

1583

Humphrey Gilbert claims Newfoundland on behalf of England's queen Elizabeth

1585

Roanoke Island, off the coast of North Carolina, is settled by the first English colonists in America – with disastrous results

1587

A new group of English settlers arrives at Roanoke Island and makes a second attempt at a settlement

Virginia Dare becomes the first English child to be born in America, on Roanoke Island

1590

An English ship, the first to arrive at Roanoke Island since 1587, finds no remaining trace of the settlers or their settlement

**1600**

**Britain's East India Company is established when Elizabeth I grants a charter to a 'Company of Merchants trading into the East Indies'**

**1607**

**Colonists establish the first lasting British settlement in the new world, at Jamestown**

**1608**

**John Smith claims (many years later) that when captured by Indians he was saved from execution by Pocahontas, daughter of the chief**

1609

Henry Hudson reaches the inlet of New York Bay and explores the river now known by his name. Castaways from an English vessel reach **Bermuda, which becomes the first British island in the new world**

1611

Henry Hudson, after wintering in Hudson Bay, is set adrift in an open boat by his mutinous crew

1613 The British East India establishes a 'factory' (a secure warehouse for the storing of Indian goods) at Surat, on the west coast

The American Indian princess Pocahontas is taken hostage by Jamestown colonists in the first Anglo-Powhatan war

1614 Pocahontas is baptized a Christian and marries John Rolfe, one of the Jamestown colonists

1616 John Smith publishes A Description of New England, an account of his exploration of the region in 1614

**1620 september 16 The Pilgrims (or Pilgrim Fathers), a group of 102 English settlers, sail in the Mayflower to the new world**

1620 november 11 21

Ten days after their first landfall, at Cape Cod, the adult males on the Mayflower agree a form of government for their new colony

1620 december 26 The Pilgrims on the Mayflower select a place for their settlement, and give it the name of Plymouth, their port of departure in England

1620

William Bradford begins a journal of the Pilgrims' experience in New England, subsequently published (in 1856) as History of Plymouth Plantation

1621 autumn

The Mayflower settlers in Plymouth offer thanksgiving for their first harvest, eating turkeys in a celebration shared by local Indians

1621

William Bradford, one of the Pilgrims from the Mayflower, is elected governor of the new Plymouth Colony

1622

A sudden attack by Powhatan Indians, led by their chieftain Opechancanough against the English colony at Jamestown, results in the death of more than 300 settlers

**1627A British colony is founded in Barbados and within fifteen years has 18,000 settlers**

c. 1630

Rival Dutch, English and French colonies are established in Guiana, the northeast coast of south America

John Winthrop, appointed governor of the new Massachusetts Bay Company, sails from England with 700 settlers John Winthrop selects the site of Boston for the first Massachusetts settlement

John Winthrop, arriving in Massachusetts, begins the journal that is eventually published as The History Of New England

1632

Maryland is granted to Lord Baltimore as a haven for English Roman Catholics

1633

Williamsburg, first known as Middle Plantation, is founded in Virginia

**1636**

**Rhode Island is founded by Roger Williams as a colony based on the principle of religious tolerance**

**1637**

**War between English colonists and Pequot Indians brings disaster to the Pequots but safeguards the settlement of Connecticut**

**1644**

**The British East India Company completes the construction of Fort St George in Madras**

**1651**

**Parliament in England passes the first of several Navigation Acts designed to reserve international trade for English ships**

**1655**

**The British, settling in Jamaica, soon turn the island into the major slave market of the West Indies**

1661

The British establish Fort James on an island in the Gambia river

1664

Peter Stuyvesant accepts the reality of the military situation and yields New Amsterdam to the British without a shot being fired

**1666**

**New Amsterdam is renamed New York by the recently established English regime**

**1668**

**England's East India Company is granted a lease on Bombay by Charles II, who has received it from his Portuguese bride**

1675

A sudden uprising by the Wampanoag Indians against the new England settlements begins the conflict known as King Philip's War

**1681**

**Charles II grants William Penn the charter for the region that becomes Pennsylvania, in settlement of a debt to Penn's father**

**1682**

**William Penn approves the Great Law, allowing complete freedom of religious belief in Pennsylvania**

William Penn achieves peace for Pennsylvania by negotiating a treaty with the local Lenape (or Delaware) tribes

1683

Mennonites and other from Germany (later known as the Pennsylvania Dutch) begin to settle in Penn's liberal colony

1690

John Strong, landing on some remote Atlantic islands, names them after Viscount Falkland, treasurer of the British navy

1696

Fort St William is built by the East India Company in the Ganges delta, and subsequently develops into Calcutta

c. 1700

Holland and England are now producing the magnificent ocean-going merchant vessels known as East Indiamen

1732

Georgia is granted to a group of British philanthropists, to give a new start in life to debtors

1751

Robert Clive prevails over the French after holding out during the seven-week siege of Arcot in southern India

1754

George Washington kills ten French troops at Fort Duquesne, in the first violent clash of the French and Indian war

The British colonies negotiate with the Iroquois at the Albany Congress, in the face of the French threat in the Ohio valley

1755

A British force under Edward Braddock lands in America to provide support against the French in the Ohio valley

The army led by Edward Braddock and George Washington is ambushed at Fort Duquesne and Braddock is killed

1756

122 people die after being locked overnight in a small room in Calcutta, in an incident that becomes known as the Black Hole of Calcutta

1757

Robert Clive defeats the nawab of Bengal at the battle of Plassey, and places his own man on the throne

**William Pitt the Elder becomes secretary of state and transforms the British war effort against France in America**

1759

British general James Wolfe sails up the St Lawrence river with 15,000 men to besiege Quebec

Wolfe defeats Montcalm and captures Quebec, but both commanders die in the engagement

1763

In the treaty of Paris France cedes to Britain all its territory north of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi river, except the district of New Orleans

In the treaty of Paris, Spain cedes Florida to Britain, completing British possession of the entire east coast of north America

1764

A French expedition from St Malo, founding a colony on East Falkland, name the islands Les îles Malouines

**Britain passes the Sugar Act, levying duty on sugar, wine and textiles imported into America**

1765

Britain passes the Stamp Act, taxing legal documents and newspapers in the American colonies

**1767**

**The British Chancellor, Charles Townshend, passes a series of acts taxing all glass, lead, paint, paper and tea imported into the American colonies**

**1768**

**Captain James Cook sails from Plymouth, in England, heading for Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus**

1769

Captain Cook reaches New Zealand and sets off to chart its entire coastline

**1770**

**Captain Cook reaches the mainland of Australia, at a place which he names Botany Bay, and continues up the eastern coast**

1772

Captain Cook sets off, in HMS Resolution, on his second voyage to the southern hemisphere

1774

The Spanish, now in sole occupation of the Falkland Islands, call them Las Islas Malvinas

1779

British explorer Captain James Cook is killed in a skirmish with natives in Hawaii over a stolen boat

Joseph Banks tells a committee of the House of Commons that the east coast of Australia is suitable for the transportation of convicted felons

**1787**

**The First Fleet (eleven ships carrying about 750 convicts) leaves Portsmouth for Australia**

1788

After a journey of eight months from England the First Fleet reaches Australia, anchoring in Botany Bay

**Arthur Phillip, selecting a suitable coastal site for the first penal colony in Australia, names the place Sydney Cove**

**1790**

**A second fleet arrives in Sydney, bringing more convicts and a regiment, the New South Wales Corps, to keep order**

**1791**

**Naval officer George Vancouver sails from Britain on the voyage which will bring him to the northwest coast of America**

**1795**

**Mungo Park sets off on his first expedition to explore the Niger on behalf of the African Association**

**With the Dutch entering the war on the side of the French, Britain seizes their valuable Cape colony in South Africa**

**1798**

**British explorer George Bass sails round Tasmania in an open whaleboat, discovering the strait which now bears his name**

**The British acquire a foothold in the Persian Gulf by making Oman a protectorate**

1799

Tipu Sultan, ruler of Mysore, is killed fighting the British at Seringapatam

1802

The Treaty of Amiens restores the Cape of Good Hope to the Netherlands

1804

The city of Hobart is founded on the southern coast of Tasmania

**1806**

**The British recapture the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch**

1809

The British impose the so-called Hottentot Code, protecting Africans at the Cape but also tying them to employers' farms

Ranjit Singh, maharaja of the Punjab, agrees an eastern boundary between himself and the British in the Treaty of Amritsar

**1815**

**The congress of Vienna leaves the Cape of Good Hope in British hands**

1820

The newly independent republic of Argentina takes possession of Las Islas Malvinas (the Falklands)

**1820 The first big influx of British settlers, numbering some 5000, arrives at Cape Town in South Africa**

182 The British government imposes a merger on two great squabbling enterprises in Canada, the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company

The merged Hudson's Bay Company now administers a territory stretching from the Great Lakes to the Pacific

1829

James Stirling explores up the Swan River in western Australia to find a site for the settlement which he names Perth

1830 t

Richard Lander and his brother John explore the lower reaches of the Niger, proving that the great river is navigable

**1831**

**The last surviving Aborigines of Tasmania are moved by the British to a small island where they soon die out**

**HMS Beagle sails from Plymouth to survey the coasts of the southern hemisphere, with Charles Darwin as the expedition's naturalist**

1833

Britain ejects the Argentinians from the Falklands and begins the process of settlement with British farmers

1835

Melbourne, founded by settlers from Tasmania, develops as the centre of a sheep-rearing community

1836

A site is selected for Adelaide and emigration begins from Britain to south Australia

**1839**

**The British seize the strategic port of Aden and administer it as a province annexed to India**

**A British army invades Afghanistan and installs a puppet ruler, Shuja Shah, as the Afghan amir**

**British troops invade China after the Chinese authorities seize and destroy the opium stocks of British merchants in Canton**

**c. 1841**

**Britain sends four naval ships up the river Niger to make anti-slavery treaties with local kings**

**1842**

**The British abandon Kabul, losing most of the garrison force in the withdrawal to India and bringing to an end the first Anglo-Afghan war**

**1843**

**The British take control of the existing Boer republic and proclaim Natal a British protectorate**

**1845**

**The first Anglo-Sikh war breaks out between Sikh forces in the Punjab and encroaching forces of Britain's East India Company**

**1846**

**The first Anglo-Sikh war ends with the Treaty of Lahore, by which Jammu and Kashmir are ceded to the British**

**1848**

**Harry Smith annexes for Britain the land between the Orange and Vaal rivers, calling it the Orange River Sovereignty**

**The second Anglo-Sikh war begins when a British army invades the Punjab to suppress a local uprising**

**1849**

**A British victory at the Battle of Gujarat effectively ends the second Anglo-Sikh war, and is followed by annexation of the Punjab**

**Vancouver Island is given the status of a British crown colony, to be followed by British Columbia in 1858**

**1850**

**The British government buys the Danish fortresses on the Gold Coast, including Christiansborg castle in Accra**

**1851**

**The Australian gold rush begins with the discovery of gold fields at Ballarat and a few months later at Bendigo**

**1853**

**David Livingstone makes a heroic six-month journey from the Zambezi river to the west coast of Africa**

**In the expectation of British and French support, the Ottoman sultan declares war on Russia - launching the Crimean War**

1854

The Boers establish the Orange Free State as an independent republic, with its own custom-built constitution

Britain and France enter the war between Turkey and Russia, on the Turkish side

1855

David Livingstone, moving down the Zambezi, comes upon the Victoria Falls

1856

The treaty of Paris ends the Crimean War, limiting Russia's special powers in relation to Turkey

**1857**

**David Livingstone urges upon a Cambridge audience the high ideal of taking 'commerce and Christianity' into Africa**

Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke set off from Bagamoyo in their search for the source of the Nile

**The Boers of the southern Transvaal declare independence as the South African Republic**

**1858**

**Burton and Speke reach Lake Tanganyika at Ujiji, a place later famous for the meeting between Livingstone and Stanley**

**The India Act places India under the direct control of the British government, ending the rule of the East India Company**

Speke reaches Lake Victoria and guesses that it is probably the source of the Nile

1861

Lagos, on the coast of Nigeria, is annexed as a British colony when the royal family prove unable or unwilling to end the slave trade

1862

Speke and Grant find the Ripon Falls, over which the headwater of the Nile flows from Lake Tanganyika

John McDouall Stuart reaches the north coast of Australia at Van Diemen's Gulf seven months after setting off from Adelaide

The bones of Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills are brought back to Melbourne after the heroic failure of their attempt to cross Australia

1867

The British North America Act, acknowledging the fears of French Catholics in Canada, guarantees the rights of "dissentient schools"

**Four former colonies (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec) unite to form the new nation of Canada with Ottawa as the capital**



**The Canadian nation is called the Dominion of Canada – the first example of 'dominion status'**

1868

Britain annexes Basutoland (now Lesotho), the kingdom of the Sotho leader Moshoeshe

**1869 The territory of the Hudson's Bay Company is transferred to the new state of Canada**

Britain, France and Italy take joint control of the finances of a bankrupt Tunisia

The proprietor of the New York Herald gives Henry Morton Stanley a very concise commission – 'Find Livingstone'

British explorer Samuel Baker annexes the southern Sudan, or Equatoria, on behalf of the khedive of Egypt

1871 18-year-old English entrepreneur Cecil Rhodes, on a temporary visit to South Africa, arrives in the new diamond town of Kimberley  
Stanley, finding Livingstone at Ujiji, greets him with four words which become famous – 'Dr Livingstone, I presume'

**1874 The southern region of present-day Ghana becomes a British colony, to be known as the Gold Coast**

**Stanley sets off from Bagamoyo, intending to resume the exploration of central Africa where Livingstone left off**

**1876 The chaotic government finances of Egypt are placed under joint French and British control**

Stanley passes Nyangwe on the Lualaba, the furthest point down the Congo river system reached by Livingstone

**India becomes the 'jewel in the crown' of Queen Victoria when Benjamin Disraeli secures for her the title Empress of India**

**Leopold II hosts a conference in Brussels on the subject of opening up the African continent**

**1877 Britain annexes the Boer republic in the Transvaal**

**Stanley completes his exploration of the Congo, reaching the Atlantic coast at Boma after a three-year journey**

1878 Three British armies invade Afghanistan, beginning the second Anglo-Afghan War

1879 The British find a pretext to march into the territory ruled by Cetshwayo, thus launching the Zulu War

Zulu tribesmen surprise and annihilate a British army encamped near Isandhlwana

Immediately after Isandhlwana a tiny British garrison at Rorke's Drift fights off an overwhelming Zulu attack

**George Goldie and British traders on the Niger form the United African Company (later the Royal Niger Company) to consolidate their interests**

The British destruction of Cetshwayo's kraal at Ulundi ends the Zulu War

1881

The Boers inflict a convincing defeat on a British army at Majuba, in the Transvaal

**The British withdraw from Afghanistan, having achieved nothing in the Second Anglo-Afghan War**

1882

Anti-western riots in Alexandria result in many deaths and provoke a British invasion

**1883 Mohammed Ahmed, proclaiming himself the Mahdi, defeats three Egyptian armies in the Sudan**

**1884 The British empire is first described as a 'Commonwealth of Nations', by Lord Rosebery speaking in Australia**

General Gordon marches south to protect Khartoum from the advancing forces of the Mahdi

The Boer republic in the Transvaal regains its independence from Britain

British general Garnet Wolseley sails from London on a mission to rescue Gordon, trapped by the Mahdi in Khartoum

Bismarck invites the European powers to a West Africa Conference in Berlin

1885

Britain annexes Bechuanaland as a protectorate, to secure the route north from the Cape into central Africa

**1886**

**Germany and Britain define neighbouring spheres of interest in east Africa**

The German and British agreement in east Africa creates the present-day boundary between Tanzania and Kenya

**1887**

**A gathering of leaders from the British empire holds a colonial conference in London to coincide with Queen Victoria's jubilee**

1888

The Ndebele chieftain, Lobengula, grants Rhodes mining rights in what is now Zimbabwe

**The Imperial British East Africa Company is given a charter to administer Kenya and Uganda**

**1889**

**Cecil Rhodes forms the British South Africa Company to push British commerce and imperial control further north**

France and Britain agree colonial boundaries for Senegal and Gambia in west Africa

**1890 Cecil Rhodes sends colonists to settle the newly won colony of Rhodesia**

**Zanzibar, under its Arab sultan, is declared a British protectorate**

1891

Rhodes wins the right to administer the region from the Zambezi up to Lake Tanganyika, forming present-day Zambia

Britain cedes the tiny island of Heligoland to Germany in return for vast areas of Africa

1892

Frederick Lugard's Maxim machine gun settles a Protestant-Catholic clash in Kampala, the capital of Buganda

The Falkland Islands, by now occupied by some 2000 settlers, become a British colony

1893

Leander Jameson, finding a pretext for war, drives Lobengula out of his kingdom in Rhodesia

Mahatma Gandhi, travelling with a first-class ticket, is forcibly ejected from the carriage at Pietermaritzburg because of his colour

The British Central African Protectorate is set up in the region of present-day Malawi

1895

The territory south of the Zambezi is given the name Rhodesia, in honour of the man who has colonized it

Khama III, the king of Bechuanaland, travels to London to demand the continuing protection of the British crown

The British government takes responsibility for Kenya, as the East Africa Protectorate

Leander Jameson leads a disastrous raid into the Transvaal, in an attempt to topple Paul Kruger's government

1896

Cecil Rhodes' involvement with the Jameson raid forces his resignation as the Cape Colony prime minister

Britain unites Buganda and three other kingdoms into the single Uganda Protectorate

1897

Zululand, annexed by Britain in 1887, is now merged with the colony of Natal

Paul Kruger, prime minister of the Transvaal, forms an alliance with the other Boer republic, the Orange Free State

The UK colonial secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, appoints enthusiastic imperialist Alfred Milner as high commissioner in South Africa

The British burn Benin City in a punitive expedition after members of a British delegation are murdered

1898

French and British forces meet at Fashoda, in a potentially explosive incident in the scramble for Africa

Kitchener's victory at Omdurman brings to an end thirteen years of rule in Sudan by followers of the Mahdi

1899

The Sudan begins half a century of supposedly joint rule by Britain and Egypt

Mohammed ibn Abdullah (the Mad Mullah in British eyes) leads an uprising in British Somaliland

The Boer War breaks out, ostensibly over the rights of British settlers in the Transvaal

1900

Paul Kruger flees after the British take Pretoria and annexe both the Boer republics

The British government assumes direct responsibility for the entire region of Nigeria, previously entrusted to a commercial company

1901

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

1902

A treaty at Vereeniging ends the Boer War and brings the Boer republics under British control

After the defeat of neighbouring Transvaal in the Boer War, the British take sole control of Swaziland

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

1905

Kaiser Wilhelm II visits Tangier in support of Moroccan independence, causing a diplomatic crisis with the colonial powers France and Britain

1906

Mahatma Gandhi, confronted by racial discrimination in South Africa, launches a programme of passive resistance (satyagraha)

Transvaal is given the self-governing status promised in the treaty ending the Boer War

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

Mahatma Gandhi, on a visit to India, publishes a pamphlet entitled Hind Swaraj ("Indian Home Rule")

1911

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

1913

Construction begins on the government buildings in New Delhi, designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker

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

August 4 - bound by treaty to defend Belgium, Britain declares war on Germany

1915

Mahatma Gandhi returns to India after more than twenty years in South Africa

1919

More than 300 die when British troops fire on a peaceful demonstration in Amritsar

1920

May - League of Nations mandates give Britain responsibility for Iraq, Transjordan and Palestine

1921

The Young Kikuyu Association is formed in Kenya, to fight for African rights and the restoration of Kikuyu land

1922

Mahatma Gandhi is arrested by the British in India as an agitator and is sentenced to six years in prison

1923

Rhodesia becomes a self-governing colony with political power exclusively in the hands of European settlers

1924

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

1926

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

1928

Jomo Kenyatta becomes the editor of Muigwithania, the newspaper of the Kikuyu Central Association

1930

Mahatma Gandhi leads a 240-mile march from Ahmedabad to the sea to defy the British salt tax, thus launching a campaign of civil disobedience

c. 1931

Sectarian hostilities increase in Kashmir, with the Muslim majority resenting the favours shown by the British to the Sikh and Hindu elite

1934

Mohammed Ali Jinnah becomes president of the Muslim League in India

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

c. 1945

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

**1947**

**In granting independence to India, Britain partitions the subcontinent along sectarian lines into Pakistan and the republic of India**

**Louis Mountbatten, the last viceroy of India, becomes also the first governor-general**

**Jawaharlal Nehru becomes prime minister of the newly independent republic of India**

Muslim leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah becomes the first governor-general of the new state of Pakistan

1948

Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated at a Delhi prayer meeting by a Hindu extremist, Nathuram Godse

1952

An outbreak of terrorism in Kenya is orchestrated by a secret Kikuyu organization, the Mau Mau

1953

Jomo Kenyatta, charged with having organized the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya, is sentenced to seven years in prison

The two Rhodesias and Nyasaland are merged in the self-governing Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

1954

George Grivas leads a guerrilla movement, EOKA, fighting for Cyprus's independence from Britain and union with Greece

1956

The Sudan, declining the opportunity of union with Egypt, opts for independence as a separate state

1957

Kwame Nkrumah leads the Gold Coast into independence under a name of historic resonance, Ghana

Abdul Rahman Putra becomes the first prime minister of independent Malaya

1959

Lee Kuan Yew becomes the first prime minister of the newly independent state of Singapore

1960

Kenneth Kaunda is elected president of UNIP, a new party fighting for an independent Northern Rhodesia

Cyprus becomes an independent nation, free of British colonial rule, with Archbishop Makarios as president

Patrice Lumumba becomes prime minister of the newly independent Democratic Republic of the Congo, previously the Belgian Congo

British and Italian colonies merge as the independent Somali republic, also known as Somalia, with Aden Abdullah Osman as president

Kenyatta, still in prison, is elected leader of KANU, a new political party in Kenya

Nigeria wins independence, with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as prime minister, but its stability is threatened by tribal and regional factions

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

Tanganyika becomes an independent nation with Julius Nyerere as prime minister

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

1963

Zanzibar becomes an independent nation and a member of the Commonwealth

Kenya becomes independent, with Jomo Kenyatta as prime minister

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is dissolved, as the three colonies go their separate ways

1964

Ian Smith, now 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

1965

The Gambia becomes an independent member of the Commonwealth, with Dawda Jawara as prime minister

Ian Smith makes a unilateral declaration of Rhodesia's independence

1966

Former chief Seretse Khama becomes the first president of an independent Botswana

1968

The United Nations, with the approval of Britain as the colonial power, imposes economic sanctions on Rhodesia

1979

The first multiracial elections held in Rhodesia are won by bishop Abel Muzorewa

A conference in London, at Lancaster House, finally achieves agreement on Southern Rhodesia

1980

Rhodesia becomes independent, taking the name Zimbabwe, with Robert Mugabe as prime minister

1982

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

British troops recapture Port Stanley, after which the Argentinian forces in the Falklands surrender

1997

Fifteen years after the Falklands War there are 1700 British troops in the islands, guarding 2200 residents