**c CE350-400**

[**‘Ivory Bangle Lady’**](https://www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk/collections/collections-highlights/ivory-bangle-lady/)Name given by historians to a wealthy Roman African woman whose skeleton was found in York. She was found with jet and elephant ivory bracelets. For Romans, skin colour didn’t determine your place in society.

**1241**

[**Earliest image of a Black Briton**](https://images.nationalarchives.gov.uk/assetbank-nationalarchives/action/quickSearch?CSRF=SGSo5oQg8j5MZ35uGctt&newSearch=true&quickSearch=true&includeImplicitCategoryMembers=true&keywords=domesday+book+black+)

discovered in the Domesday Book.

**CE781**

**Kingdom of Kanem-Bornu founded**

Started by Dougu, the first king of the Zaghawa dynasty (present day Chad).

**CE253-258**

**‘Aurelian Moors’**

First recorded group of Africans living in Britain.

**CE193-211**

**Septimus Severus**

African-born Roman who ruled the empire during this period. Died in York.

**11th – 15th Century CE**

**Great Zimbabwe**

Ancient city constructed thought to be the capital of a great civilisation which traded in gold and ivory as far as China.

**CE400 Kingdom of Ghana**

A large state south of the Sahara in Africa.

It had achieved a high level of civilisation (advanced metalworking and trading network) before Arab travellers arrived around CE750.

**1509**

**John Blanke**

Black trumpeter in the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII. According to royal records he was paid three times the average servant’s wages. He played for the Tudor royal family for years and was at the centre of historic royal events.

**Late 18th Century**

**‘Sons of Africa’**

Formed by [Olaudah Equiano](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEEvnGCKPoI&list=PLhcSJJU5-atFELDL1kvBasJv0YG__LGCv&index=2) and Ottobah Cugoano. A group of Black abolitionists travelled Britain holding large meetings where they taught people about the slave trade and slavery. They were allied with ‘The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade’.

**1772**  
**Lord Mansfield** court ruling that a slave who had deserted his master in England could not be taken by force to be sold abroad. Verdict triggered Black slaves flight from their owners, the decline of slavery in England, and calls for the abolition of the slave trade.

**1620**

**Kingdom of Dahomey**

Founded in West Africa. It survived until 1904.

**1787**  
Granville Sharp and Thomas Clarkson founded The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade. Along with 10 other men, who were mainly Quakers, they campaigned for over 47 years. They were allied with the ‘Sons of Africa’.

**1661**

**Barbados Slave Code**

To force the Africans to work on British sugar plantations and stop them rebelling, the English landowners wrote laws which set the rules for a new kind of slave society. People were split by law into two clear groups: enslaved Black people and white free people. This is when Europeans started thinking of themselves as part of a group called ‘white’.

**1588**

**Kingdom of Benin in West Africa** at its height. Europeans including English were trading with Benin (e.g. pepper, palm oil, cotton cloth, soap, ivory).

**1562**  
British began trading in African slaves.

**1350**

**Kingdom of Kongo**

Established in central Africa surrounded by the kingdoms of Teke, Tio, Dembo and Ndongo. One of its kings, Mani Kongo Diogo I, tried unsuccessfully to stop the Atlantic slave trade.

**1833**  
**Slavery Abolition Act** 46,000 British slave owners received £20m in compensation. This debt was not paid off until 2015. The slaves themselves received nothing.

**1823**

New generation of abolitionists began the struggle to end slavery itself (not just the slave trade). Many of the leaders were women who wrote leaflets, began sugar boycotts and organised meetings and petitions.

**1884-5**  
**Scramble for Africa** European powers gathered in Berlin to divide Africa among different European countries. The national boundaries did not take into account the needs, history and languages of different African peoples.

**1897 British Invasion of Benin Kingdom**

After a thousand years of independence, the British imposed rule and by 1914 Benin was part of the new, British colonial country of Nigeria.

**1863**  
**Abolition of slavery in USA** many free African Americans and runaway slaves joined the Union armies in the on-going American civil war. Slavery was formally abolished after the war ended in 1865.

**1888**

**Slavery abolished in Brazil** following years of slave revolt.

**1804**

**Haitian Revolution** after a 12-year struggle in which thousands of formerly enslaved Africans defeated the British, Spanish and Napoleonic French armies, the first independent Black republic in the Americas was established,

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**1831**  
**Slave Rebellion in Jamaica** credited with speeding up full abolition a few years later. This began with nonviolent civil disobedience with a refusal to work. When the slave owners attacked the striking slaves at least 20,000 of them began to fight for their freedom.

**1865**  
**Morant Bay Rebellion** in Jamaica led to punishment from the colonial governor Edward John Eyre. Hundreds of people were whipped and up to a thousand homes burned down. A Jamaica Committee was set up in Britain, with a large working-class support, against Eyre’s actions.

**1894**  
Arthur Wharton signed for Sheffield United. He was the first person of colour to play professional football.

**1852**  
**Great Exhibition** held in Hyde Park in London. Over six million visitors viewed goods taken from Africa, India and the West Indies.

**1914-1919**

**World War One** - Over 1 million Indian soldiers were promised that their country would be freed from colonialism if they fought in the war. 74,000 Indian soldiers died, and Britain refused to keep their promise. India remained part of the British Empire.

**1948**

[**Windrush**](https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/how-did-empire-windrush-change-london-docklands): 802 Caribbean passengers arrived on the Empire Windrush. Many of the passengers had served in the Second World War. Other passengers came along to help rebuild the “Mother Country” as Britain was referred to across its empire.

**1947**

**India** gained independence from Britain after a long nonviolent resistance campaign.

**1939**

[**Indian Workers' Association**](http://www.iwasouthall.org.uk)set up.

**1930**

**Salt March** nonviolent civil disobedience led by Ghandi.

**1922**

**Egypt** gained independence from Britain.

**1931**  
**League of Coloured Peoples** set up by Dr Harold Moody – possibly Britain’s first anti-racism campaign of the 20thC.

**1963**  
Bristol Bus Boycott: Bristol based bus company Omnibus refused to employ any Black or Asian bus crews in the city.

**1914-1919**

Over 1 million Indian soldiers fought in World War One having promised that their country would be freed from colonialism as a result. 74,000 Indian soldiers died, and Britain refused to keep their promise. India remained part of the British Empire.

**1919**

**Acts of vicious mob race hatred** across British Isles sparked in part by job and housing shortage and by interracial relationships. Government responded with a repatriation drive of 600 Black people.

**1945**

**Pan-African Conference** Trinidadian-born George Padmore organised a conference advocating the linking in solidarity of Black people across the world.

**1910**

**South Africa** gained independence from Britain.

**1948**

**Apartheid in South Africa** Afrikaner nationalists took power and legalised white domination ‘apartheid’ (derived from Afrikaans word for separateness). There was opposition from the beginning.

**1939-1945**  
**Second World War** Around 2,600,000 men and 100,000 women from the British Empire actively served in the war. There were 1,200 in the Caribbean regiment; 5,500 in the RAF as ground crew; 300 Africans and Caribbeans in the RAF as air crew; 13 Victoria Crosses were awarded to “colonial soldiers”; and the UK imported huge quantities of grain, tea, fish and other commodities from the British Empire.

**1912  
Marcus Garvey** stayed in London for 2 years writing for the African Times and Orient Review. He later said that his stay was crucial to the formation of his ideas of Black pride.

**1958**

[**Notting Hill Riots**](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/white-riot-the-week-notting-hill-exploded-912105.html)London, a group of white [Teddy Boys](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Boy) attacked Black people putting 5 men in hospital. Soon after, an argument outside a tube station escalated into 200 white people roaming the streets chanting racist abuse. Swastikas were painted on the doors of Black families and Black people fought back. Riots stretched on for 3 days. Nobody was killed but over 100 people, mostly white, were arrested.

**1958**

**Nottingham Riots**

Evidence of a colour bar in Nottingham’s pubs and resentment by white people towards Black people contributed to a violent riot involving 1000 people on 23 August.

**1960**

**MP Archibald Fenner Brockway** repeatedly tried to bring forward a Race Discrimination Bill to outlaw ‘discrimination to the detriment of any person on the grounds of colour, race, and religion living in the UK’. The Bill was defeated 9 times.

**1958**

[West Indian Gazette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Indian_Gazette) founded by Claudia Jones and Amy Ashwood Garvey.

**1959**

**Notting hill Carnival founded** by Claudia Jones to help Caribbean people feel more at home and introduce white people to Caribbean culture.

**1959**

[**Kelso Cochrane**](https://www.mylondon.news/news/west-london-news/horrific-murder-kelso-cochrane-notting-18257872)**,** a Black man, is murdered by a gang of white youths in London. The murderers are not caught and Claudia Jones organises a campaign for justice.

**1957**

**Ghana** gained independence from Britain.

**1956**

**Sudan** gained independence from Britain.

**1962/3**

**Uganda and Kenya** gained independence from Britain.

**1960**

**Nigeria and Somalia** gained independence. British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan acknowledged that the British Empire was crumbling, saying that a “wind of change” is blowing through Africa.

**1951**

**Libya** gained independence from Britain.

**1965**

**Campaign Against Racial Discrimination (CARD)** founded just before Race Relations Act with first task to influence the shape of the act. The organisation was inspired by a meeting between activists in Britain and Martin Luther King who visited London in 1964.

**1965 & 1968**  
**Race Relations Act** was passed which made racial discrimination unlawful in public places. In 1968 the Act was revised to include employment and housing.

**1968**

**Mauritius and Swaziland**

gained independence from Britain.

**1963**  
**Bristol Bus Boycott:** Bristol based Bus Company refused to employ any Black or Asian bus crews in the city. Successful boycott campaign contributed to passing of Race Relations Act.

**1969**

**David Oluwale** died after an encounter with police. Issue of police brutality is to become more prominent in 1970s.

**1962**

**Commonwealth Immigrants Act** restricted immigration rights. Previously referred to as ‘citizens’ in 1948 now referred to as ‘immigrants’. Emphasis put on skilled workers and work permits.

**1967**

**National Front formed** whites only, anti-immigration and far-right political party with close links to white supremacist movements globally.

**1965**

**The Gambia**

gained independence from Britain.

**1966 Botswana and Lesotho**

gained independence from Britain.

**1968**

**Enoch Powell** makes his “Rivers of Blood” speech denouncing immigration.

**1961**

**Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Tanzania** gained independence from Britain.

**1964**

**Malawi and Zambia**

gained independence from Britain.

**1976**

**Seychelles**

gains independence from Britain

**1976**

**Race Relations Act , which strengthens,** laws against discrimination and establishes the Commission for Racial Equality.

**1976**

**Campaign Against Racism in the Media (CARM)** set up by 60 journalists, print workers and representatives from BME organisations who were unhappy with the way non-white people were being portrayed in the media.

**1977**

**Anti-Nazi** protestors prevent The National Front from marching through Lewisham, southeast London

**1977**

**Rock Against Racism Carnival**

**1970**

[**Mangrove Nine**](https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/nov/10/landmarks-in-law-when-the-mangrove-nine-beat-the-british-state)A protest sparked by frequent police raids on the Mangrove restaurant in Notting Hill, London resulted in nine protesters being charged with incitement to riot. The trial of the Mangrove Nine was a landmark in British legal history. After 8 hours the jury acquitted all defendants of the main charge and brought the first judicial acknowledgement of the evidence of racial hatred in the Metropolitan police.

**1971**

**Immigration Act** passed which further restricted migration from Commonwealth countries.

**1979**

[**Blair Peach**](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/21/southall-demands-justice-killing-of-blair-peach-1979) was killed during an anti-racist demonstration. There were renewed calls for an investigation into police violence in this case in 2019.

**1972**

**Oval 4** four Black men were stopped by plain-clothes, white police officers using the ‘[sus laws’](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/black-history-month-2020/race-relations-acts-1965-2000/sus-laws/#main) because ‘it was clear they intended to pick the pockets of passengers.’ No evidence, resulted in 2 years imprisonment. Their convictions were quashed in 2019.

**1970**

**Bernard Coard** published landmark pamphlet ‘How the West Indian Child is Made Educationally Subnormal in the British School System. This inspired a movement for equal access to educational opportunity for Black children and the establishment of Saturday schools.

**1972**

[**30,000 deported Ugandan Asians**](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/18/newsid_2522000/2522627.stm)with British passports came to Britain following the overthrow of Milton Obote of Uganda by Idi Amin.

**1976**

**Invention of term ‘Political Correctness’ by tabloid press**

Bus driver Robert Relf put up sign outside house ‘For Sale to an English family only’ contravening the Race Relations Act and being imprisoned for contempt of court when he refused to take it down. The tabloid press used his imprisonment as ammunition to argue against what they called ‘political correctness’. The National Front organised a campaign in his support.

**1990**

**Apartheid was brought to an end** and Nelson Mandela was elected president of a multi-racial South Africa.

**1981**

**Riots/Rebellion:** Disturbances happened in London, Liverpool, Birmingham and Leeds sparked by the London Metropolitan Police’s Operation Swamp, in which they performed over a thousand stop and searches in 6 days. The Scarman Report made recommendations to challenge racial disadvantage but didn’t recognise institutional racism. The sus laws were repealed.

**1987**

**MPs** Bernie Grant, Paul Boateng, Keith Vaz and Diane Abbott elected to parliament.

**1981**

**New Cross fire:** 13 young African-Caribbean people died in a house fire. ‘Seeming refusal of the police to take seriously claims by witnesses that the house had been firebombed by racists leads to deepening anger among the African-Caribbean community’ (The Guardian 2020).

**1980**

**Zimbabwe** White rule ended in Rhodesia after a bloody struggle, and the state of Zimbabwe was declared.

**1987**  
[**Black History Month**](https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk) was introduced in the UK, with London being the first to put on events.

**1985**

**Rioting in Brixton and Tottenham** following shooting of Cherry Croce and death of Cynthia Jarrett during separate police raids on their homes in Brixton and the Broadwater Farm Estate searching for their sons.

**1982**

**British National Party (BNP),** a far-right, fascist political party, founded

**1978**

Olive Morris along with Stella Dadzie and other women founded the Organization of Women of African and Asian Descent. An organization that through local activism fought for African and Asian women’s rights.

**1996**

[**Show Racism the Red Card**](https://www.theredcard.org/ourstory) founded. UK’s largest anti-racism educational charity.

**2009**

**English Defence League (EDL)** far right, Islamaphobic organisation founded.

**2001**

[**Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism (FAIR)**](http://www.fairuk.org)set up with the aim to work towards establishing a Safe, Just and Tolerant Britain in which Islamophobia and racism have no place.

**1993**

**UKIP party** founded. Nigel Farage officially became leader in 2006.

**1999**

**The Macpherson report** on the police investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence was published. Institutional racism was identified for the first time.

**2006**

**Racial and Religious Hatred Act** made it illegal to stir up hatred because of someone’s race or religion.

**2011**

**Mark Duggan** shot dead by the police in Tottenham sparking riots which quickly spread across the UK.

**2005**

[**City of Sanctuary**](https://cityofsanctuary.org/about/)movement began in Sheffield with the “vision that our nations will be welcoming places of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.”

**2003**  
[**ASSIST**](https://www.assistsheffield.org.uk) founded in Sheffield to support destitute asylum seekers.

**2000**

**Ten-year-old Nigerian, Damilola Taylor** was murdered raising questions about gang culture and urban poverty.

**2001**

**Race Relations Amendment Act** states that all public services (including schools) must actively promote racial equality.

**1995**

[**Football Unites Racism Divides**](https://furd.org)founded in Sheffield following a number of racist attacks upon Asian and Somali young people, as well as widespread anecdotal evidence of abuse of local Black and Asian residents whenever Sheffield United played at home.

**1993**

**Murder of Stephen Lawrence.** All charges were dropped and his parents began a campaign for justice which lasted for 19 years until two out of the five suspected men were finally found guilty and sentenced for his murder.

**2020**

**Edward Colston statue** (a 17th century slave trader) in Bristol was thrown into the river by protestors. He had personally been involved in transporting 84,000 people into slavery, with around 19,000 dying during the transatlantic voyage.

**2012**

**English Disco Lovers** founded with the aim to oust English Defence League from top of Google and Facebook’s search results.

**2012**

**#Black Lives Matter** founded after the acquittal of George Zimmerman who shot dead 17-year-old, unarmed Trayvon Martin in the USA.

**2016**

**Sarah Reed** died in Holloway prison, London. Reed, who had suffered from mental illness following the death of her baby daughter in 2003, had in a separate incident been violently assaulted by a police officer.

**2017**

**Rashan Charles** died in east London after being thrown to the ground by a police officer and held down by the neck. An inquest later recorded the death as accidental.

**2018**

**Cheddar man** DNA analysis of a 10,000-year-old skeleton found in Cheddar Gorge gave evidence that the first modern Britons had dark brown skin.

**2020**

**Global #BlackLivesMatter** protests following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis.

**2018**

**Windrush scandal** A Guardian newspaper investigation revealed that thousands of Caribbean migrants who had the right to settle in the UK had been denied NHS treatment and legal rights, wrongly detained, or in some cases, deported.

**2013**

**Justice for Mau Mau** Britain expressed regret and agreed to pay compensation to those tortured during Mau Mau’s 1950s uprising against colonial rule in Kenya. Veterans of the insurgency had won a legal action in the High Court.

**2016**

**Rhodes Must Fall**

Campaign to remove statue of Cecil Rhodes in South Africa moved to Oxford University.

**2012**

**2 out of 5 suspected** for murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993 finally found guilty and sentenced to murder.

Shaded boxes - case studies in Nonviolent Action: A Force For Change

Key events – shaded in green

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