Britain acquired ownership of Trinidad, Tobago, British Guiana and Saint Lucia, as well as other territories outside the Western Hemisphere. The Treaty of 1818 with the United States established most of the Canadian-American border at the 49th parallel, and established a joint U.S.-British occupation of the country of Oregon. In 1846, the Treaty of Oregon, the United States and Britain agreed to divide the Oregon country along the 49th parallel to the north, with the exception of Vancouver Island, which was fully attributed to Great Britain. (quote is necessary) After warring throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in and America, the British and the French achieved lasting peace after 1815. Britain will fight only one war (Crimean (Crimean) against the European power during the remainder of the nineteenth century, and that war would not lead to territorial change in America. Nevertheless, the British Empire continued to participate in wars such as the First Opium War against China; it also put uprisings such as the Indian Uprising of 1857, the Crimean Uprising of 1837-1838, and the Jamaican Morant Bay Uprising of 1865. At the end of the 18th century, a strong movement for the abolition of the death penalty emerged in the United Kingdom, and in 1807 Britain abolished the slave trade. In the mid-nineteenth century, the economies of the British Caribbean colonies would suffer as a result of the Abolition of Slavery Act of 1833, which abolished slavery throughout the British Empire, and the Sugar Duty Act of 1846, which ended preferential tariffs on sugar imports from the Caribbean. To replace the labour of former slaves, British plantations in Trinidad and other parts of the Caribbean began to hire servants from India and China. The creation of the Dominion of Canada Despite the defeat in the American War of Independence and the transition to a new form of imperialism in the nineteenth century, the British Empire retained numerous colonies in America after 1783. During and after the American War of Independence, between 40,000 and 100,000 defeated loyalists migrated from the United States to Canada. The 14,000 loyalists who went to the valleys of the St. John and St. Croix rivers, then part of Nova Scotia, felt too far removed from the provincial government in Halifax, so London separated from New Brunswick as a separate colony in 1784. The Constitutional Act of 1791 established the provinces of Upper Canada (mainly English-speaking) and Lower Canada (mostly French-speaking) to defuse tensions between the French and British communities, and introduced governmental systems similar to those used in the United Kingdom with the intention of asserting imperial power and not allowing such popular control over the government, which is believed to have led to the American Revolution. In response to the 1837-1838 uprisings, Britain passed the Union Act in 1840, which united Upper Canada and Lower Canada into the province of Canada. Responsible government was first granted to Nova Scotia in 1848, and was soon extended to other British North American colonies. With the passage of the British North America Act in 1867, the British Parliament, Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were formed into the Confederation of Canada. Rupert's Land (which was divided into Manitoba and the Northwest Territories), British Columbia and Prince Edward Island joined Canada by the end of 1873, but Newfoundland did not join Canada until 1949. (quote is necessary) Like other British dominion, such as over his domestic affairs, but recognized the British monarch as head of state and worked closely with the UK on defence matters. After the adoption of the Westminster Statute of 1931, Canada and other possessions were completely independent of British legislative control; they can repeal British laws, and Britain can no longer legislate for them without their consent. British Honduras and the Falkland Islands In the early 17th century, English sailors began cutting log wood in parts of coastal Central America, over which the Spaniards had little control. By the early 18th century, a small British settlement had been established on the Belize River, although the Spaniards refused to recognize British control of the region and often evicted British settlers. In the Treaty of Paris of 1783 and the 1786 London Convention, Spain granted Britain the right to cut down logs and mahogany in the area between the Hondo River and the Belize River, but Spain retained sovereignty over the territory. After the Clayton-Balver Treaty with the United States in 1850, Great Britain agreed to evacuate its settlers from the Gulf Islands and the Mosquito Coast, but retained control of the settlement on the Belize River. In 1862, Great Britain established the crown colony of British Honduras in this place. The British first established a presence in the Falkland Islands in 1765, but were forced to leave for economic reasons related to the American War of Independence in 1774. The islands continued to be used by British Herme and whalers, although the settlement of Port Egmont was destroyed by the Spaniards in 1780. Argentina tried to establish a colony in the ruins of the former Spanish settlement of Puerto Soledad, which ended with the return of the British in 1833. The British ruled the uninhabited island of South Georgia, which captain James Cook claimed in 1775 as a Falklands dependence. Decolonization and Overseas Territories, 1945-present Successful Independence Movement See also: The decolonization of America The Commonwealth of Nations consists of the former territories of the British Empire in America and elsewhere Since the beginning of the Cold War in the late 1940s, the British government began to collect plans for the independence of the colonies of the empire in Africa, Asia, and America. The British authorities had originally planned a three-year process in which each colony would develop a self-governing and democratic parliament, but unrest and fears of communist infiltration of the colonies prompted britons to accelerate their movement towards self-government. Compared to other European empires that survived the Wars of Independence, such as the Algerian War and the Portuguese Colonial War, the British post-war process of decolonization in the Caribbean and elsewhere was relatively relatively In an attempt to unify its Caribbean colonies, Great Britain established the West Indies Federation in 1958. The Federation disintegrated after the loss of two of its largest members, Jamaica and Trinidad, each of which gained independence in 1962; Trinidad formed an alliance with Tobago to become the country of Trinidad and Tobago. The eastern Caribbean islands, like the Bahamas, gained independence in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. The last British colony in the Americas, British Honduras, became a self-governing colony in 1964 and was renamed Belize in 1973, achieving full independence in 1981. The dispute with Guatemala over claims against Belize remained unresolved. Remaining territories Although many of the Caribbean territories of the British Empire gained independence, Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands decided to return to British rule after they had already begun the path to independence. The British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Falkland Islands also remain under British jurisdiction. In 1982, Britain defeated Argentina after the Falklands War, an undeclared war in which Argentina attempted to seize control of the Falkland Islands. In 1983, the British Citizenship Act 1981 renamed the existing Crown colonies the British Dependent Territories and in 2002 it was renamed the British Overseas Territories. Eleven inhabited territories are, to varying degrees, self-governing and dependent on the UK for international relations and defence. Most of the former British colonies and protectorates are among the 52 member states of the Commonwealth of Nations, a non-political, voluntary association of equal members, which includes about 2.2 billion people. Sixteen Commonwealth countries, including Canada and several Caribbean countries, voluntarily continue to separate the British monarch, queen Elizabeth II, as head of state. List of colonies See also: List of countries which gained independence from the United Kingdom and the territorial evolution of the British Empire Former North American colonies Canadian Territories See also: Former colonies and territories in Canada These colonies and territories became part of Canada between 1867 and 1873 unless stated otherwise: British Columbia Province of Canada (formed as a result of the merger of Upper Canada and Lower Canada in 1841) Nova Scotia New Brunswick Dominion of Newfoundland (became part of Canada in 1949) Prince Edward Rupert's Land (became part of Canada as Manitoba and the Northwest Territories) Thirteen colonies thirteen colonies that became the original states of the United States after 1781 ratification of The Confederate States: Massachusetts Bay Province Of New Hampshire Colony of Rhode Island and Plantation Connecticut Colony Province New York Province Of Pennsylvania Delaware Colony Maryland Colony Virginia Province North Carolina Province North Carolina Province Of Georgia Other North American colonies These colonies were acquired in 1763 and established in Spain in 1783: East Florida Province (from Spain, Retroces to Spain) Province of West Florida (from France as part of eastern French Louisiana, Louisiana having gone to Spain) Former colonies in the Caribbean and South America These modern countries joined the British West Indies before the acquisition independence in the 20th century: Antigua and Barbuda (independence in 1981) the Bahamas (independence in 1973) Barbados (independence in 1966) Belize (gained independence in 1981; formerly known as British Honduras, Dominica (gained independence in 1978) Grenada (gained independence in 1974) Guyana (gained independence in 1966; formerly known as British Guiana) Jamaica (gained independence in 1962) St. Kitts and Nevis (gained independence in 1983) St. Vincent (gained independence in 1979) and the Grenadines (gained independence in 1979) Trinidad and Tobago (gained independence in 1962) Current Territories These British Overseas Territories in America remain under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom: Anguilla Bermuda British Virgin Islands Falkland Islands Falkland Islands Montserrat Turks and Caicos Islands See also the British Empire portal of the United States portal North America portal Atlantic History Atlantic World Demographics of the British Empire Historiography of the British Empire History of Guyana History of the Falkland Islands History of the Falkland Islands Foreign Relations of the United Kingdom Imperialism Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Early Modern Britain Notes Links - Richter (2011), p. 69-70 - Richter (2011), page 83-85 - Richter (2011), page 121-123 - Richter (2011), page 129-130 - James (1997), page 16-17 - Richter (2011), p. 98-100 - Richter (2011), page 100-102 - Richter (2011), page 103-107 - James (1997), page 5 - Richter (2011), page 112 - Richter (2011) 113-115 - Richter (2011), page 116-117 Bermuda - history and heritage. 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