

# HEIGHT OF EMPIRE—TIMELINE

## BRITISH EMPIRE—1815 TO 1902

### END OF NAPOLEONIC WARS TO SECOND BOER WAR

#### DOMESTIC POLITICS

- 1829 Catholic Emancipation in Ireland—Catholics allowed to vote.
- 1832 First Reform Act—Whigs take control of Parliament.
- 1833 Abolition of Slavery in British colonies.
- 1837 [Queen Victoria](#) ascends to the throne of England.
- 1846 Potato Famine in Ireland; Repeal of the Corn Laws enhances Free Trade.
- 1851 The Great Exhibition opens in the Crystal Palace in London
- 1868-74 First Ministry of [William Gladstone](#)—promotes a liberal reform agenda.
- 1874-80 Second Ministry of [Benjamin Disraeli](#)—promotes a conservative imperial agenda.
- 1875 Egyptian Share of Suez canal is sold to Britain.
- 1887 Fiftieth year Jubilee of Queen Victoria.
- 1901 Death of Queen Victoria

#### WARS AND CONFLICTS

- 1842 [Retreat from Afghanistan](#)—Massacre of British Army at Kyber Pass.
- 1854-56 [Crimean War](#)—Britain allies itself with Ottomans to oppose Russian expansion.
- 1857 [Indian Mutiny](#)—rebellion of Sepoys put down with great slaughter.
- 1879 [Zulu Wars](#)—British prevail over Zulus after suffering a massacre at *Isandhlwana*
- 1880 [First Boer War](#)—British concede to Boer demands after suffering serious defeats.
- 1882 [Arabi's Rebellion](#) put down at the *Battle of Tel-al-Kebar*.
- 1883-1904 [Soudan Campaign](#)—British quell a murderous Moslem fanatic cult in the Soudan.
- 1885 Death of [Charles Gordon](#) at the *Siege of Khartoum*—British relief fails to arrive in time.
- 1898 [Horatio Kitchener](#) defeats the rebel Madhists at the *Battle of Obdurman*.
- 1899-1901 [Second Boer War](#)—Hard fought victory forces the Boers to submit to British rule.

#### EXPLORATION / DISCOVERY / ARTS AND CULTURE

- 1852 [David Livingstone](#) begins his first expedition into Africa.
- 1858 The first trans-Atlantic cable is laid from Ireland to Newfoundland.

#### ARTS AND CULTURE

- 1870 Death of [Charles Dickens](#), popular British novelist.