

History Knowledge Organiser

Year 6

Autumn (ii)

How has monarchs power been reduced?

Substantive Knowledge – The monarchs' powers have reduced over time making them de jure rather than de facto

The monarchy has survived due to its response to public opinion (and revolutions in other countries formally with monarchies) and a reduction in the monarch's power.

Queen Victoria had few powers as monarch, her power was de jure rather than de facto.

Queen Victoria acceded to the throne in 1837 and oversaw the British Empire during its peak — at one point ruling over one-quarter of the world's landmass. She married Prince Albert in 1840, and had nine children who all married into royal or noble families throughout Europe making her the Grandmother of Europe.

However, Queen Victoria did not have ultimate power ; she accepted the advice of her seventh prime minister Benjamin Disraeli, whose political advice she relied on. She approved of his imperialist policies, which established Britain as the most powerful nation in the world.



Direct political power moved away from the monarch during Victoria's reign establishing a modern precedent that the monarch should remain impartial in political debates. Her role as queen was much more symbolic than directly powerful over the Government and this was crucial for the relative stability of nineteenth-century British politics. During the late 1860s, other nations in Europe were facing violent nationalist movements and the threat of revolution. Parts of Queen Victoria's Britain were dissatisfied with their political and economic situations, but sustained domestic peace was one of the achievements of the Victorian age, setting Britain apart from the war-torn European continent.

The Significance and Impact of The British Empire and The Commonwealth

In the 16th Century, Britain began to build its empire – spreading its rule and power beyond its borders through a process called 'imperialism'. This brought huge changes to societies, industries, cultures and the lives of people all around the world.

Empire is a term used to describe a group of territories ruled by one single ruler or state. Empires are built by countries that wish to control lands outside of their borders. Those lands can be close by or even thousands of miles away.

Throughout history, empire builders have introduced new people, practices and rules to their 'new' lands and used its resources for their own gain, at the expense of the indigenous people – the people that inhabited the land first. This process is called 'colonialism'. This is what the British Empire also did.



Many of the streets we walk on today were paid for by the Slave Trade.

Countries taken into the Empire often lost land and raw material. Slavery was a negative of the Empire.

Far from standing alone during WW2, as the war spread across the globe, Britain relied on the people, land and resources of its Empire to continue fighting. After WWII, (1939-1945), Britain was weakened, had less money and was less interested in its empire. Also many parts of the empire contributed troops and resources to the war effort and took an increasingly independent view. This led to a steady decline of the empire after 1945. The Commonwealth formed in 1931.

Key Events In Queen Victoria's Reign

The **Penny Postal System** revolutionised communications in the UK. Before the Penny Post, letters were paid for by the recipient. The high costs were sometimes as much as a day's wages, causing many recipients to refuse their messages.

The Penny postal system was simple. Anyone could send a letter to anywhere within the UK for a penny. This new method was accessible for both the wealthy and the poor and significantly improved the communication of Britain. In 1839, 76 million letters were posted in the United Kingdom. By 1849, this amount had doubled to 347 million messages.

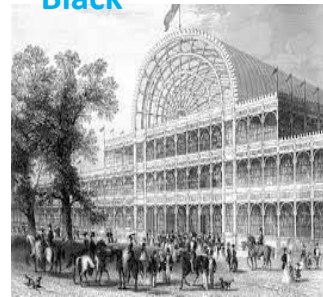


The Penny Black

The Great Exhibition and The Crystal Palace 1851

The **Industrial Revolution** was largely funded by the British Empire and goods from its colonies; it was a time when the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops and homes to large factories. This change meant that people (including children) moved from rural areas to big cities in order to work and goods were manufactured more quickly.

The Great Exhibition, also known as the Crystal Palace Exhibition, was an international exhibition held in London in 1851 and the first in a series of exhibitions of culture and industry that were popular in the 19th century. Its prime motive was for "Great Britain [to make] clear to the world its role as an industrial leader". Technology and moving machinery were popular, especially working exhibits. Visitors could watch the entire process of cotton production from spinning to finished cloth. Scientific instruments included electric telegraphs, microscopes, air pumps and barometers, as well as musical and surgical instruments.



The Crystal Palace

Elizabeth Fry

Elizabeth Fry began working for prison reform, campaigning for the segregation of men and women, female matrons for female prisoners, education and employment (often knitting and sewing) and religious instruction for prisoners.



Elizabeth Fry

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

The monarch's power is de jure rather than de facto.

The British Empire brought riches to the U.K. However, this was at the expense of other countries and their people.

The Victorian times were a period of great contrast with poor people, including children, being exploited in factories. However, the introduction of free, compulsory education for children between the ages of 5 and 10 happened in 1870.

The British Empire funded the Industrial Revolution which, in turn, strengthened the Empire.

Elizabeth Fry was a female Victorian prison reformer. Queen Victoria gave her money to support the cause.

Core Vocabulary

Empire – A group of countries ruled by a single monarch

Revolution– Dramatic and wide reaching change

Commonwealth – an international association of countries which were once in the British Empire