

Year 9 History | The Impact of the Second World War | Jan-Feb |

Britain and the Second World War

1	1939-1945 World War Two	Between 1939-1945 Britain fought with the USA, France and the Soviet Union to defeat Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan..
2	1940-41 Battle of Britain	Between 1940-41 Britain faced the real threat of a German invasion. The European mainland including France had fallen under the control of Nazi Germany after France surrendered in 1940. Through incredible spirit and bravery the RAF and Royal Navy prevented a German invasion and eventually won the Battle of Britain.
3	The importance of the British Empire in World War Two	Britain relied heavily on support from its allies and the Empire. Food was imported from colonies such as India, Australia and New Zealand. The majority of British weapons were manufactured in the United States. Over 5 million soldiers from across the Empire fought with the British. Britain borrowed £3.4 billion from the USA, this debt was not fully paid back until 2010.
4	Victory in World War Two	In 1943 there was a key Soviet victory at the Battle of Stalingrad. This victory signalled the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany. British and American troops landed in France on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and advanced on Germany to win the war

The Home Front – Britain

1	The Blitz	In 1940-41 the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) bombed British cities and industrial areas, causing the deaths of 40,000 British civilians and extensive damage to areas such as London. This period of time was known as the Blitz. The government took action to protect the British people, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evacuating children to the countryside 2. Enforcing black outs (no lights on in homes) in cities 3. Organising ARP (Air Raid Precautions) wardens to manage shelters during air raids, put out fires and enforce black out rules.
2	Rationing	Before the start of the War Britain relied on imports to feed its population. With German U-boats (submarines) attacking British supply ships, the government introduced strict rationing of food, clothing and petrol.
3	Women's roles	Women were conscripted into war work such as working in munitions factories, on farms and in ARP teams Over 80% of all women were involved in the war effort. However, by 1945 they were paid less than men and lost their jobs when the men returned.
4	Government involvement in peoples lives	All of the above illustrates how the government played a much larger role in the lives of ordinary people during the conflict of World War Two.

Key Vocabulary

1	Air Raid	A bombing attack on a city
2	Blackout	No visible lights, street lights, etc
3	The Blitz	German Air force bombing British cities
4	Colonies	Countries/areas of territory that belong to an Empire
5	D-Day	The US/British invasion of Nazi occupied France
6	Luftwaffe	German air force
7	Munitions	Ammunition and weapons of war
8	RAF	The British Air Force The Royal Air Force
9	Rationing	Limiting the amount of food the public can buy
10	Soviet Union	Communist Russia
11	Welfare State	The government looking after people

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Labour and the NHS			Windrush and Immigration		Indian Independence			
1	1945 General Election	Labour won a landslide election victory in 1945. They defeated war time leader Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee became the new prime minister. Attlee promised to use the power of government to 'win the peace'.	1	Empire Windrush	Immigration to Britain accelerated after Second World War. 1948 – The Empire Windrush arrived in London carrying 492 Jamaicans hoping to make a new life in Britain.	1	1947	India finally gained independence from the British Empire. There were a variety of factors that led to this.
2	Reasons for Labour's election victory	The War showed the need for change which the laissez-faire Conservative party could not deliver. British people felt the government should reward them for their sacrifices	2	Post-war Immigration to the UK	Labour shortages in the NHS, in schools and in transport led the British government to recruit migrants from the Caribbean to Britain. Many colonial migrants had served in the British army during the Second World War and were now returning to the 'Mother country' of the Empire	2	Gandhi and the Independence Movement	During WW2 Gandhi had been arrested for refusing to support the British and launched the Quit India movement His arrest alongside a terrible famine in 1943 led to violent protests against British rule
3	Labour and the Welfare State	Labour expanded the welfare state. Introduced reforms and services to look after citizens 'from the cradle to the grave' -Free education until 15 -Increased sick pay -Pensions 12 New towns built to house people outside of overcrowded cities	3	Post-war Immigration to the UK	Economic problems in colonies such as Jamaica led to high unemployment and young people migrated to Britain to find work Later groups of migrants came to Britain as refugees escaping civil wars in their countries	3	British Bankruptcy	Following WW2 Britain was bankrupt and could not afford to carry on running India as a colony
4	Labour and the NHS – 1948	Aneurin Bevan, the Minister for Health created the National Health Service. NHS provided free access to healthcare. Was funded by taxation, by 1950 NHS cost £358 million per year	4	Migrant arrivals from across globe	1970s – Indian and Pakistani migration to Britain begins 1980s – Ugandan Asians migrate	4	American Pressure	The USA opposed the British Empire – wanted people to have right to choose their own government.
						5	Fall of Singapore	In 1942 the Japanese captured the British military base in Singapore – this showed colonies Britain could be defeated
Key Vocabulary								
						1	Laissez-Faire	Against government action
						2	Immigration	The movement of people into a country
						3	Gandhi	Indian independence leader