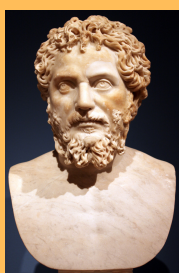


Racism and Resistance in Britain Timeline

193 CE-400 CE



1. Septimius Severus (193-211 CE)

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

2. 'Aurelian Moors' (252-258 CE)

First recorded group of Africans living in Britain. Community of Roman soldiers and their families stationed on Hadrian's Wall at the Aballava fortress nearby. Named 'Moors' as they came from North Africa and 'Aurelian' after the Emperor Marcus Aurelius.



3. 'Ivory Bangle Lady' (350-400 CE)

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.

4. Kingdom of Ghana (400 CE)

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.



400 CE-1500 CE



1. Kingdom of Kanem-Bornu founded (781 CE)

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

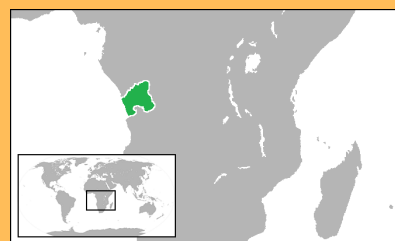
2. Great Zimbabwe (11th-15th Century CE)

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



3. Earliest image of a Black Briton (1241 CE)

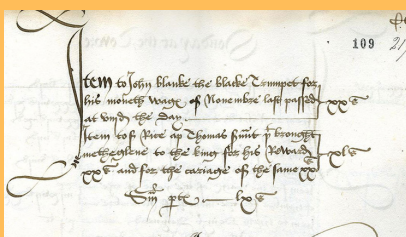
Discovered in the Domesday Book.



4 Kingdom of Kongo (1350 CE)

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

1500 CE-1700 CE



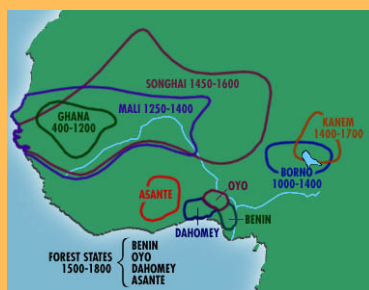
1. John Blanke (1509 CE)

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.

2. British began trading in African slaves (1562 CE)

4. Kingdom of Dahomey (1620 CE)

Founded in West Africa. It survived until 1904.



3. Kingdom of Benin in West Africa (1588 CE)

At its height Europeans including English were trading with Benin (e.g. pepper, palm oil, cotton cloth, soap and ivory).



5. Barbados Slave Code (1661)

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'.

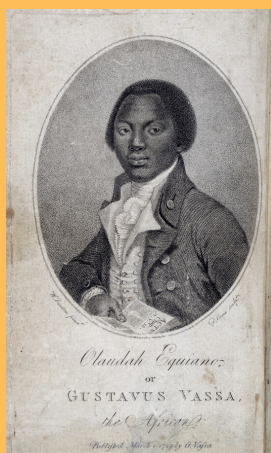
1700 CE-1800 CE

1. Lord Mansfield (1772 CE)

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.

3. Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade (1787 CE)

Founded by Granville Sharp and Thomas Clarkson. Along with 10 other men, who were mainly Quakers, they campaigned for over 47 years. They were allied with the 'Sons of Africa'.



2. 'Sons of Africa' (Late 18th century)

Formed by Olaudah Equiano and Ottobah Cugoana. 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'.

Racism and Resistance in Britain Timeline

1800 CE-1900 CE

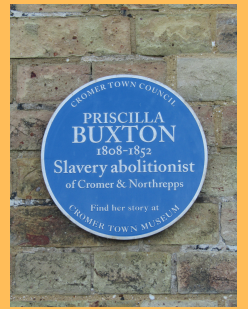
1. Haitian Revolution (1804 CE)

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.



2. New Generation of Abolitionists (1823 CE)

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.



3. Slave Rebellion in Jamaica (1831 CE)

Credited with speeding up full abolition a few years later. This began with non-violent 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.



4. Slavery Abolition Act (1833 CE)

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

5. Scramble for Africa (1884-5 CE)

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.

6. British Invasion of Benin Kingdom (1897 CE)

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

1900 CE-1950 CE

1. South Africa Gained Independence from Britain (1910 CE)

3. Acts of vicious mob race hatred (1919 CE)

Across British Isles sparked in part by job and housing shortages and by interracial relationships. Government responded with a repatriation drive of 600 Black people.

4. Egypt Gained Independence from Britain (1922 CE)



2. World War One (1914-1919 CE)

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.



5. Salt March (1930 CE)

Non-violent civil disobedience led by Gandhi.

7. World War Two (1939-1945 CE)

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.

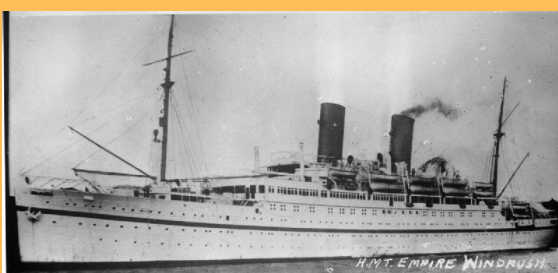


6. League of Coloured Peoples (1931 CE)

Set up by Dr Harold Moody – possibly Britain's first anti-racism campaign of the 20thC.

9. Windrush (1948 CE)

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.



8. Indian Independence (1947 CE)

India gained independence from Britain after a long non-violent resistance campaign.



Racism and Resistance in Britain Timeline

1950 CE-1970 CE

1. Ghana gained independence from Britain (1957 CE)

2. Nottingham Riots (1958 CE)

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.

3. West Indian Gazette (1958 CE)

Founded by Claudia Jones and Amy Ashwood Garvey.



4. Notting Hill Riots, London (1958 CE)

A group of white 'Teddy Boys' 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.

7. Bristol Bus Boycott (1963 CE)

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.

5. Notting Hill Carnival (1959 CE)

Founded by Claudia Jones to help Caribbean people feel more at home and introduce white people to Caribbean culture.



6. Nigeria and Somalia Independence (1960 CE)

Followed by Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Tanzania in 1961, Uganda and Kenya in 1963/3, Malawi and Zambia in 1964, The Gambia in 1965, Botswana and Lesotho in 1966 and Mauritius and Swaziland in 1968. In 1960 the British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan acknowledged that the British Empire was crumbling, saying that a "wind of change" is blowing through Africa.

9. Race Relations Act (1965 and 1968 CE)

Made racial discrimination unlawful in public places. In 1968 the Act was revised to include employment and housing.



8. Campaign Against Racial Discrimination (CARD) (1966 CE)

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.



1970 CE-1990 CE

1. Mangrove Nine (1970 CE)

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 eight 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.



2. Around 30,000 deported Ugandan Asians arrived (1972 CE)

They came to Britain with British passports following the overthrow of Milton Obote of Uganda by Idi Amin.

3. Blair Peach was killed (1979 CE)

During an anti-racist demonstration. There were renewed calls for an investigation into police violence in this case in 2019.

4. Invention of term 'Political Correctness' by tabloid press (1976 CE)

Bus driver Robert Relf put up sign outside house 'For Sale to an English family only' contravening the Race Relations Act and was 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.

5. Riots/Rebellion (1981 CE)

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 six days. The Scarman Report made recommendations to challenge racial disadvantage but didn't recognise institutional racism. The sus laws were repealed.

6. Black History Month (1987 CE)

Introduced in the UK with London being the first to put on events.



7. End of Apartheid in South Africa (1990 CE)

Following huge resistance within South Africa and international boycott campaigns. Nelson Mandela was elected as president of a multi-racial South Africa.

Racism and Resistance in Britain Timeline

1990 CE-2000 CE

1. Murder of Stephen Lawrence (1993 CE)

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.



3. Show Racism the Red Card (1996 CE)

UK's largest anti-racism educational charity founded.

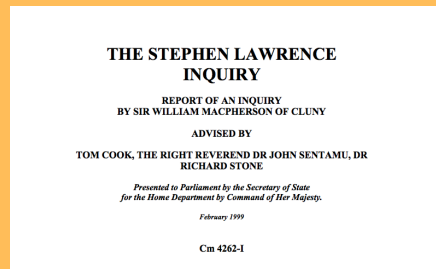
2. Football Unites Racism Divides (1995 CE)

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.



4. The Macpherson Report (1999 CE)

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



5. Race Relations Amendment Act (2001 CE)

This states that all public services (including schools) must actively promote racial equality.



2000 CE-2020 CE

1. City of Sanctuary (2005 CE)

This 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."

There are now over 100 towns and Cities of Sanctuary across the UK.



2. Racial and Religious Hatred Act (2006 CE)

This act made it illegal to stir up hatred because of someone's race or religion.

3. #Black Lives Matter (2012 CE)

Founded after the acquittal of George Zimmerman who shot dead 17-year-old, unarmed Trayvon Martin in the USA.



4. English Disco Lovers (2012 CE)

Founded by artist, Chris Alton, with the aim to oust English Defence League from top of Google and Facebook's search results.



5. Windrush Scandal (2018 CE)

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 or refused re-entry to the UK.

6. Global #BlackLivesMatter (2020 CE)

Protests across the world following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis



7. Edward Colston Statue (2020 CE)

Statue of a 17th century slave trader in Bristol was thrown into the river by protesters. He had personally been involved in transporting 84,000 people into slavery, with around 19,000 dying during the transatlantic voyage. Protestors were cleared of criminal damage by a jury in 2022.



Image credits and references

Main sources of information for this timeline:

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Domesday Book https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=4

John Blanke: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/significant-people-collection/john-blanke/> This document comes from the records kept by the Treasurer of the Chamber who looked after the royal finances. It shows how much John Blanke, a black trumpeter who performed at the courts of both King Henry VII and King Henry VIII was paid. He is one of the earliest black individuals in England to be recorded.

Olaudah Equiano [https://www.decsy.org.uk/members-area/Olaudah Equiano in Sheffield resource](https://www.decsy.org.uk/members-area/Olaudah%20Equiano%20in%20Sheffield%20resource)

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Nottinghill Riots <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/white-riot-the-week-notting-hill-exploded-912105.html>

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1972 Expelled Ugandans arrive in Britain

http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/18/newsid_2522000/2522627.stm

Race Relations Acts 1965-2000 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8sdbk7/revision/5> Information on 'sus laws'.

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Show Racism the Red Card <https://www.theredcard.org>

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Edward Colston statue protestors: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-59727161>

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Domesday Book: https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=4

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John Blanke: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/significant-people-collection/john-blanke/>

Benin Bronzes: Son of Groucho <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sonofgroucho/6825681904>

Kingdom of Dahomey: <https://unseenbenin.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/dahomey.jpg>

Olaudah Equiano: British Library, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

Toussaint Louverture (Haitian Revolution): <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>

Slavery abolitionist: Kolfor (Wikimedia), CC BY-SA 4.0

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Scramble for Africa: Simonsyo, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Indian infantry 58th Rifles in the trenches Fauquissart, France, British Library, Public Domain <https://www.bl.uk/>
Salt March, Gandhi: <https://www.maxpixel.net/photo-67483>
Soldiers WW2: Caribbean Regiment, British Army, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons
Empire Windrush: Royal Navy official photographer, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons
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Bristol Bus Boycott: Sam Saunders <https://bit.ly/3CwrzW>
Mangrove Nine: National Archives, <https://bit.ly/3Km7asW>
Nelson Mandela: South Africa The Good News / www.sagoodnews.co.za, CC BY 2.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons
Show Racism the Red Card campaign with Portmarnock AFC: <https://bit.ly/3hP6y2R>
City of Sanctuary logo: <https://bit.ly/3vPwJ1v>
English Disco Lovers: with permission from Chris Alton <https://bit.ly/3hRme5Q>
Black Lives Matter protest UK: Helen Griffin
Edward Colston statue at the M Shed, Bristol: Adrian Boliston <https://bit.ly/3HXIXbY>

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