

FOUNDATION OF EMPIRE—TIMELINE

BRITISH EMPIRE—1707 TO 1815

ACT OF UNION TO BATTLE OF WATERLOO

DOMESTIC POLITICS

- 1707** England and Scotland unite to form the Kingdom of Great Britain.
- 1714** [George I](#), first Hanoverian King, appointed by parliament; [Robert Walpole](#) first Prime Minister.
- 1727-1760** Reign of [George II](#) — Parliament controlled by Whig party.
- 1760-1820** Reign of [George III](#) — King sought to control Parliament, favored Tory party.
- 1757** [William Pitt](#) the Elder, becomes Secretary of State, later Prime Minister of England.
- 1782** [William Pitt the Younger](#) becomes Prime Minister of England.
- 1798** Serious rebellion in Ireland is put down by Britain; Irish parliament dissolved.

WARS AND CONFLICTS

- 1715** [Old Pretender](#) incites the [First Jacobite Rebellion](#) in Scotland.
- 1739-48** [War of the Austrian Succession](#)—Britain allies with Austria to fight France.
- 1745 [Young Pretender](#) incites the [Second Jacobite Rebellion](#) in Scotland.
- 1756-63** [Seven Year's War](#) in Europe, a.k.a. [French Indian Wars](#) in America, [Carnatic Wars](#) in India
- 1757 [Clive's](#) victory at *Plassey*, wins Bengal in India for Britain.
- 1759 [Wolfe's](#) capture of *Quebec*, wins French Canada for Britain.
- 1759 [Hawke's](#) victory at *Qiberon Bay*, destroys French Sea Power.
- 1776-83** [American Revolutionary War](#) begins when American colonists Declare their Independence.
- 1777 France allies with the colonies against Britain following the *Battle of Saratoga*.
- 1781 [General Cornwallis](#) surrenders at Yorktown, the last battle of the Revolutionary war.
- 1792-1802** [French Revolutionary Wars](#); France gains territory in Europe but loses control of colonies.
- 1797 *Battles of St. Vincent and Camperdown* give Britain control of the sea.
- 1798 *Battle of the Nile* destroys Napoleon plans to takeover Egypt.
- 1801 *Battle of Copenhagen* destroys French naval power in the North Sea.
- 1802-14** [Napoleonic Wars](#) drag all of Europe into turmoil.
- 1805 A naval victory at Trafalgar under [Horatio Nelson](#) destroys French naval power.
- 1808 [Peninsular War](#) begins in Spain—[Duke of Wellington](#) helps drive the French out of Spain.
- 1814 Wellington and [Marshal Blucher](#) defeat Napoleon at *Waterloo*.

EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

- 1764** [James Hargreaves](#) invents the Spinning Jenny.
- 1771** [Captain Cook](#) discovers Australia, New Zealand.
- 1784** [James Watt](#) invents the Steam Engine—ushers in the industrial revolution.

ARTS AND CULTURE

- 1755** [Samuel Johnson](#) publishes *Dictionary of English Language*.
- 1776** [Adam Smith](#) publishes *The Wealth of Nations*, revolutionizes ideas about commerce, taxes, and economics.