

Key Dates: **1607**- Colonists establish the first lasting British settlement in the new world, at Jamestown.
1775 - Britain had a large empire with colonies in America and the West Indies.
1783 - This 'first British Empire' came to an end after the American Revolution.
1787 - First shipment of prisoners sent to Australia.
1871 - German unification - The Southern German states join with the North German confederation, consolidating the 39 states into one German Empire.
1876 - Queen Victoria declared 'Empress of India'.
1881–1919 - The 'Scramble for Africa', Britain gained colonies in Africa stretching from Cairo to Cape Town.



By the end of this Half Term I should know:

How the British empire grew to dominate the world.
 How big the British empire became and how many people were under its rule.
 Why the empire was so important to Britain and also what benefits it brought.
 There are different opinions about 'empire', and whether it was a force for good or evil.
 How the need for an empire led to increased ideas of imperialism and militarism during the 19th century.
 How these ideas increased tensions amongst rival countries and set the scene for a war in Europe.

Key Terms

Colony - A state, country, province or area ruled over by a monarch or state from another country.

Empire - A group of states or countries ruled over by one monarch or state.

Territory - An area of land owned / ruled by a person or state.

Population - All of the inhabitants of a particular place or territory.

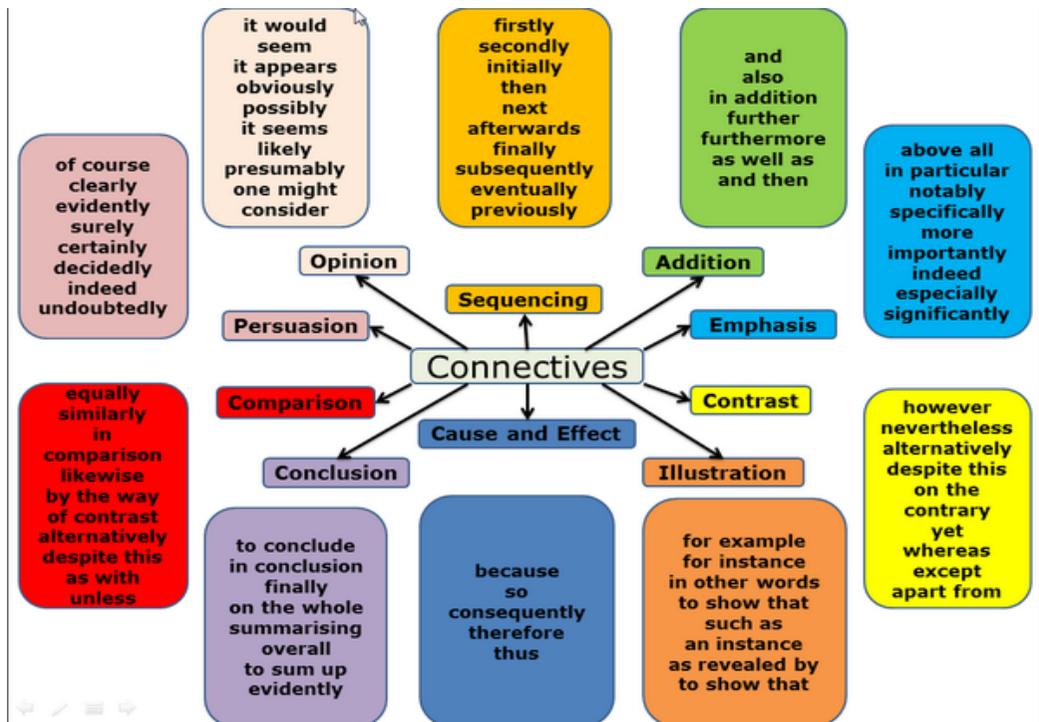
Economies - The money and business of a country.

Segregated - To be separated from other people.

Democracy - Where people are elected to rule.

Infrastructure - The organization of something e.g. Buildings, railways, rules.

Militarism - Relying on or investing in military. Ideas that increasing armies, navies and munitions would allow countries to compete with each other.





KHS—History Knowledge Organiser—Half Term 1 - Empire and Militarism



The British Empire: From the **sixteenth** century onwards, the leaders of Europe believed it was their right to **conquer** other parts of the world and use these countries resources to develop their own **empires**. They set up **colonies** across the world where they would push the **indigenous** people out of their land and create their own towns and communities to reflect their homelands. Britain being the most technologically advanced nation in the world was keen to show its dominance and therefore was at the forefront of this race for colonisation. Soon Great Britain boasted that it owned a quarter of the worlds land and people. The **British Empire** enveloped the world and at times included countries in Europe, North America, South America, the Middle East, Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Caribbean. The empire covered 25% of the Earth. This meant that **one in five people** that lived on the planet lived in the British Empire and were subjects of its monarchy. The empire was built mainly on **trade** and **technological** advances. A famous saying from the time was, 'The sun never sets on the British empire'.

Was the British Empire a force for good?: Historians have argued for many years about whether the building of empires was a force for good or evil. Many of those that have argued empire was a force for good point to the fact that many developing countries benefitted from colonisation. They have claimed that many former Colonies continue to use the **democratic** system of **Parliament** introduced by Britain. Also, colonies benefitted from the legacy Britain left in improved **infrastructure** such as good **roads, railway systems, canals, bridges** and **dams**. However, other historians have stated that the economies in many Colonies were wrecked due to Britain's hold over **transport** and **raw materials**. Britain became rich and powerful at the expense of its colonies development. Also, people in the colonies were killed when they **rebelled** against British rule e.g. the Amritsar Massacre in India in 1919.

The Importance of Empire: Having a large empire was very important to Great Britain, as it was to many other European countries. It was a visible show of global **dominance, power** and **authority** to the rest of the world. It was intended to show just how **technologically** advanced and **sophisticated** British society was. Apart from this, Britain gained even greater power and wealth from her overseas empire. Colonies meant Britain gained more **land, people, valuable natural resources** and new trade **markets**. More people meant a bigger military force to defend her and her markets. This also meant that potential enemy countries were denied troops for their own military. New lands meant an increased supply of food and goods from around the world including new types of foods and medicines. The increase in natural resources brought greater wealth to Britain including, **gold** from Africa, and **cotton, tobacco, and sugar** from the Americas (including the Caribbean).

Militarism and Imperialism: Many countries were **envious** of Great Britain's standing as a world leader in the 19th Century. Countries like Germany wanted to compete with Britain and build their own empires. They believed that **militarism** was the way forward and would allow them to compete. Germany, at this time, was a collection of 39 separate **states** and **principalities**. Throughout the 1800s they engaged in a series of wars and battles which ended with the **Franco-Prussian war 1870-1871**. This led to German **unification** and the formation of the **German Empire**. To compete with traditional empires like Britain, Spain and France, Germany would need their own overseas colonies. This led to the 'Scramble for Africa' and increased tension among the major European countries. The German Kaiser suggested that future wars in Europe were inevitable. This led to other countries developing ideas of militarism and building up their own **infrastructure** for war.