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Hamma Lakhdar University of El-Oued
Faculty of Arts and Languages
Department of Arts and English Language



The British Commonwealth: The Rebirth of the British Empire

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Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

Submitted by:

DEBILI Echaima

DEBILI Maroua

MAAMRI Bouthaina

Supervised by:

Dr. GHEDEIR Brahim Mohammed

Board of Examiners:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Title. Full name | President | University of El-Oued |
| Dr. GHEDEIR Brahim Mohammed | Supervisor | University of El-Oued |
| Title. Full name | Examiner | University of El-Oued |

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Dedication

We dedicate this work to our parents for their never-ending motivation and for teaching me that even the most difficult activity can be completed if taken one step at a time.

To our supervisor Mr. GUDEIR BRAHIM Mohammed who was the guiding light every step of the way as we researched for this dissertation.

To our families and friends who have stood by us throughout this ordeal.

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Abstract

The British Empire was the biggest empire in the globe's history. For higher or worse, this Empire had a vast impact on the history of the world. Despite being on the winning side, the Empire would not live through the geopolitical shifts caused by the Second World War and would enter into an amount of terminal decline. As Great Britain marked its fall once the Second World War, it activates a dominion status for a few of its colonies that later became the primary members of the British Commonwealth or the Commonwealth of Nations or the Commonwealth in short which later be joined by 54 countries from all over the world. This study aims to explore British Commonwealth contribution to the continuity of the British Empire and keeping the network of its previous colonies powerfully touched along until these days. To adequately address the research objectives, the current dissertation is a qualitative study that employs descriptive-analytical and historical methods. The study findings revealed that the British Commonwealth played a critical role in the rebirth of the British Empire for a variety of reasons, including the organization's commitment to maintaining strong bonds among its members and ensuring them liberty, human rights, democracy, freedom, and health care, among others. The study also recommends a future descriptive study of the British Commonwealth and its role in the rebirth of the British Empire from different angles.

Key Words: British Commonwealth, British Empire, Cooperation, Domination, Rebirth, Second World War.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|--------------|--|
| CHOGM | Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting |
| TOFS | Transvaal and Orange Free States |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| US | United States |
| VOC | Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie |
| WWI | World War One |
| WWII | World War Two |

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Résumé

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The British Empire has been known as the largest and strongest power ever. This later knew a historical change developing it and building strong bonds between its former colonies from all over the world (Asia, Africa, America, Australia and Europe). Historically, Britain was called as “the Global Superpower” since it has that vast dominance over territories from around the world. This call was a result of winning battles and wars against other powerful empires such as Spanish, French, and German. However, after a long fight in the Two World Wars; the First World War (1914–1918) and the Second World War (1939–1945), the British Empire lost an essential part of its power (arms, people, money). In this context, British Empire activated “Dominion Status” with some of its colonies which are America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Newfoundland. To illustrate that, in his article, Beg (2020) argued that “Dominions were autonomous communities within the British Empire which were equal in status but had an allegiance to the Crown”. As the quote suggests, British Empire guaranteed a ‘Dominion Status’, for a part of its territories, that aims to give the colony an equal status with Britain and enable it to rule its own affairs, but with loyalty to the British Crown. Later, these self-ruling dominions became the first members of the British Commonwealth or the Commonwealth of Nations or simply the Commonwealth. For illustration, The British Empire changed via way of means of a voluntary agency of former colonies known as the Commonwealth (BBC,2021).

In this vein, this organization plays an essential role for its members. This was discussed in an article by Augustyn et al. (2020) as they argued that the British Commonwealth, a mentation of sovereign states comprising the UK and variety of its former dependencies who have chosen to take care of ties of relationship and sensible cooperation

and who acknowledge British Monarch as symbolic head of their association. Simply, Britain aims to keep peace, liberty and good relations with its previous colonies. For that reason, this institution gradually was joined by 54 countries from all over the world and gained a vast popularity. Despite this vital position of the commonwealth, in present it received a harsh criticism concerning some aspects of its functions and purposes. More important, it is judged as a continuous empire or a pre-colonial British system to rebirth the previous global dominance of Britain. Also, a sharp critique raised by Gambian government. Where in its statement, Gambian authorities stated, “withdrawn its club of the British Commonwealth”. It also mentioned “it had determined that Gambia will by no means be a member of any pre-colonial group and could by no means be a celebration to any group that represents an extension of colonialism” (BBC News,2013). This paper attempts to examine the role and the impact of the Commonwealth organization on the rebirth of the British Empire.

2. Statement of the Problem

The British Empire knew a critical change for the reason that the Second World War led to the diminishing of its empire. In the post Second World War era, Britain misplaced an essential part of its army power, and gave independence to the maximum of its colonies everywhere. Nevertheless, Britain gave Canada, America, Australia, India, South Africa and Newfoundland the capacity to rule and govern themselves with loyalty to Britain. Those colonies shaped the Commonwealth of Nations, which later had a club of about 1 / 4 of the international’s population. Through the Commonwealth, Britain saved sturdy ties among it and its preceding colonies. The British authorities pretended that the creation of the British Commonwealth was for political and economic cooperation between the member states. However, the hidden purpose of its establishment is the continuity of domination of the British Empire. For this, the existing study explores the connection among the British

Empire and the British Commonwealth and inquiries to what extent this organization make contributions to the rebirth of the British Empire.

3. Research Questions and Research Hypotheses

The present research attempts to answer a set of questions related to the British Commonwealth and the rebirth of the British empire. The objectives of the study are directed by the following questions:

1. What was the British Empire status in history?
2. Does the British Commonwealth aim for Cooperation or Domination?
3. Did the British Commonwealth contribute to the rebirth of the British Empire?

The current study attempts to test the following three (03) hypotheses: Firstly, this research hypothesizes the strong relationship between the British Commonwealth and the British Empire as this organization keeps the British previous colonies tie together with the mother country 'Britain'. Secondly, the study argues that the Commonwealth is a dominance organization. Finally, it tries to assert the critical role played by the British Commonwealth in the renewal of the British Colonial System or the British Empire.

4. Aims of the Study

This study aims to explore the expansion of Britain all over the world, ending with the most powerful empire through history. Also, through the historical and descriptive methods, the shift from empire to Commonwealth is highlighted. This study also sheds the lights on the British Commonwealth and its contribution to the rebirth of the British Empire.

5. Research Methodology

The current qualitative study is divided into two chapters, one is theoretical and the second is practical. The historical approach is employed in the first chapter, titled "British Expansionism Policy and the Creation of the Empire," to emphasize the history of British expansionism around the world. The second chapter, "The British Commonwealth and the

Rebirth of the British Empire”, uses both historical and descriptive methodologies to determine what is the British Commonwealth and what is its impact on the rebirth of the British Empire.

6. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study stems from the fact that it connects the British Empire's past and present. As a result of the Two World Wars, the British Empire was transformed into an organization known as the British Commonwealth. It also emphasizes how Britain is able to maintain its global dominance to this day through the establishment of the British Commonwealth.

7. Structure of the Study

This dissertation consists of two chapters. The first is theoretical and the second one is practical. The first chapter examines the British Empire's global expansionist agenda from the eighteenth century until the first half of the twentieth century, when it began to fall. It also includes information about the United Kingdom's major overseas territories in America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. More than that, it demonstrates British decolonization and the fall of the empire. The subject of the second chapter is “The British Commonwealth and the Rebirth of the British Empire”. It presents how the British Empire handed liberty and independence to its colonies around the world, and formed a status of dominions which were the first members of the British Commonwealth. This part contains a variety of information on this organization, including its full context, founding, structure, priorities, and aims, as well as how it functions as a Modern World Empire. In addition, the dominions' efforts support Britain throughout the two world wars are recognized.

CHAPTER ONE:

BRITISH EXPANSIONISM POLICY AND THE

CREATION OF THE EMPIRE

Chapter one: British Expansionism Policy and the Creation of the Empire

Introduction

The British Empire was vast, lasted for a long time, and impacted many areas of the world dramatically. It effected millions of people, and shaped the world as it is today (The National Archives, n.d.). According to the BBC, Britain started establishing overseas colonies in the Americas in the 16th century. However, their spread did not truly take off until the 18th century (The Week, 2019).

This chapter will cover the British Empire's Global Expansionism strategy from the eighteenth century to the first half of the 20th century, when it began to decline. It will also provide information on the major British Overseas Territories in America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Decolonization and the Empire's collapse will also be illustrated.

1. British Expansionism Policy in the World

1.1. The Thirteen Colonies in North America

England had developed a hegemony on the Atlantic coast by 1650. In 1607, Jamestown, Virginia, became the first colony to be founded. Many immigrants came to the New World to escape religious persecution. In 1620, the Pilgrims, the forefathers of Plymouth, Massachusetts, arrived. The colonies in both Virginia and Massachusetts prospered with the help of Native Americans. New World grains like corn prevented the colonists from going hungry, while tobacco was a lucrative cash crop in Virginia. Enslaved Africans accounted for an increasing proportion of the colonial population by the early 1700s. By 1770, the 13 British colonies in North America had a population of over 2 million people living and working there (America's Story, n.d.).

Alchin (2017) stated that the original thirteen (13) English colonies were established between 1607 and 1733 on the Atlantic coast of North America. The following is a list of the names of the original thirteen colonies:

Connecticut Colony, Delaware Colony, Georgia Colony, Maryland Colony, Massachusetts (included Maine), New Jersey Colony, New York Colony, New Hampshire Colony, North Carolina Colony, Pennsylvania Colony, Rhode Island Colony, South Carolina Colony, and Virginia Colony.

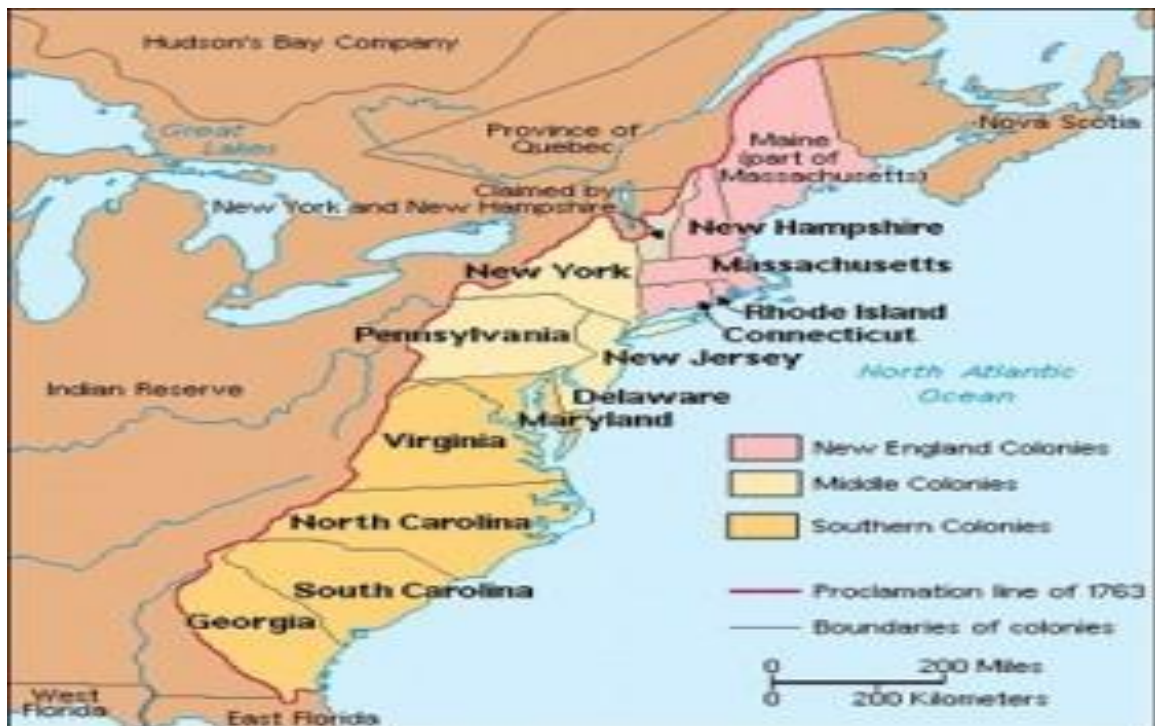


Figure 1.1 A Map of the 13 British Colonies in North America Prior to the Revolution (Llewellyn & Thompson ,2020).

American colonies or what are called colonial America, the 13 British colonies that were established during the 17th and early 18th centuries in what is now a part of the eastern United States. The colonies grew both geographically along the Atlantic coast and westward and numerically to 13 from the time of their founding to the American Revolution (1775–81) (Augustyn et al., 2020).

1.1.1. The Loss of the Thirteen (13) Colonies:

With fantastic new gains The British controlled the entire continent east of the Mississippi, from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson Bay. And, within twelve years, war had erupted between Britain and thirteen former British colonies. Over the course of seven years of war, these colonies proclaimed their independence in 1776 and effectively defeated all efforts to subjugate them. Just Quebec and Nova Scotia remained of Britain's North

American Empire when it eventually conceded to American independence in 1783 (Marshall,1998).

1.1.2. Boston Tea Party

As tensions between American colonists and the British Parliament grew, a strong demand for independence arose. The colonists did not want to keep paying taxes to a British government that was not investing in the colonies and making decisions that impacted them. The final straw came when the British imposed a 3p tax on each pound of tea sold. A party of Americans poured £11,000 worth of tea smuggled from the United Kingdom into the harbor in outrage. The British responded by closing the port and prohibiting any public gatherings, further infuriating the Americans (Study Rocket, n.d.).

1.1.3. War of Independence

In secret, a group of Americans agreed to fight the British in order to achieve independence. The Americans chose George Washington as their war chief in 1775, and they proclaimed independence from Britain in 1776. The British eventually accepted defeat after 5 years of fighting, and the war was declared over on September 3rd, 1783 (Study Rocket, n.d.).

1.1.4. Diplomatic and Imperial Effect of this Loss

Britain may have lost 13 colonies in the United States, but it still has land in the Caribbean, Africa, and India. It began to expand in these areas, forming the "Second British Empire," which grew to become the world's largest dominion. Despite the loss across the sea, Britain's role in Europe was not reduced, and its diplomatic power was quickly restored, allowing it to play a pivotal role in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars (Wilde,2021).

1.2. In Canada

The arrival of explorers and traders in the late 15th century marked the start of European colonization. In 1604, France founded the first permanent settlement, which later became the powerful colonial outpost known as New France. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Hudson Bay were all colonized by the British shortly after. The Seven Years' War resulted from each country's desire to extend its territory. The war ended in 1763, and France handed over its possessions to the British. The land was divided into three British colonies by the mid-nineteenth century: Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Colonial leaders and the general public started discussing the concept of integrating the colonies into one self-governing confederation, fueled by fears of potential American invasion and a desire for the economic benefits of free trade. In 1864, delegates from the colonies started negotiating the terms of their union with the help of the British. The British North America Act, passed by the British Parliament in 1867, established a new country known as Canada, which consisted of four provinces. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were among them, while Canada's former colony was divided into two provinces: Ontario and Quebec. The law founded both federal and provincial governments in the new country and served as the foundation for the constitution of Canada. On July 1, 1867—now known as Canada Day—it came into effect (McKeever,2020).

Despite their isolation from England, England's Canadian colonies were subject to British rule and took part in the Crown's various conflicts. During the Revolutionary War, Canada acted as a temporary battleground and a sanctuary for Loyalists, and during the War of 1812, American and British armies clashed along the colonies' Southern frontier. In the meantime, British colonists pushed further North and West in a period of colonial expansion (History,2018).

1.3. In the Caribbean

The Caribbean is a vast region that stretches from the southern United States to the Northern coast of South America, and is bordered on the West by Mexico and the Central American states, and on the East by the Atlantic Ocean. The Gulf of Mexico, which runs from East to West between Mexico and the United States, is devoid of any islands; The Caribbean Islands stretch from Cuba and the Bahamas in the North to South America in the South (the Caribbean, n.d.).

Slaves were transported from Africa to the West Indies (Caribbean) to work on sugar plantations in the 17th and 18th centuries. The slave trade and this industry made British ports and merchants extremely wealthy. The British Empire's first colonies were founded in North America (Virginia, 1607) and the West Indies (the West Indies, 1607) and (Barbados, 1625). Jamaica was founded in 1655. Slave traders in the United Kingdom began bringing African slaves to the British colonies to work on plantations. The Treaty of Utrecht granted British slave traders the deal, known as the Asiento, to sell 144,000 slaves per year to Spanish South America in 1713, deepening Britain's participation in the slave trade. Slave transportation increased dramatically after 1700. Approximately six million Africans were transported to the Americas as slaves, with at least one-third arriving on British ships. Britain became wealthy and prosperous as slave-based factories developed (BBC,2021).



Figure 1.2 A Map of the Caribbean Islands (Juman,2021).

1.4. Asia

1.4.1. Middle East

The lands along the Mediterranean Sea's Southern and Eastern coasts, encompassing at least the Arabian Peninsula and, by some descriptions, Iran, North Africa, and sometimes beyond, are known as the Middle East. The Near East was the name assigned to the central portion of this general area by some of the first modern Western geographers and historians, who divided the Orient into three regions. Near East refers to the area closest to Europe, ranging from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf; Middle East refers to the area stretching from the Persian Gulf to Southeast Asia; and Far East refers to the areas facing the Pacific Ocean (The Editors of Encyclopaedia, 2021).



Figure 1.3 A Map of the Middle East (World Atlas ,2021).

1.4.1.1. The Middle East Post World War One

The Middle East was changed in ways it had not seen in decades as a result of World War I. The territories of Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine were completed by the Europeans, who had colonized much of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century (Shuster,2004).

The British promised the international Zionist movement their assistance in recreating the ancient Jewish homeland in Palestine through the Balfour Declaration during the partition of the Ottoman Empire, a step that sparked much political strife that continues to this day (Lumen Candela, n.d.).

With the outbreak of WWI, the French and British sent armies and agents into the Middle East to provoke revolts and capture Iraq, Syria, and Palestine. The Sykes-Picot agreement, signed in secret in 1916, divided the Middle East into spheres of control for French and British diplomats. Another agreement, sanctioned by the new League of Nations,

superseded that one, establishing a mandate structure of French and British control. Syria and Lebanon were given to the French under the mandate system. The British conquered Palestine and three Ottoman Mesopotamian provinces, forming modern-day Iraq (Shuster,2004).

1.4.2. In India

The British Empire in India began and grew from 1700 to 1900. At least in the beginning, empire was not expected. It was, in a way, a fluke. The first British to arrive in India were traders, not conquerors, and they came for trade rather than land (Blackwell, n.d.).

In this respect, India was a developed civilization in the 18th century, and the rulers despised the British. By the 1750s, this had changed, and the power balance had shifted in the British favor. Trade was the beginning of the British presence in India Men like the British East India Company's Robert Clive combined military prowess with ruthless ambition to amass vast fortunes Wealth brought authority, and merchants seized control of vast swaths of India (BBC Teach,2021).

Furthermore, The British presence in India during the 18th century can be classified into two stages, the first of which ended in the middle of the century and the second of which began in the middle. The British had a trading presence along the coast in the first half of the 20th century; They started to wage war on land in Eastern and South-eastern India in the 1750s, reaping the benefits of successful warfare in the form of political power, particularly over the rich province of Bengal. By the turn of the century, British rule had been established over the initial conquests, and it was being extended up the Ganges valley to Delhi, as well as over the majority of the Southern Indian peninsula. By that time, the British had gained a military supremacy that would allow them to conquer or force the rulers

of all remaining Indian states of any significance to become subordinate allies over the next fifty years (Marshall,2011).

More than that in his article Darwin (2009) talks about the Indian importance for the British Empire and he argues that the importance of India as the second center of British world power became more than ever an axiom of British thought in the late 19th century. This was partly due to the fact that, following the 1857 Mutiny, Company rule was replaced by direct control of the London government, a transition that was glamorized a few years later by Victoria's proclamation as “Queen Empress of India” or Kaisar-I-Hind. However, it primarily reflected India's growing contribution to the global system, which we have been tracing since 1880. The British world-system would have lost some of its most important sources of security, stability, and harmony if India had not been one of its four grand components.

1.4.3. Hong Kong

From 1841 to 1941, and again between 1945 and 1997, Hong Kong was a British colony. Britain invaded China in 1839 for the First Opium War, and one of its first moves was to occupy Hong Kong. The Treaty of Nanking, which formally ended the First Opium War, was concluded in 1841 after China lost the island to the British. China also gave Britain the Kowloon Peninsula, another part of the island, at the end of the Second Opium War. Britain's new colony prospered, and in 1898, a special convention granted the British a 99-year extension of rule over Hong Kong. Hong Kong was ruled by the British until 1997 as a result of this (BBC,2020).

1.5. In Australia

On August 23, 1770, Captain James Cook of the British Royal Navy took possession of the Eastern coast of Australia in the name of George III, beginning the time of European

discovery and settlement. His group had been exploring Eastern Australia for four months, from South to North. Cook and Joseph Banks of the Royal Society, who accompanied Cook for scientific observations, claimed that the land was more fertile than Dutch explorers, who thought the land was of dubious value and preferred to focus on the rich Indies to the North. Cook's celebrity in Britain aided in focusing the British government's attention on the region, which played a strategic role in the European wars of the late 18th and early 19th centuries (One World Nations Online,2017).

Governor Phillip was given the task of administering the territory of New South Wales (Australia), which was defined as extending from Cape York in the North to the Southern point of Tasmania, with the 135th degree of East longitude forming its Western boundary. The Pacific Islands that lay within the colony's most Northern latitudes were to be included. Meanwhile, successful settlement was limited to a few acres on Sydney Cove's coast, as well as the Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, which Phillip occupied in 1788 (WOODWARD,1902).

In 1786, the British government decided to settle New South Wales, and colonization began in 1788. The motivations for this action have sparked some debate. According to popular belief, Britain did so to relieve pressure on its jails, which had been exacerbated by the loss of its American colonies, which had previously accepted transported felons. The fact that convicts were brought to the colony from the beginning, as well as official statements stating that this was the colony's primary goal, supports this viewpoint. However, some historians argue that this glossed over a plan to provide a stronghold for British naval power in the Eastern seas (Roe,2021).

1.6. New Zealand

1.6.1. Europeans in New Zealand

The first recorded European discovery of New Zealand was made by Dutch explorer Abel Tasman in 1642. From north of Greymouth up to Cape Maria van Diemen, he charted the country's west coast. Following that, the land Tasman discovered was given the name 'Nieuw Zeeland' by a Dutch mapmaker. Another European did not arrive in New Zealand for 127 years, which was an unusually long time. In 1769, on the first of three voyages, James Cook made landfall in New Zealand from the east. Cook circumnavigated and surveyed the three main islands, returning to Britain with reports on the people and resources of the region (Wilson,2020).

1.6.2. The British Arrival

The first visitors were European whalers and sealers, followed by traders. By the 1830s, the British government was under pressure to eliminate lawlessness in the country and to foil French attempts to colonize New Zealand. On February 6, 1840, William Hobson, New Zealand's first Governor, invited the gathered Mori chiefs to conclude a treaty with the British Crown at Waitangi. The treaty was taken all over the world, as far South as Foveaux Strait, for local chiefs to sign, and more than 500 signed it in the end (New Zealand Student and Immigration Advisers, n.d.).

1.7. Africa

There were several British colonies in Africa: Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Southern Cameroon, and Sierra Leone were in British West Africa; Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika and Zanzibar) were in British East Africa; and South Africa, Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Nyasaland (Malawi), Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland were in British South Africa. Britain's colonial history with Egypt was strange and peculiar. Since Egypt and Britain had colonized the region together, the Sudan was formerly known as the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan (Encyclopedia of Race and Racism, 2021).

1.7.1. In South Africa

1.7.1.1. European Arrival

While human settlement on the subcontinent dates back thousands of years, ethnic conflict began in 1652, when the Dutch East India Company [Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie or VOC, existed 1602-1798] established a resupply station at Cape Town for its fleets traveling between Holland and its empire in South and Southeast Asia. The business, a commercial venture, developed some of the most enduring features of colonial society during the first 150 years of European control of the Cape. The company was only concerned with obtaining supplies (fresh water, foodstuffs, and replacement masts) to resupply its ships, not with extending European settlement across Africa. As local Khoisan people refused to supply these goods on the company's terms, the Europeans took up arms and expelled the majority of the population into the interior. To work the land that had been taken from local residents, the company used a mixture of European farmers (mostly former company employees) and imported African slave labor. When European farmers (known as Boers) tried to migrate into the interior to avoid the company's monopolistic trade practices and autocratic rule, the company prevented further expansion, stopped European emigration to the Cape, and increased the use of slave labor. The local white population (mostly descended from the same small group of 17th-century Dutch, French, and German settlers) and a largely disinterested and exploitative metropolitan ruler were at odds by the end of the 18th century (Worger&Byrnes,2021).

1.7.1.2. English Annexation

The British annexed the Cape Colony after the Napoleonic Wars, and it became their colony in 1815. Britain welcomed settlers to come to the Cape, and in particular, supported the 1820 settlers who were sent to farm in the contested area between the colony and the Xhosa in what is now the Eastern Cape. The Boers, who began their Great Trek to the

Northern parts of modern-day South Africa in the 1820s, were left out of the shifting picture of the Cape from Dutch to British. The Zulu, led by Shaka Zulu, rose to power during this period. Following that, there were many disputes between the British, the Boers, and the Zulus (Lumen Candela,2018).

1.7.2. Boer War in South Africa

The British Empire and the Transvaal and Orange Free State Boers begin the South African Boer War. The Boers, also known as Afrikaners, descended from the first Dutch settlers in Southern Africa. During the Napoleonic Wars, Britain took control of the Dutch Cape colony in 1806 and faced opposition from the independence-minded Boers, who resented the Anglicization of South Africa and Britain's anti-slavery policies. The Boers started an exodus into African tribal territory in 1833, creating the Transvaal and Orange Free States (TOFS) as republics. Until 1867, when the discovery of diamonds and gold in the area made war between the Boer states and Britain (History,2019).

1.7.3. Zulu War

Preparations for the war began in 1877, when the British colonial ruler Sir Henry Freir was sent to Cape Town to unify South Africa into a British Commonwealth. However, Freir soon realized that the unification of the Boer Republic, the independent black country, and the British colony could only be achieved if the powerful Zulu Kingdom was defeated on its border. Knowing that London did not want to go to war with the Zulus (they were too focused on the problems of India and Eastern Europe), Freir turned to the new British Natal and Transvaal Governor Sir Theophilus Shepston and asked the invading the reason. Since Shepstone's fragile territory borders Zululand, he officially described how regular Zulu cross-border attacks affect the stability of the region. In addition, Shepston expressed concern that more and more guns fell into the hands of the Zulu, further fueling the war (Johnson, n.d.).

2. Decolonization

Decolonization is the mechanism by which colonies gain independence from the colonizer. Decolonization was gradual and peaceful in some British colonies with a large expatriate population, but violent in others where nationalism sparked native rebellions. Following WWII, European countries lacked the wealth and political support needed to curb far-flung revolts; they also faced resistance from the emerging superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, both of them had taken anti-colonial stances (Augustyn et al.,2020).

2.1. British Decolonization

Following World War One, Britain's ability to maintain the Empire became extremely difficult. It became clear that Britain could no longer afford an Empire, that Britain had no right to control citizens who did not want to be governed by Britain, and that the Royal Navy was insufficient to defend the Empire anywhere (BBC,2021).

Britain was weakened and less involved in its hegemony as a result of the First and Second World Wars. Furthermore, many segments of the Empire contributed troops and services to the war effort and adopted a more independent stance. After 1945, this resulted in the empire's gradual decline. Nationalist movements in Asian and African colonies used a variety of tactics to overthrow British rule (The National Archives, n.d.).

In certain areas of the British Empire, British rule ended relatively peacefully, though this was not always the case. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, British ideas of "liberty" helped some countries achieve peaceful decolonization. To the British, liberty meant having the ability to govern yourself. However, having liberty meant that you had to use it responsibly if you wanted to keep it. To put it another way, if parts of the empire wanted to be free and govern themselves, they had to persuade Britain that they were capable of

running their own country in a manner that Britain approved of (The National Archives, n.d.).

Except for the Indian subcontinent, there were some hopes in the early postwar years that decolonization would be incremental and on terms that would benefit the western European colonial nations' continued world power positions. However, following the loss of the French at Dien Bien Phu (Vietnam) in 1954 and the failure of the Anglo-French Suez expedition in 1956, decolonization gained unstoppable momentum, and by the mid-1970s, only a few shards of Europe's colonial territories remained. There were three factors that contributed to the rapid decolonization. First, the two postwar superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, preferred to exercise their influence by indirect means often displacing previous colonial rulers; both the US and the Soviet Union took anti-colonial positions. Second, the colonial world's mass nationalist movements waged costly and brutal colonial wars. Third, a war-weary population in Western Europe finally declined to make any more sacrifices to keep overseas colonies afloat. In general, colonies that did not have concentrated resources or strategic advantages, as well as those that did not have any European settlers, were easily expelled from their overlords (Webster, 2020).

2.2. Africa's Fight for Decolonization

British colonies, such as Africa and India, contributed significantly to the war effort during well as raw materials and goods. Colonies claimed they had earned the right to secede from the British Empire at the end of the war. Due to the high cost of the war, Britain's economy was suffering, and running the Empire was becoming more difficult. Aside from the rising costs of operating the Empire, Roosevelt attempted to persuade Britain to grant independence to its African colonies. However, since Britain did not want to fully abandon the colonies, instead of granting them total independence, it started to bring democracy to local areas within the colonies. Nationalists in Africa's colonies eventually had had enough

of the British and began demonstrating and rioting against them. The demonstrations were led by Kenyan President Jomo Kenyatta and Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah. Britain obviously could not afford to deal with this on top of their other financial difficulties (BBC,2021).

2.3. Asian Independence

2.3.1 Hong Kong Returned Back to China

The Chinese and British governments held a power-transfer ceremony in Hong Kong at midnight on June 30, 1997, after which the Chinese government officially resumed control over Hong Kong. The return of Hong Kong to China is a significant step forward in the cause of China's reunification, as it demonstrates the effectiveness of Deng Xiaoping's principle of "one nation, two systems" in resolving the Hong Kong problem. It also helped to maintain global peace and prosperity (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China,2014).

2.3.2. India and Pakistan

In his article, Samudranil (2020) states that the United Kingdom's Parliament approved the India Independence Act 1947, which separated British India into two new sovereign dominions, India and Pakistan. The Act was signed by the royal family on July 18, 1947, and India and Pakistan were formed on August 15 and 14, 1947, respectively. Following the assent of leaders of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and the Sikh community, the Act was drafted jointly by UK Prime Minister Clement Attlee and India's Governor-General Lord Mountbatten. The 3 June Plan, or Mountbatten Plan, is the name given to this statute. Clement Attlee, the then-Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, said on February 20, 1947, that British India would be granted full self-government by June 1948. He also emphasized that the destiny of the princely states will be decided as soon as the date of the final transfer was verified.

2.3.3. The Middle East

European formal empires in the Middle East started to crumble in the decades following World War II's end. After a series of disastrous engagements with local populations, France withdrew from Syria and Lebanon in 1946. In 1948, the British withdrew from Palestine, leaving behind the new state of Israel, which was carved out of a large portion of the country; Jordan was formed from the remainder. The British withdrew from Egypt and Iraq as a part of a series of treaties and agreements, and Sudan achieved independence as a result of one of these agreements. Though European countries' formal empires seemed to disintegrate in the 1950s, former colonial forces, now joined by the United States, maintained a foothold in the region. The United Kingdom and the United States concentrated their efforts on limiting oil output. Such goals now had the added dimension of being sought within the broader context of geopolitical tensions raised by the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. In reality, the Middle East's independence process has been extremely complicated (Encyclopedia.com,2019).

Conclusion

To conclude, In the 16th century, the United Kingdom made the first cautious attempts to create settlements abroad. The establishment of settlements in North America and the West Indies accelerated in the 17th century, motivated by economic aspirations and rivalry with France. By 1670, British American colonies had founded themselves in New England, Virginia, and Maryland, as well as settlements in the Bermudas, Honduras, Antigua, Barbados, and Nova Scotia. In 1655, the Hudson's Bay Company conquered Jamaica, and from the 1670s on, the Hudson's Bay Company developed itself in what would become Northwestern Canada. In 1600, the East India Company established trading posts in India, and the Straits Settlements became British as a result of their operations. In 1661,

James Island in Gambia became the first permanent British settlement on the African continent (The Editors of Encyclopaedia,2020).

The influence of World War Two directly contributed to the decline of British imperial power, which was nearly complete by the mid-1960s. Between 1940 and 1942, Britain's humiliating losses in Europe and Asia obliterated the imperial system's financial and economic freedom. It also dismantled the old power balance on which Britain's had been predicated (Darwin,2011).

The policy of granting or acknowledging substantial degrees of self-government to dependencies, which was favored by the empire's far-flung existence, resulted in the emergence of the concept of a "British Commonwealth" by the 20th century, which consisted primarily of self-governing dependencies that recognized an increasingly symbolic British sovereignty. In 1931, the phrase was codified into law. Former components of the British Empire are now part of the Commonwealth, which is a free association of sovereign states (The Editors of Encyclopaedia,2020).

Historians disagree about how and why Britain's Empire waned and eventually ended. Most people would accept, however, that factors like war and an evolving global economy played a significant role in the British Empire's decline. The British Empire evolved into the Commonwealth of Nations over time. The Commonwealth extended an invitation to all former empire members. The vast majority did, with the exception of Ireland, which did not, and South Africa, which left the Commonwealth for several years. The Commonwealth was a non-profit organization whose primary goal was to promote friendship and unity among the former Empire's nations. Other advantages included sporting and cultural links, as well as special trade and security arrangements (The National Archives, n.d.). However, the protocol creation of the British Commonwealth may include hidden purposes for the British decision makers.

CHAPTER TWO

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND THE

REBIRTH OF BRITISH EMPIRE

Chapter two: The British Commonwealth and the Rebirth of British

Empire

Introduction

There were signals of the end even when the British Empire was still booming. Canada was declared a Dominion in 1867, giving it the power to govern itself in most areas. Then, at the Imperial Conferences of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, additional colonies with a predominantly white population were allowed to take their first steps toward self-rule. Australia (1901), New Zealand (1907), and South Africa (1910) were all granted 'Dominion Status' at the same time. This necessitated the formation of a separate organization in 1931 named "the British Commonwealth" in order to maintain a different kind of relationship with the United Kingdom. The mother nation and her dominions all enjoyed equal status in this "Commonwealth of Nations," and they all recognized the British monarch as the Commonwealth's Head. The pressure for liberty developed in several British territories, though within the finish it absolutely was the Second War that helped to hurry up the break-up of the Empire (Horner,2010).

According to Rosenberg (2020), the British Empire starts the process of decolonization and creates an independent state of the former British colony, it was necessary to organize the countries that belonged to the empire before. In 1884, the British statesman Lord Rosebury described the changes in the British Empire as an "International Community". In 1931, under the "Westminster Laws", the Commonwealth of Nations was established, initially with five members: The United Kingdom, Canada, the Free State of Ireland, and the Union of Newfoundland and South Africa (Ireland eventually withdrew from the Commonwealth in 1949). Later on, all the former British colonies joined the British Commonwealth.

In this chapter the British Empire granted liberty and independence to its colonies all over the world and established a 'Status of Dominions', which became the first members of the British Commonwealth or what became known as the Commonwealth of Nations or simply the Commonwealth. This part provides a wealth of knowledge about this organization, such as its complete context, establishment, structure, priorities, and objectives, as well as how it operates as a Modern World Empire. Furthermore, the efforts of the dominions in the service of Britain during the Two World Wars are highlighted.

1.The British Commonwealth

1.1. Definition

According to Rosenberg (2020), when British Empire started the method of decolonization and also the institution of freelance states from former British colonies, there was a necessity for a corporation of former Empire countries. Lord Rosebery, a British diplomat, coined the term "Commonwealth of Nations" to describe the changing British Empire in 1884.

The Commonwealth of states may be a loose confederation of nations that arose from British Empire as its colonies became freelance countries throughout the 20th century. Its current kind dates from 1949, however its origins start to 1926, once the British Empire's most Westernized colonies were on the verge of independence. It is primarily an informal platform for cooperation among countries that were once British colonies or dependencies (though other countries have joined), and it has a charter that promotes values. reminiscent of world peace, democracy, and human rights (Political Geography Now,2018).



Figure 2.4. The British Commonwealth Flag (British Monarchist League ,2014).

1.2. The Origin of the Commonwealth of Nations

The Commonwealth of Nations lines its origins to the British Empire, which grew to encompass increasingly colonies and conquered territories among the 15th and early 20th centuries. In 1922, it had a populace of 458 million human beings worldwide. This equated to 1 / 4 of the worlds populace on a sector of the earths floor on the time. The four principal colonies allied with the kingdom after the First World War ended, regardless of the truth that they have been already sovereign states. The first 4 companions have been noted as "Dominions" at first, after which as "Commonwealth Realms" after 1952. Over time, greater international locations have been introduced, nearly all of which have been as soon as an English colony or a minimum of an area that England occupied. Mozambique and Rwanda are the simplest exceptions. The Commonwealth of Nations perspectives itself as a collaboration instead of a legally binding organization. The Commonwealth of Nations of these days is made of unbiased states that are not interdependent. They pledge their allegiance to the British Monarchy. This changed into additionally the simplest element of the treaty that had ever been promised. The British royal residence changed into followed and referred to as the "Queen of Australia" (or Canada and New Zealand) in Australia, New

Zealand, and Canada, relating to Queen Elizabeth II, who had been in workplace due to the fact that 1952. The British Crown continues to be the symbolic head of the Commonwealth. As a result, the executive headquarters continues to be in London. Until 1962, all Commonwealth citizens have been handled as British citizens, permitting them to immigrate to the United Kingdom and gain British citizenship (World Data, n.d.).

Moreover, The British Commonwealth of Nations was established in 1926 as a result of the Balfour Declaration, which stated that Britain and her Dominions should have equal status. Section 4 of the Statute of Westminster, enacted in 1931, made this stipulation legal. 'No Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom passed after the commencement of this Act shall apply, or be deemed to extend, to a Dominion as part of that Dominion's rule, unless that Act specifically declares that that Dominion has demanded and consented to the enactment thereof,' it said. The Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State, and Newfoundland were all classified as 'Dominions' in section 1. The Statute established constitutional equality between these dominions and the United Kingdom as its main influence (The Open University, n. d).

2.The Birth of the Modern Commonwealth

The British Empire's Dominions and other areas eventually gained complete independence from the United Kingdom. In 1947, India gained independence. India desired to become a republic that did not owe allegiance to the British Monarchy, but it also desired to remain a Commonwealth member. The London Declaration, adopted at a Commonwealth Prime Ministers meeting in London in 1949, stated that republics and other countries might join the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth of Nations as we know it today was created. When King George VI died, Queen Elizabeth II became the Commonwealth's First Head. However, the British King or Queen is not automatically the Commonwealth's Head of State.

Commonwealth member countries elect the Commonwealth's Head of Government (The Commonwealth ,2021).

3.The British Commonwealth Today

The Commonwealth started in 1931, when the Statute of Westminster recognized the sovereign freedom and equality of the Dominions (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Canada), with some residual and mainly formal privileges remaining in Britain. India's decision to join the Commonwealth as an independent republic was the most significant event in the modern Commonwealth's formation. Almost all of the other colonies followed India's lead when they achieved independence, but the Commonwealth soon seemed to be on the verge of dissolving due to bitter political differences. The key issue was Britain's stance toward South Africa's discriminatory policies, which alienated the majority of African countries. Britain, on the other hand, was starting to believe that the Commonwealth was a liability (KITCHEN,1996).

4. The Structure of the Commonwealth

4.1. The Head of British Commonwealth



The Commonwealth's Head of Government is Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen's position has no formal functions, but it is highly symbolic and has contributed to the Commonwealth's sense of unity as a family of nations. The Queen has placed a strong emphasis on her position as Commonwealth Head of Government and has made significant contributions to the organization. Queen Elizabeth II mentioned this sense of a new Commonwealth in her Christmas broadcast from New Zealand in 1953, shortly after her accession to the throne. 'The Commonwealth bears no similarity to previous empires,' she said. It is a completely new philosophy based on the highest values of the human spirit: fellowship, loyalty, and the desire for liberty and peace.' The Queen's

position now involves a range of symbolic functions that strengthen the sense of family and the vitality of the Commonwealth connection, thanks to the development of tradition. She meets with Commonwealth leaders in their home countries, in London, and at Heads of Government Meetings. During each summit, she travels to the host country and meets with the leaders in small groups and at larger formal functions. Her state visits have taken her to almost every Commonwealth country where she has met with both citizens and leaders (The Commonwealth Network,2020).

4.2. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

The biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is the organization's largest decision-making forum, where Commonwealth Heads of Government, including prime ministers and leaders, meet for several days to address issues of mutual concern. CHOGM, which dates back to 1887, is the successor to the Meetings of Commonwealth Prime Ministers and, before that, the Imperial Conferences and Colonial Conferences. Finance ministers, law ministers, health ministers, and other ministers meet on a daily basis. Members that are in arrears are not invited to send representatives to ministerial meetings or CHOGMs, as they were before. The Commonwealth Chairperson-in-Office is the head of government hosting the CHOGM and holds the seat until the next CHOGM. Following the most recent CHOGM, which took place in London, UK, from 18 to 20 April 2018, UK Prime Minister Theresa May was appointed Chairperson-in-Office and will hold the role until the next CHOGM, which will be held in Rwanda in 2020 (Nigerianscholars, n. d).

4.3. The Commonwealth Secretariat

Lloyd (2001) claims that the British Commonwealth was transformed into an international organization thanks to the Commonwealth Secretariat Service. For illustration, the following quote explains this transformation:

A Commonwealth secretariat had been set up in 1965 to handle paperwork and exchanges of information instead of leaving such things in the hands of a ministry in the British government. This change turned the official side of the Commonwealth into something much more like the other international organizations that had developed in such large numbers after 1945 (p.197).

In this context, KITCHEN (1996) adds to Lloyd's claim of the internationality of the Commonwealth of Nations by stating the following quote:

Member states began to reappraise the role of the Commonwealth, and in 1965 it was completely transformed with the creation of a Commonwealth Secretariat. The Commonwealth became a genuinely international body, its administration no longer in British hands. The British monarch, however, has been Head of the Commonwealth since 1949 and is also head of state in Britain as well as in thirteen of the seventeen Commonwealth monarchies (p.143).

In this vein the Secretariat functions are primarily 2-fold. KITCHEN (1996) explains and states that it is involved with political questions, and it is conjointly a service agency. There is the political Commonwealth of problems and also the practical Commonwealth of skills, resources, and services. Obviously, these two aspects of the Secretariat' work cannot be divided into two watertight compartments, and the Commonwealth is most self-made once the political and the service aspects are consonant and work along in real partnership as its founders intended.

4.4. Commonwealth Citizenship and High Commissioners

Commonwealth countries are not considered "foreign" to one another because of their shared heritage and culture, though the technical definition of "foreign" varies by

country. In Australia, for example, no distinction is made between Commonwealth and foreign countries when considering such constitutional and legal provisions: in the High Court case of *Sue v Hill*, other Commonwealth countries were held to be foreign powers; similarly, in *Nolan v Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs*, nationals of other Commonwealth realms were held to be "aliens." The Commonwealth countries' stronger ties are expressed, at the very least, in their diplomatic protocols. Commonwealth states, for example, share high commissioners rather than ambassadors when dealing bilaterally with one another. They represent the head of government instead of the head of state between two Commonwealth realms (Nigerianscholars, n. d).

4.5. The Commonwealth Foundation

The Commonwealth Foundation is an intergovernmental organization that is funded by Commonwealth governments, reports to them, and is governed by Commonwealth principles and priorities. Its mission is to support civil society in achieving Commonwealth goals such as democracy and good governance, respect for human rights and gender equality, poverty eradication and long-term, people-centered growth, and arts and culture promotion. In 1965, the Heads of State and Government founded the Foundation. Admission is available to all Commonwealth nations, with 46 governments out of 53 countries participating as of December 2008. Gibraltar has been given Associate Membership, which is open to member countries' affiliated states or overseas territories. The Foundation's 40th Anniversary was commemorated in 2005. The Foundation's headquarters are located in Pall Mall, London's Marlborough House. The Secretariat and the Foundation maintain regular contact and cooperation. The Foundation continues to fulfill the broad purposes outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (CPU Media Trust ,2015).

4.6. The Charter of the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Charter, according to the Liverpool Commonwealth Association (2020), encapsulates the principles and aspirations that bind the Commonwealth in a single, easily readable text. The Commonwealth Charter asserts that the Commonwealth's unique strength lies in its combination of plurality and mutual inheritance of language, culture, and the rule of law, as well as its shared history and tradition, reverence for all states and peoples, shared values and ideals, and empathy for the vulnerable.

4.7. The Commonwealth Constitution

The charter or the constitution of the British Commonwealth, even greater glaringly than British charter, n'existe point. In spite of what de Tocqueville stated approximately the latter, it is miles in reality a complicated of institutions, legal guidelines, conventions and practices which make it one of the maximum distinctive and closely coordinated withinside the world .The charter of the British Commonwealth ,on the alternative hand , has passed through a manner of disintegration at the prison facet which has now no longer been met through any corresponding manner of integration at the facet of conference or practice. It does certainly exist; however, its limbs are so susceptible that it appears that evidently a breath might purpose them to break. The legal shape of the British Colonial Empire, because it existed in 1914, changed into constructed up on a basis of authorities, Parliament and the Crown. As prison constitutions for the complete Commonwealth. Both were critically weakened due to the fact that 1918.It is, perhaps, nevertheless a prison precept that parliament can enact legal guidelines for any a part of His Majesty's Dominions. But that, because the Lord Sankey remarked on this connection, is natural theory. It is not even positive as a prison proposition; for the statute of Westminster declared that no Act of the Parliament of the UK shall extend , or be deemed to extend , to a dominion as a part of the regulation of that dominion , except it is miles expressly declared in that act that the dominion has asked and consented to the enactment thereof (Jennings,1938).

4.8. The Commonwealth Family

The Commonwealth Family, according to Shakeel (2016), might be a network of groups, organizations, and charities linked to the Commonwealth of Nations. Though they are affiliated with the Commonwealth, they are not necessarily a part of it, and membership is by invitation only from within the Commonwealth's membership. They are made to advance the Commonwealth's values and policies.

4.9. Members of the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth includes 54 countries from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific. Commonwealth nations are diverse, with some of the world's largest, smallest, wealthiest, and poorest nations. Small states are represented by 32 of our representatives. Climate change and developmental problems make small states particularly vulnerable. The Commonwealth's strategies and goals are shaped by the leaders of its member countries. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, they meet every two years to address topics that concern the Commonwealth and the rest of the world (CHOGM). Regardless of their size or wealth, all members have an equal say. This ensures that even the smallest countries have a say in the Commonwealth's growth (The Commonwealth,2021).

When former colonies gained independence in the second half of the 20th century, the Commonwealth's membership expanded significantly. The majority of the dependent states given independence chose Commonwealth membership, and the organization has expanded to include Mozambique (which joined in 1995), the first nation to be admitted that had never been a part of the British Empire or under the jurisdiction of any member (Augustyn et al.,2020).

According to Wilde (2017), the Member Nations with date of membership are mentioned in (table 2.1):

Table 2.1. The British Commonwealth Members and Date of Membership.

| The country | Date of Commonwealth Membership |
|---------------------|--|
| Antigua and Barbuda | 1981 |
| Australia | 1931 |
| Bahamas | 1973 |
| Bangladesh | 1972 |
| Barbados | 1966 |
| Belize | 1981 |
| Botswana | 1966 |
| Brunei | 1984 |
| Cameron | 1995 |
| Canada | 1931 |
| Cyprus | 1961 |
| Dominica | 1978 |
| Fiji | 1971(left in 1987; rejoined 1997) |
| Gambia | 1965 |
| Ghana | 1957 |
| Grenada | 1974 |
| Guyana | 1966 |
| India | 1947 |
| Jamaica | 1962 |
| Kenya | 1963 |
| Kiribati | 1979 |
| Lesotho | 1966 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Malawi | 1964 |
| Maldives | 1982 |
| Malaysia (formerly Malaya) | 1957 |
| Malta | 1964 |
| Mauritius | 1968 |
| Mozambique | 1995 |
| Namibia | 1990 |
| Nauru | 1968 |
| New Zealand | 1931 |
| Nigeria | 1960 |
| Pakistan | 1947 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1975 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 1983 |
| Saint Lucia | 1979 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 1979 |
| Samoa (formerly Western Samoa) | 1970 |
| Seychelles | 1976 |
| Sierra Leone | 1961 |
| Singapore | 1965 |
| Solomon Islands | 1978 |
| South Africa | 1931 (left in 1961; rejoined 1994) |
| Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) | 1948 |
| Swaziland | 1968 |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Tanzania | 1961(As Tanganyika; became Tanzania in 1964 after union with Zanzibar) |
| Tonga | 1970 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1962 |
| Tuvalu | 1978 |
| Uganda | 1962 |
| United Kingdom | 1931 |
| Vanuatu | 1980 |
| Zambia | 1964 |
| Zanzibar | 1963(United with Tanganyika to form Tanzania) |

Note: Adapted from “The Commonwealth of Nations”, by Wilde, R ,2017.

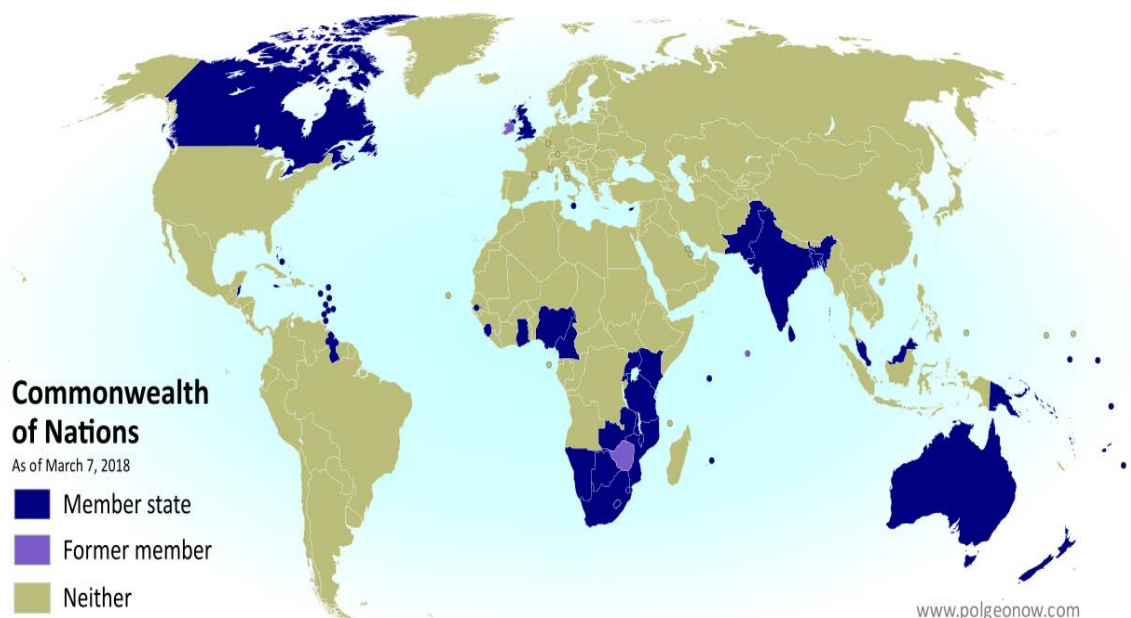


Figure 2.5. A Map of the Commonwealth of Nations (Political Geography Now,2018).

4.9.1. Eligibility Criteria for Membership

According to the Commonwealth (2021), Heads of Government reviewed the recommendations of the Committee on Commonwealth Membership at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda in November 2007, and decided on the following key membership criteria:

Except in extraordinary cases, an applicant country should have had a historic constitutional relationship with an established Commonwealth member. In exceptional circumstances, applicants should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

An applicant country must recognize and adhere to the Commonwealth's core values, ideals, and goals, as outlined in the 1971 Declaration of Commonwealth Principles and other subsequent Declarations.

Democracy and democratic processes, such as free and fair elections and representative legislatures; the rule of law and judicial independence; good governance, such as a well-trained civil service and open public accounts; and security of human rights, freedom of speech, and equality of opportunity must all be demonstrated by an applicant government.

An applicant country must accept Commonwealth norms and conventions, such as the use of English as the language of inter-Commonwealth relations, and recognize Queen Elizabeth II as the Commonwealth's Head of State.

New members should be encouraged to join the Commonwealth Foundation, as well as to support vibrant civil society and business organizations in their own countries.

5. Objectives and Activities of the Commonwealth

Commonwealth members are members of regional, political, and economic international organizations. Nonetheless, the Commonwealth serves as a bridge between them and supports other forms of cooperation within the diversity of their international

connections. All Commonwealth members share fundamental values, and it is through the pursuit of these objectives and principles that the Commonwealth is able to influence worldwide society for the greater good (Shakeel ,2016).

In this context, the tool for setting goals for the Commonwealth is the 1971 Singapore Declaration, in which the Commonwealth is committed to establishing world peace. Promote representative democracy and individual freedom; seek equality and oppose racism; fight poverty, ignorance and disease; in addition, there is gender discrimination in the 1979 Lusaka Declaration (mainly related to racism), and the 1989 “LAN There is environmental sustainability in the Kali Declaration. These goals were reflected in the 1991 Harare Declaration. As stated in the 2003 Asian Declaration, the current priority of the Commonwealth is to promote democracy and development. The declaration is based on the Singapore Declaration and the Harare Declaration and uses the following words to complete its mission statement: Democracy First, good governance, human rights, gender equality and the fairer sharing of the benefits of globalization.” The Commonwealth website lists their areas of work: democracy, economy, education, gender, governance, human rights, law, small countries, sports, sustainability Sex and youth. The Commonwealth has established itself as an international forum. After all, highly developed economies (such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Singapore and New Zealand) and many of the world’s poorest countries are seeking consensus agreements, and sometimes it is difficult to reach consensus, such as when differences arise. Through Rhodesia in the late 1960s and 1970s and South Africa apartheid in the 1980s, relations between Great Britain and African member states began to cool down (CPU Media Trust ,2015).

6. The Commonwealth Cooperation and Liberation

In its past, the Commonwealth evolved from the imperial hats of Great Britain over a period of many years, largely as a result of decolonization, the effects of Two World Wars and changing patterns of international relations. In an egalitarian voluntary association that is increasingly concerned with the realization of a new and fairer economic order around the world. What makes the Commonwealth of today so useful is the ease and informality with which the population moves from heads of government down through common language and working language in a common administrative, legal and educational context. Today, the Commonwealth aids in the advancement of democracy, civil rights, long-term economic and social stability, and a variety of other goals. It has grown into a vibrant and growing organization and a unique family of 52 member countries from all over the world that share many mutual interests. It is a world apart from the handful of British Dominions that were the first Commonwealth members as a multiracial association of nations, both equal and sovereign. The Commonwealth's 1.6 billion inhabitants make up a quarter of the world's population, spanning Africa and India, Pacific shores to Caribbean islands. Canada was the first colony to be turned into a self-governing 'Dominion' in 1867, a status that came to mean equality with the United Kingdom. Lord Rosebery, a British politician, was the first to refer to this transforming empire as a "Commonwealth of Nations" in Australia in 1884. As a result, other areas of the empire began to follow suit: In 1900, Australia became a Dominion, followed by New Zealand, South Africa, and the Irish Free State in 1907(Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada ,2021).

7. The Commonwealth's Advantages for its Members

The Commonwealth of Nations is so advantageous as it has many accomplishments for its members. According to ATIKA SCHOOL (2020): The Commonwealth achievements are as follows:It keeps the peace by dispatching peacekeepers to member countries that are at war.

It has created a fund to help economically disadvantaged member states meet their needs.

It offers technical assistance and expertise to the members who are less developed.

It encourages the advancement of education by providing scholarships and exchange programs.

By organizing joint sports/games/cultural events, it promotes mutual understanding and cooperation among participants.

It holds joint forums to facilitate consultations among member states on topics of common interest.

It has encouraged good governance by convening daily meetings of parliamentarians and sending election observers.

It encourages community development through the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

It has allowed member states to speak with one voice and take a unified stance in international fora.

It encourages trade among its members.

8. The Commonwealth as a New Empire

What does the term "Commonwealth" refer to? it absolutely was initial accustomed describe the colonial empire as a collection of interconnected parts. For example, in 1868, Lord Carnarvon, a former secretary of state for colonies, projected that if colonies wished to stay at intervals "that Imperial Commonwealth to which they all belong," they would have to bear burdens and sacrifices. W. E. Forster, a Liberal politician, disciplined Disraeli in 1876 for referring to colonists as "gold seekers and fortune hunters," claiming that they were "Founders of the Commonwealth" and that it absolutely was the government's responsibility to stay the colonies and therefore the mother country together. Throughout a farewell speech in Adelaide in 1884, Lord Rosebery proclaimed, "There is no would like for any country, but great, to depart the Empire, as a result of the Empire is a Commonwealth of Nations." In

1887, John X. Merriman, a potential premier of the Cape Colony, argued against imperial federation and projected that the Empire become a "British Commonwealth." In 1891, New Zealand's prime minister, John Ballance, expressed his opposition to associate degree Australian or Australasian Commonwealth, stating that the word "should not be extended to any part of the Empire, but to the entire Empire." The Empire was characterized as "a Commonwealth of States under the hegemony of the oldest and most influential of them" by poet Henry Newbolt in 1900. The real issue was that the words "Colony," "Empire," and "Imperial" were interpreted as implying servitude. individuals within the sovereign colonies' sensibilities were offended. New terms for his or her relationship with United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were sought, such as "Britannic Realms," "Britannic Alliance," or even "Britannic Commonwealth" (McIntyre,1977).

With the Empire intact and therefore the dominions booming when WWII, there have been hopes that the nation 'world system would regain its world position. Decolonization, on the opposite hand, had already started on a forceful scale. The white settler colonies had already achieved Dominion standing and Commonwealth Membership, indicating their independence. Many of the opposite countries that had once been part of British Empire would eventually be a part of the Commonwealth over a successive half-century (McIntyre,2012).

9. The Commonwealth Dominions as a Savior Role Player in British Battles

9.1. The Dominions and World War One

The Dominions performed a chief element in World War One. Once Great Britain had declared battle on Germany on August 4th 1914, now no longer the handiest turned into Great Britain at battle however so have been the Dominions. About 400,000,000 humans lived with inside the Dominions and that they probably should offer the British a battle attempt with a nearly limitless quantity of manpower and supplies. The self-governing

dominions should determine whether to ship troops to assist the British or now no longer. In fact, all of them did determine to ship troops to assist the British at the Western Front. Canadian troops fought with notable fulfillment on the Battle of Vimy Ridge; Australian troops fought on the Battle of Messines (a part of the Somme marketing campaign) and the lately determined our bodies of approximately three hundred Australian troops close to Propeller has brought about the constructing of the most modern Commonwealth War Graves cemetery. Australian troops additionally fought on the doomed marketing campaign at Malleoli. South African and New Zealand troops fought at the Western Front as did troops from India. One main difficulty thrown up through their participation turned into what position could they have got each with inside the international and within side the British Empire as soon as World War One ended (C N Trueman,2015).

9.2. Dominions and World War Two

According to KITCHEN (1996), when the Second World War broke out, in many people's eyes, the Commonwealth and Empire were more of an obstacle than a source of strength. It is larger than in 1914, but its absolute scale does not match the strength of Britain. The waves were rough, and he failed to maintain a convincing military presence in Europe and the Pacific. The Empire promised to launch a five million war against Britain, but most of it was used to defend the Empire. Without the large-scale and often reluctant help of the United States, this task would never be achieved. In addition, the British make more use of the people to protect the Empire was sent to Europe as an Empire (p.84).

In September 1939, a committee of the British War Cabinet envisioned that the Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa should increase fourteen divisions of the fifty-five-department discipline pressure it was hoping the British Commonwealth might gather for the battle in opposition to Germany and the opposite Axis powers. The South Africans raised expeditionary infantry divisions, one in all which fought

in East Africa and the Western Desert till transformed to an armored department and deployed to Italy in 1943. The different department fought with inside the Western Desert from mid-1941 till its size at Torus in June 1942. The first severe research of the kingdom armies in World War II have been the legit histories, commissioned through the respective governments to report what their infantrymen had completed and accomplished. The works continue to be strong facts of what happened, and, fee and income being much less of a problem for authorities' booklet tasks than they are for unbiased presses, the legit histories are nearly continuously higher illustrated with clean maps and well-selected pics than the histories that followed (Delaney,2021).

10.Criticism of the British Commonwealth

Despite what McBride (2020) claims, the Commonwealth is a consensus-based, intergovernmental organization with a wide range of goals, including economic growth, democracy building, free trade promotion, poverty alleviation, health-care initiatives, and cultural interaction .Editors of Town & Country (2020) mentioned that this organization is frequently criticized on a variety of fronts, the most prominent of which is its colonial origins. Gambia described the Commonwealth as a "neocolonial entity" when it announced its resignation in 2013. It is additionally been cited that the affiliation has little strength in assessment to a few different worldwide alliances, and that it could fail to stay as much as its promises: at times, the Commonwealth has upheld its commitments to key values, punishing international locations for fraudulent elections and human rights abuses, however as Afua Hirsch writes withinside the Guardian, it has not accomplished so in Solomon Islands, Swaziland, the Maldives, and Singapore.

In this respect, Fitch (2018) adds that the most prevalent critique leveled against the Commonwealth is that it is a Neocolonial Anachronism, a throwback to Empire, with Britain reluctant to relinquish control of the network of colonies, dominions, and territories that were

previously part of its realm. When strongmen like Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Abdulla Yameen of the Maldives, and Yahya Jammeh of Gambia withdrew their countries from the Commonwealth, this was undoubtedly their point of view.

Conclusion

To conclude, historically, the Commonwealth became an evolutionary outgrowth of the British Empire. The conventional British coverage of permitting massive self-authorities in its colonies caused the life through the 19th century of numerous based states that have been populated to a sizeable diploma through Europeans conversant in sorts of parliamentary rule and that possessed massive measures of sovereignty. By 1931 they have been diagnosed as having unique reputation in the Empire through the Statute of Westminster, which referred mainly to a “British Commonwealth of Nations.” The fast boom of nationalism in different components of the Empire from the Nineteen Twenties produced an extended collection of presents of independence, starting with that to India in 1947, and required a redefinition of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth became additionally beset through different difficulties, a few contributors opting to withdraw from the corporation, as did Ireland (1949), South Africa (1961), and Pakistan (1972), even though each South Africa and Pakistan sooner or later rejoined (the previous in 1994 and the latter in 1989). Commonwealth club grew dramatically in the 2nd half of the 20th century as former dependencies attained sovereignty. Most of the based states granted independence selected Commonwealth club, and the corporation has even grown to encompass Mozambique (joined 1995), which became the primary united states granted access that became in no way a part of the British Empire or below the manager of any member (Augustyn et al.,2020).

This global organization promotes peace and prosperity on behalf of its member countries. This includes assisting countries with small business development, law, election monitoring, and human rights, with a focus on strengthening the role and rights of women

and young people. Under the Commonwealth umbrella, a huge variety of organizations and networks carry out and support this activity (New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade, n.d.).

Furthermore, although the Commonwealth of Nations is formed to promote peace and liberty all over the world, it was criticized in different aspects. To illustrate, The Commonwealth has been criticized as a post-colonial club, but for its members, it is a voluntary association of independent countries that aims to promote democracy, good governance, human rights and economic development. It was also criticized for not having much influence. In fact, the Commonwealth is not a group in international affairs and has little influence on non-members (BBC New Services,2017).

In brief, it is undeniable that the Commonwealth plays an important role in safeguarding freedom, human rights, cooperation and other aspects of its members around the world. However, the organization was criticized as a new tool of the British Empire and a form of neocolonialism. Because he wants to keep the network of members (which used to be his colony) strong and continuous. In fact, the British created this organization to maintain their domination of empires all over the world.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

General Conclusion

The current part is an attempt to recapitulate the main findings of this research to answer the set questions. To better understand how was the British Empire status before the Two World Wars, the early British expansionism policy all over the world was highlighted. Furthermore, this study introduced the crucial shift in the history of Britain that is marked after the Two World Wars when it was in need to activate the ‘Dominion Status’ giving the right to some colonies to rule themselves with a loyalty to British Crown. After that it started a decolonization policy in most of its territories. Moreover, the study dealt with how those dominions formed an organization named the British Commonwealth or the Commonwealth of Nations that later on had an enormous number of members.

Concerning the Commonwealth of Nations, the study presented a clear background about its establishment, origin, structure, objectives and activities, and its cooperation and liberation for its members. It also mentioned how the first dominions participated in battles for British defense that proved the hypothesis that there is a strong relationship between the British Commonwealth and the British Empire. Also, an attention was given to how the Commonwealth is criticized for being a new form of British Empire that confirmed the suggested hypothesis that the British Commonwealth is a dominance organization and not fully cooperation.

The results of this dissertation demonstrated that despite the fact that Britain cooperated with 54 countries from different parts of the world under the umbrella of the British Commonwealth or the Commonwealth of Nations, it has hidden objectives and purposes behind the establishment of this organization that serve its own affairs. The study revealed that the Commonwealth is an indirect way of British imperialism and colonialism as it keen on to keep strong bonds of the network of the nations within its organization and

that insured the set hypothesis that British Commonwealth played a critical in the renewal of the British Colonial System or the British Empire.

The confronted obstacles in this research are the vast and complicated history of Britain and the lack of sources concerning the neocolonialism of British Commonwealth. The study contribution is the proposed role of the British Commonwealth in the rebirth of the British Empire.

Finally, the present study recommends a future study to conduct a historical study to the British Empire. Also, it recommends questioning the role of the British Commonwealth in the rebirth of the British Empire, from different angles.

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APPENDICES

المخلص

كانت الإمبراطورية البريطانية أكبر إمبراطورية عبر تاريخ العالم. بشكل أو بآخر كان لهذه الإمبراطورية تأثيرا واسعا على التاريخ العالمي. على الرغم مما حققته من انتصارات إلا أنه وفي ظل التغييرات الجيوسياسية التي تسببت فيها الحرب العالمية الثانية، عجزت عن المحافظة على مكانتها وشهدت قدرا من الانهيار النهائي. وبمجرد أن شهدت بريطانيا انهيارها جراء الحرب العالمية الثانية، لجأت الى انتهاج ما يسمى بالسيادة الذاتية أو الحكم الذاتي مع بعض من مستعمراتها التي من ثم أصبحت أولى أعضاء منظمة الكومنويلث البريطاني أو كومنويلث الأمم أو باختصار الكومنويلث. التي انضم إليها فيما بعد 54 دولة من جميع أنحاء العالم. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى مدى مساهمة منظمة الكومنويلث البريطاني في إستمرارية الإمبراطورية البريطانية والحفاظ على شبكة مستعمراتها السابقة بإبقائها متماسكة إلى يومنا هذا. ولمعالجة أهداف هذا البحث بشكل دقيق، تم إجراء دراسة نوعية بدورها تستخدم الأساليب الوصفية والتاريخية التحليلية. كما تكشف الدراسة أن لمنظمة الكومنويلث البريطاني دورا فعالا في نهضة الإمبراطورية البريطانية. وهذا راجع لعدة أسباب، بما في ذلك حرص المنظمة على إبقاء روابط متينة بين أعضائها كما تضمن الحرية وحقوق الانسان والديمقراطية والرعاية الصحية بالإضافة إلى جوانب أخرى عدة. كما توصي الدراسة التي بين أيدينا بإجراء دراسة وصفية مستقبلا لمنظمة الكومنويلث البريطاني ودورها في نهضة الإمبراطورية البريطانية باعتماد زوايا مختلفة للموضوع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الكومنويلث البريطاني، الإمبراطورية البريطانية، تعاونية، إحياء، الحرب العالمية الثانية.

Résumé

L'Empire Britannique était le plus grand empire de l'histoire du globe. Pour le plus haut ou pour le pire, cet Empire a eu un impact considérable sur l'histoire du monde. Bien qu'il soit du côté des vainqueurs, l'Empire ne vivrait pas les changements géopolitiques causés par la Seconde Guerre mondiale et entrerait dans un certain déclin final. Alors que la Grande-Bretagne marquait sa chute une fois la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, elle active un statut de dominion pour quelques-unes de ses colonies qui devinrent plus tard les principaux membres du Commonwealth Britannique ou du Commonwealth des Nations ou du Commonwealth en bref qui seront ensuite rejoints par 54 pays. De partout dans le monde. Cette étude vise à explorer la contribution du Commonwealth Britannique à la continuité de l'Empire Britannique et à maintenir le réseau de ses colonies précédentes puissamment touché jusqu'à nos jours. Pour répondre de manière adéquate aux objectifs de recherche, la thèse actuelle est une étude qualitative qui utilise des méthodes descriptives-analytiques et historiques. Les résultats de l'étude ont révélé que le Commonwealth Britannique a joué un rôle essentiel dans la renaissance de l'Empire Britannique pour diverses raisons, notamment l'engagement de l'organisation à maintenir des liens solides entre ses membres et à leur garantir la liberté, les droits de l'homme, la démocratie, la liberté et la santé. Soins, entre autres. L'étude recommande également une future étude descriptive du Commonwealth Britannique et de son rôle dans la renaissance de l'Empire Britannique sous différents angles.

Mots clés : Commonwealth Britannique, Empire britannique, Coopération, Domination, Renaissance, Seconde Guerre Mondiale.