

TIMELINE OF SELECTED HISTORICAL EVENTS
 IN NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, IRELAND AND BRITAIN and OTHER

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| 43 | Roman invasion of Britain. |
| 49 | Colchester confirmed as Roman capital of Britain. |
| 60–61 | Revolt of Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, suppressed. |
| 122 | Emperor Hadrian starts construction of the Wall in Britain. |
| 140 | Romans move forward to Scottish lowlands: Antonine Wall build 140-143. |
| c130 | London the leading place in Britain. |
| 180 | Romans in Britain pull back to Hadrian's Wall. |
| 321 | Sunday declared a statutory holiday. |
| 367 | Order restored in Britain, after Picts and Scots overwhelm local defences. |
| 391 | Roman Empire changes from an institution that favours Christianity to one that requires it (though the Jews are allowed to follow their faith). |
| c410 | Last Roman legions leave Britain. |
| 432 | Saint Patrick lands in Ireland: founds see of Armagh in 444, introduces Christianity. |
| c460 | Anglo Saxons begin to settle in England. |
| c490 | British check Anglo-Saxon advance at siege of Mount Dadon (site and date uncertain). |
| c523 | St David founds monastery of Mynyw (now St David's Pembrokeshire). |
| c550 | Scots, originally an Irish tribe, establish control over Argyll. |
| 577 | Anglo-Saxon victory at Deorham marks resumption of their advance in England. |
| 597 | St Augustine begins his mission to England. Settles in Canterbury and begins the conversion of the kingdom of Kent to Christianity. |
| 617 | Kingdom of Northumbria founded in north of England and establishes its supremacy over the other six kingdoms of England. |
| 664 | Synod of Whitby: Celtic church loses attempt to maintain separate identity. |
| c650 | Sutton Hoo ship-burial. |
| 685 | Picts defeat Northumbrians. |
| 757–796 | Offa, king of Mercia, becomes overlord of the Anglo-Saxons; builds a defensive dyke to mark the frontier between England and Wales. |
| 795 | First Viking raid on Ireland: the Vikings settle along the coast. |
| 793-4 | First Viking raids from Denmark and Norway: sack Lindisfarne and Jarrow. |
| c790 | Norse discover the Hordaland-Shetlands crossing and explore the British Isles. |

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| 802 | Ecgberht is King of Wessex. |
| 811 | Vikings found Dublin. |
| 825 | Ecgberht of Wessex defeats Mercia. |
| 829 | Ecgberht of Wessex becomes overlord of the Anglo-Saxons after submission of Northumbria. |
| 838 | Norse establish permanent base at Dublin. |
| 844 | Union of Picts and Scots by Kenneth McAlpin. |
| 850 | Viking raids reach a peak as Danes join Norse: raiders establish permanent base at the mouth of the Thames. |
| 865–874 | Danish army conquers north-eastern third of England. |
| 871 | Alfred the Great is king of Wessex. |
| 878 | Danes fail in attempt to conquer Wessex. Treaty of Wedmore divides England between Alfred the Great of Wessex (the south and west) and the 'Danelaw' (the north and east). |
| 886 | London captured and Alfred is recognised as king of all England. |
| 891 | Beginning of the <i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> marks revival of learning in England under Alfred the Great. <i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> is a record of the political, economic, and social events of England that is continually updated until 12th century. |
| 899 | Edward the Elder and his successors as kings of Wessex expel the Danes and regain control of much of England. |
| 917-921 | Edward of Wessex conquers southern half of Danelaw. |
| 937 | Athelstan of Wessex defeats Scots, north Welsh and Norse at Brunanburh, establishing his supremacy over England and Scotland. |
| 980 | Vikings renew assault on England. |
| 1000–1200 | A Polynesian people, the Maori, arrive in New Zealand from eastern Polynesia. |
| 1002 | Sveyn Forkbeard, king of Denmark devastates England: King Aethelred the Unready pays him 24,000 pounds of silver to stop. |
| 1007 | Aethelred pays Sveyn another 'Danegeld', this time of 36,000 pounds of silver. |
| 1012 | Aethelred pays a Danegeld of 48,000 pounds. |
| 1013 | Sveyn Forkbeard becomes king of England. |
| 1014 | Sveyn dies: his son Cnut disputes the succession with Aethelred. Brian Boru leads the Irish to victory over the Norse at Battle of Clontarf. |
| 1016 | Cnut makes good his claims to the English throne. He and his two sons rule a vast Scandinavian kingdom comprising Denmark, Norway, England and much of Sweden. |
| 1018 | Malcolm defeats the Northumbrians, adding Lothian to Scotland. |

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| 1035 | The Danish Empire (England, Denmark, Norway) splits up on Cnut's death. |
| 1040 | Macbeth murders Duncan and takes the throne of Scotland. |
| 1042 | Edward the Confessor, Aethelred's son, succeeds Hardacnut, Cnut's son, on the throne of England. |
| 1052 | Edward the Confessor founds Westminster Abbey. |
| 1057 | Scotland: Macbeth killed by Malcolm Canmore. |
| 1066 | Edward the Confessor dies: throne is taken by Harold, Earl of Wessex, who is immediately challenged, among others, by Duke William of Normandy. William kills Harold at Hastings, winning the crown and the title of Conqueror. William the Conqueror crushes a succession of rebellions; begins building programme in England that includes Tower of London, one of more than a score of castles to ensure his grip on the country. |
| 1070 | William the Conqueror lays waste the north of England: rebellion there collapses. |
| 1085 | Domesday census of England ordered: a record of the population, extent, value, cultivation, ownership, and tenancy of all the land in England. |
| c1130 | Great age of abbey building in England begins. |
| 1135 | Stephen of Blois seizes the throne of England in defiance of the legal rights of the infant Henry of Anjou. Civil war breaks out between Stephen and his cousin, Matilda, for the crown. It is agreed that the throne will eventually pass to Matilda's son Henry. |
| 1153 | Henry Plantagenet inherits the throne of England, becoming Henry II and the most powerful man in Europe. |
| 1169 | Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland begins with capture of Wexford. |
| 1170 | Anglo-Norman baron Richard Strongbow takes Dublin. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered on the orders of Henry II. |
| 1171 | King Henry II of England visits Ireland and receives submission of both Anglo-Normans and Irish chieftains. |
| 1175 | Treaty of Windsor: High King of Ireland recognises the English King as his overlord. |
| 1185 | First certain evidence of a windmill of western type, an illustration of a post-mill in an English manuscript. |
| 1189 | Richard I, 'the Lionheart', ascends the throne and spends almost all his ten-year reign abroad fighting to regain Jerusalem during the crusades. |
| 1190 | Opening of the Third Crusade. |
| 1192 | Richard Lionheart, on his way home from Palestine, held for ransom in Germany. |
| 1199 | John, brother of Richard I, succeeds to the throne. |
| 1201 | Fourth crusade assembles at Venice. |

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| c1200 | Development of trebuchet by addition of a counterweight to the pivoted-beam stone-thrower. |
| 1208 | Pope Innocent III excommunicates King John and lays England under an interdict because John refuses to allow Stephen Langton to take over as Archbishop of Canterbury. |
| 1212 | Children's Crusade: French children offered free passage to the Holy Land end up being sold in the slave markets of North Africa. |
| 1213 | King John submits to Pope Innocent III. |
| 1215 | King John of England forced to concede charter of rights (the 'Magna Carta') to Barons, Clergy and Commoners. Signed at Runnymede, the Magna Carta protects the nobility's rights against the excessive use of royal power in matters of taxation, justice, religion, and foreign policy. It lays down the respective rights and responsibilities of laymen and the church in relation to the power of the crown. |
| c1230 | Cambridge University founded by scholars from Oxford. |
| 1244 | Calibrated spherical stones produced for trebuchets in England ('the cannon ball before the cannon'). |
| 1249 | First college at Oxford (University College). |
| 1264 | Battle of Lewes: English King Henry III captured by Simon de Montfort, leader of rebel baronial faction. First recorded meeting of the Irish parliament. |
| 1265 | Simon de Montfort summons representatives from the boroughs, as well as lords, clergy, and knights to what is considered the first English parliament. Overthrow and death of Simon de Montfort at Battle of Evesham. |
| 1277 | Edward I of England embarks on the conquest of Wales: overcomes Welsh resistance led by Prince Llywelyn II by 1282. |
| 1284 | Edward I ends Welsh independence by the Statute of Rhuddlan: English laws and language introduced to Wales. |
| c1280 | Appearance of first spinning wheel in the West, first device to use a cord drive outside China. |
| 1286 | Roger Bacon describes the magnifying power of lenses: spectacles come into use within the next few years. |
| 1290 | Jews expelled from England, or killed. |
| 1295 | Edward I summons The Model Parliament. |
| 1296 | Edward I annexes Scotland, takes the Scots coronation stone from Scone to London. |
| 1298 | Edward I defeats William Wallace at Falkirk. |
| 1301 | Edward I makes his son Edward the first Prince of Wales. |
| 1305 | English capture and execute William Wallace: Robert Bruce, continuing struggle for Scotland's independence. |

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| 1306 | Robert Bruce crowned king of Scotland. |
| 1307 | Robert Bruce wins Battle of Loudon Hill. |
| 1314 | Robert Bruce defeats Edward II at Bannockburn, confirming independence of Kingdom of Scotland. |
| c1315 | Invention of the verge and pallet escapement, the essential element in the mechanical clock. Clocks subsequently installed in many cathedrals to strike the hours and to show the movements of the heavenly bodies. Development of the first practical guns. |
| 1328 | English recognise Robert Bruce as King of Scotland. |
| 1316 | First documentary evidence for guns. |
| 1327 | Edward III crowned king: a legal and parliamentary reformer. |
| 1337 | Edward III of England asserts his claim to the French crown (via his mother Isabelle, daughter of Philip IV) against that of reigning French King Philip VI (son of Philip IV's brother Charles of Valois) despite French law of 1317 barring inheritance via a female. Start of the Hundred Years War. |
| 1340 | Edward III agrees that new taxation requires parliament's consent: also found Order of the Garter. |
| 1346 | Scots invasion of England ends with capture of Scots king at Neville's Cross. The Black Death Enters Europe: mortality reaches its peak in 1348–9: kills between one-third and one-half of the English population. |
| 1362 | English used for opening speech of Parliament: use of English made mandatory in law courts. |
| 1365 | Hundred Years War renewed. |
| 1375 | Truce in Hundred Years War. All English possessions in France now lost bar Calais, Cherbourg, Brest, Bayonne and Bordeaux. |
| 1381 | Peasants revolt led by Wat Tyler in England: sparked by the imposition of a poll tax in 1380. Can be seen as reaction to the economic changes caused by the Black Death. |
| 1399 | Richard II deposed and murdered by his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke of Lancaster, who ascends the throne as King Henry IV. |
| 1400 | Owen Glendower of Wales leads major revolt in Wales against Henry IV. |
| 1402 | Scots defeated at Homildon Hill by Percys of Northumberland. |
| 1403 | Percys join rebellion against Henry IV who defeats them at Battle of Shrewsbury. |
| 1406 | English capture Prince James of Scotland. |
| 1408 | Final defeat of Percys at Bramham Moor. |
| 1415 | Henry V of England lays claim to the French throne, invades France, wins Battle of Agincourt. |

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| 1417 | Henry V conquers Normandy (except Rouen). |
| 1419 | Anglo-Burgundian alliance: Henry V takes Rouen. |
| 1420 | Henry V recognised as present Regent and future heir to the throne of France by French King Charles VI. |
| 1422 | Henry V and Charles VI both die leaving France divided between Duke of Bedford and Charles VII. |
| 1424 | English release James I of Scotland after an 18-year captivity. |
| 1430 | Joan of Arc, leader of French against England, captured by the Burgundians who sell her to the English: they burn her at the Rouen in 1431. |
| 1453 | End of the Hundred Years War. |
| 1455 | Civil War known as the Wars of the Roses begins in England: Richard Duke of York (heraldic device the white rose of York) challenges King Henry VI (heraldic device the red rose of the House of Lancaster). |
| 1455 | Gutenberg press produces the first book printed in the West. |
| 1460 | Yorkists win Battle of Northampton and capture King Henry VI but later the same year the Duke of York is killed at Wakefield. James II of Scotland killed by the explosion of one of his own cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. |
| 1461 | Edward Duke of York recovers the initiative, wins battles of Mortimer's Cross, St Albans and Taunton: Henry VI flees to Scotland; Edward crowned as Edward IV. |
| 1465 | Henry VI captured by Edward IV and imprisoned in the tower. |
| 1470 | Earl of Warwick defeats Edward IV who flees to Flanders: Henry VI restored to English throne. |
| 1471 | Edward IV returns to England, defeats and kills Warwick at Tewkesbury, sends Henry VI back to the tower where he dies. |
| 1474 | Caxton's press in Bruges prints the first book in English. |
| 1477 | Caxton opens the first printing press in England, in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. |
| 1478 | Ferdinand and Isabella establish Spanish inquisition. |
| 1483 | Edward IV dies: his brother Richard of Gloucester deposes his nephew Edward V and has himself crowned as Richard III; Edward V, confined to the Tower with his brother the Duke of York, is murdered on Richard's orders. |
| 1485 | Lancastrian Henry Tudor defeats and kills Richard III at Bosworth Field, takes crown as Henry VII. |
| 1486 | Henry VII married Elizabeth of York and heals breach between Lancastrian and Yorkish factions. End of the War of the Roses. |
| 1492 | First voyage of Christopher Columbus. |
| 1494 | English laws apply in Ireland under the terms of Poyning's Law. |

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| 1497 | John and Sebastian Cabot sail to North America: they land in Newfoundland and claim it for the English crown. |
| 1505 | First black slaves brought to the New World. Put ashore at Hispaniola. |
| 1509 | Henry VIII is king, ruling at first through Cardinal Wolsey. |
| 1513 | English rout Scots at Flodden; Scots king James IV among the dead. Emperor Maximilian and English king Henry VIII invade France, win the battle of Guineagate ('Battle of the Spurs'). |
| 1517 | Martin Luther nails his 95 theses to the door of the castle church at Wittenberg: repudiates papal supremacy. |
| 1519 | Coffee introduced to Europe from Arabia. |
| 1520 | Luther, declared a heretic, denounces the church and burns the Papal Bull of Condemnation. |
| 1522 | Luther produces his translation of the New Testament. |
| 1531 | Henry VIII forces clergy to recognise him as head of the English Church. |
| 1534 | <i>Act of Supremacy</i> : Henry VIII become Supreme Head of the Church in England. Luther completes his translation of the Bible. |
| 1535 | Henry VIII executes Sir Thomas More. |
| 1536 | Henry VIII begins the dissolution of the monasteries. A political union of England with Wales is forged, giving the Welsh representation in Parliament. |
| 1539 | Henry VIII issues first authorised Bible in English. |
| 1541 | Having broken the power of Ireland's feudal lords, Henry VIII adopts the title of King of Ireland. |
| 1547 | Edward VI becomes king of England—England becomes a Protestant nation with an English Bible and prayer book. |
| 1553-1554 | [Bloody] Queen Mary I attempts to bring England back into the Catholic fold—many Protestants burned at the stake. |
| 1558 | Elizabeth I becomes queen of England—restores a moderate Protestant church. |
| 1559 | Tobacco introduced to Europe. <i>Act of Supremacy</i> —backdated to 1558. Elizabeth declares herself Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Anyone taking public or church office required to swear allegiance to the monarch as Head of Church and State. |
| 1559–1607 | Series of rebellions against the English launched in Ulster and Munster after attempts by Elizabeth I to impose Protestantism. |
| 1560 | Covenanters gain the upper hand in Scotland. |
| 1567 | Mary Queen of Scots forced to abdicate because of her Catholicism and her disorderly private life: her infant son James VI declared King of Scotland. |
| 1568 | Mary Queen of Scots escapes to England where Elizabeth imprisons her. |

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| 1569 | Mercator's Atlas published. |
| 1577 | Francis Drake sets out on his circumnavigation of the world. |
| 1580 | Drake completes his circumnavigation. |
| 1582 | Gregorian reforms of the calendar. |
| 1584 | Potato introduced to Europe. |
| 1586 | Camden <i>Britannia</i> , first topographical survey of England. |
| 1587 | Elizabeth executes Catholic Mary Queen of Scots after three plots to bring her to the English throne are uncovered. |
| 1588 | Defeat of Spanish Armada by English navy. |
| 1590 | Golden Age of Elizabethan literature begins. |
| 1594 | Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, leads Irish rebellion against English rule. |
| 1600 | English East India Company chartered to trade with the East Indies and later India. |
| 1601 | <i>Poor Relief Act</i> : people have to pay a rate to support poor. The impotent poor were to be cared for in an almshouse or poor house; able-bodied set to work in a House of Industry with materials provided; idle poor and vagrants sent to prison or a House of Correction; pauper children became apprentices. |
| 1602 | Tyrone submits to Mountjoy, English Governor of Ireland. |
| 1603 | James VI of Scotland succeeds the childless Elizabeth I, becoming James I of England and uniting the two crowns (though the two countries retain their separate governments, parliaments, churches, and laws). |
| 1605 | Catholics Robert Catesby and Guy Fawkes plot to kill king, lords and commons at the opening of Parliament: place two tons of gunpowder below the House of Lords but are discovered. Subsequent increase of anti-Catholic legislation in England. |
| 1607 | Tea introduced to Europe. English found Jamestown, Virginia. Irish Catholic lords flee to Rome. Scottish Presbyterian settlers move to Ulster, taking lands from Irish Catholics. |
| 1608 | Telescope invented by Hans Lippershey, a lens maker of Middleburg, Zeeland. |
| 1609 | Plantation of Ulster with Scots (about 50,000 over the next ten years). |
| 1611 | Publication of the Authorised version of the English Bible, the King James Bible. |
| 1613 | Globe Theatre burns down during a performance of Henry VIII: rebuilt within a year. |
| 1616 | English King James I dismisses Chief Justice Coke, putting an end to the attempt to limit the power of the king via the courts. |
| 1620 | Pilgrim Fathers land at Plymouth, Massachusetts. |

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| 1625 | Charles I becomes king: a believer in the Divine Right of Kings, he rules without Parliament. |
| 1628 | Parliament obtains Charles I's consent to the Petition of Right by which taxation without Parliament's agreement and arrest without cause are illegal. |
| 1633 | Galileo summonsed by the Inquisition for publishing a dialogue favouring the Copernican theory. |
| 1639 | The 'Wars of the Three Kingdoms' begin in Scotland over religious differences between the king and the Scottish church. Scots 'Covenanters' (uncompromising Protestants) rebel against King Charles I who has been attempting to impose a new prayer book on them. Charles, lacking the support of the English Parliament, has to back down. |
| 1640 | King Charles forced to call Parliament because of Scots invasion. |
| 1641 | Catholic rebellion in Ireland. Resolution of Parliament "requested all males aged over 18 to take an oath in support of the Crown, Parliament and the Protestant religion." |
| 1642 | Civil War between King and Parliament—the king flees London and raises his standard at Nottingham. Dutchman Abel Tasman discovers Tasmania and New Zealand. English theatres closed by order of Parliament. The Globe theatre is pulled down. |
| 1644 | Parliament begins to get the upper hand in the English Civil War when Cromwell beats Prince Rupert at Marston Moor. Tasman explores north and west coasts of Australia. |
| 1645 | Parliament's New Model Army crushes the king's forces at Naseby. |
| 1646 | King Charles flees to the Scots. |
| 1647 | Scots sell Charles to Parliament for £400,000. |
| 1648 | Society of Friends founded by George Fox (term Quaker first used in 1650). |
| 1649 | Charles I executed, England declared a Commonwealth. Cromwell crushes the Irish rebels at Drogheda. |
| 1650 | Charles II lands in Scotland: Cromwell defeats Scots at Dunbar. |
| 1651 | Cromwell defeats Charles II at Worcester; Charles flees to France. |
| 1652 | Act of Settlement displaces Irish Catholics to poor land in Connaught. |
| 1653 | Cromwell emasculates Parliament, becomes Lord Protector of the Commonwealth. |
| 1655 | England seizes Jamaica in the Caribbean from Spain. Jews legally permitted to return to England. |
| 1658 | Oliver Cromwell dies, effectively ending the Commonwealth. |
| 1659 | Richard Cromwell abandons attempt to succeed his father. |

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| 1660 | <p>Charles II is accepted as King of England after promising an amnesty and a policy of religious toleration.</p> <p>Samuel Pepys starts his Diary.</p> <p>London theatres reopen, this time using female actresses.</p> |
| 1661 | <i>Corporation Act</i> —prevents Catholics and Protestant Dissenters holding public office. |
| 1663 | First turnpike road opens in England. |
| 1664 | <i>Conventicle Act</i> —prevents Protestant non-conformist chapels being set up. |
| 1665 | <p><i>Five-Mile Act</i> restricts non-Conformist Ministers in Britain.</p> <p>Great Plague of London (July–October) kills over 60,000.</p> |
| 1666 | Great Fire of London (February 2–9) destroys much of the medieval city. |
| 1667 | Hooke proposes systematic weather reading: the beginnings of meteorology. |
| 1668 | Newton constructs a highly efficient reflecting telescope using mirror. |
| 1669 | James, Duke of York, admits his conversion to Rome. |
| 1670 | Hudson Bay Company formed: gave a monopoly over trade with North American Indian people, especially fur trade. |
| 1672/73 | <i>Test Act</i> passed—prevents Catholics and Protestant Dissenters holding public office. |
| 1672 | <i>Declaration of Indulgence</i> —allowed Protestant non-conformists to apply for licences for meeting houses. |
| 1675 | Year of war in Europe. |
| 1676 | Legal protection is given to observance of sabbath in England. |
| 1677 | William III of the Netherlands marries Mary, daughter of the Duke of York, heir to English throne. |
| 1678 | 'Popish Plot' in England—Titus Oates falsely alleges a Catholic plot against the King and wave of anti-Catholicism follows. |
| 1679 | <p><i>Act of Habeas Corpus</i> passed in England: imprisonment without trial outlawed.</p> <p>Exclusion Crisis in England: Parliament's Bill to prevent the Roman Catholic Duke of York from succeeding his brother as King of England; Charles II dismisses Parliament.</p> |
| 1680 | <p>Charles II rejects petition calling for a new Parliament: the petitioners become known as the Whigs and supporters of the King as Tories.</p> <p>Penny post is established in London.</p> <p>Hunckwitz produces first phosphorus matches.</p> |
| 1681 | <p>Charles II rejects another Exclusion Bill and dissolves Parliament as the Commons withhold supplies.</p> <p>First (oil) lamps are used in London.</p> <p>First cheques are used in England.</p> |

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| 1685 | <p>Revolts in Britain on death of Charles II and accession of his Catholic brother, James II—the Duke of Monmouth’s Rebellion is defeated at Sedgemoor, Monmouth executed and Judge Jeffreys carries out Bloody Assizes.</p> <p>James II tries to restore Catholicism to England: appoints Catholics as army officers despite the <i>Test Act</i> which Parliament refuses to repeal; James prorogues Parliament.</p> <p>Louis XIV revokes the Edict of Nantes (which had guaranteed the Huguenots freedom of worship): Protestant churches are closed and all religions except Roman Catholicism are banned in France and 50,000 Huguenot families leave France.</p> <p>French Huguenots take up silk manufacture in Britain.</p> |
| 1686 | <p>James II claims the power to dispense with Parliamentary laws.</p> <p>James II disregards <i>Test Act</i> and appoints Roman Catholics to public offices.</p> |
| 1687 | <p>James II issues Declaration of Liberty of Conscience to extend toleration to all religions.</p> <p>Huguenots settle at the Cape of Good Hope.</p> |
| 1688 | <p>Bloodless ‘Glorious Revolution’—James II is overthrown. William III of Orange, husband of James’s daughter Mary, invited by English Lords to save England from Roman Catholicism; he accepts the invitation and lands at Torbay to enter London in December. He becomes joint ruler with Mary. James flees to France and a decade of conflict between Kings and Parliament comes to an end.</p> |
| 1689 | <p>Convention Parliament confirms the abdication of James II and issues the <i>Bill of Rights</i>: bars Roman Catholics from the throne, establishes a constitutional monarchy in Britain with Parliamentary consent becoming necessary for the king to levy taxes, suspend laws, or raise a peacetime army.</p> <p>James II lands in Ireland: siege of Londonderry, a Catholic siege of Protestants.</p> <p><i>Act of Toleration</i> allows freedom of worship to Protestants.</p> |
| 1690 | <p>Battle of the Boyne in Ireland at which William III defeats James II.</p> <p>Siege of Londonderry lifted.</p> <p>Calico printing is introduced to England from France.</p> <p>Turnips begin to be cultivated in England.</p> |
| 1691 | <p>Siege of Limerick ends: Treaty of Limerick brings an end to Irish Revolt.</p> <p>John Clayton demonstrates the lighting-power of coal gas.</p> |
| 1692 | <p>Massacre of Glencoe: Campbells slaughter MacDonalds on pretext of disloyalty to William III.</p> <p>Salem witchcraft trials in New England.</p> |
| 1693 | <p>Beginning of the English national debt.</p> <p>East India Company obtains new Charter.</p> <p>Kingston, Jamaica founded.</p> |

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| 1694 | <p>Mary II dies, William rules alone.</p> <p><i>Triennial Act</i> provides for new Parliamentary elections every three years.</p> <p>Founding of Bank of England (with government support).</p> |
| 1695 | <p>Government press censorship in England is abolished.</p> <p>Window tax is introduced in England.</p> |
| 1695/96 | <p><i>Act of Association</i>—requires all those holding public office to take an oath preserving “His Majesty’s royal person and government”.</p> |
| 1696 | <p>Suspension of Habeas Corpus in England, new act regulates treason trials and improves the conditions for the accused.</p> <p>Board of Trade and Plantations is set up in England.</p> |
| 1697 | <p>Spitalfields Riots: these are against the imports of India silks.</p> <p><i>The Marriage Act</i>—discouraged interfaith marriages. All interfaith marriages would be considered legally Catholic. The married couple would have to live under the tough Catholic laws.</p> |
| 1698 | <p>Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge is established in London to promote literary and scriptural knowledge in children.</p> <p>Thomas Savery invents the first steam pump.</p> |
| 1700 | <p>Rapid and growing expansion of trade between Europe and its settlements.</p> <p>Earliest accurate metalworking lathes in use.</p> |
| 1701 | <p><i>Act of Settlement</i> confirms Mary’s sister Anne as heir to the throne, to be followed by the descendants of the Protestant electress Sophia of Hanover, a granddaughter of James I.</p> <p>Jethro Tull, agricultural reformer, invents horse-drawn drill to plant seeds in rows.</p> <p>Royal charters are granted to the weavers of Axminster and Wilton for making carpets.</p> |
| 1704 | <p>In Ireland, Catholics are deprived of the right to acquire property.</p> |
| 1706 | <p>The English inventor, Henry Mill, constructs carriage springs.</p> |
| 1707 | <p><i>Act of Union</i> unites England and Scotland as Great Britain—the largest free trade area in Europe. Scotland retains its separate legal system and Presbyterian church, but the Scottish parliament is abolished.</p> |
| 1709 | <p>Bad harvests in Europe: bread riots in Britain, famine in France.</p> |
| 1710 | <p>English South Sea Company is established.</p> |
| 1711 | <p>English inventor, Thomas Newcomen, constructs a successful steam engine for pumping water out of mines, which remains in use for the next 60 years (until Watt).</p> <p>Beginning of coffee production in the Dutch East Indies.</p> |
| 1712 | <p>Last execution for witchcraft takes place in England.</p> |
| 1714 | <p>George I assumes the throne.</p> <p><i>The Schism Act</i> prevents Dissenters from being schoolmasters in England.</p> |

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| 1715 | <p>First Jacobite uprising in Scotland: Jacobites defeated at Sheriffmuir and Preston.</p> <p>First Liverpool Docks built.</p> |
| 1718 | First bank notes are issued in England. |
| 1720 | Failure of the South Sea Company in England - the South Sea Bubble - causes financial panic: government assumes control of the national debt. |
| 1721 | Robert Walpole becomes the first Lord of the Treasury (regarded as the first prime minister). |
| 1724 | Rapid growth of gin drinking in England: consumption grows from half a million gallons in 1700 to 5 million in 1735. |
| 1727 | <p>George II becomes king.</p> <p>First annual act is passed by the British Parliament to remove the disabilities of Protestant Dissenters.</p> |
| 1728 | <p>In Ireland, Catholics deprived of the right to vote.</p> <p>Jews first permitted to own land.</p> |
| 1730 | <p>Lord Townshend in Norfolk introduce system of four crop rotation, improved land by better drainage and manure, began the use of turnips for winter feed for cattle (nicknames 'Turnip Townsend') and was a leader in the 'Agrarian Revolution'.</p> <p>John and Charles Wesley found the Methodist Sect at Oxford—Methodism had special appeal for the poorer classes.</p> |
| 1731 | English factory workers are not allowed to emigrate to America. |
| 1733 | John Kay invents his Flying Shuttle which revolutionises the weaving industry: cloth can now be produced more quickly and in greater widths. |
| 1739–41 | Potato crop failure leads to famine: perhaps 300,000 Irish people die. |
| 1741 | Wrought iron is used in bridge construction for the first time. |
| 1742 | Yarns from East India are now imported to Lancashire for the manufacture of finer goods. |
| 1745 | <p>Robert Bakewell of Leicester begins his breeding experiments to improve sheep strains.</p> <p>'The Forty-Five': the second Jacobite rebellion led by Charles Edward Stuart, 'the Young Pretender' is at first successful.</p> |
| 1746 | <p>Plant for producing sulphuric acid is opened at Birmingham by Roebuck to be followed by a second plant in Scotland in 1749. This is important as sulphuric acid is used in dyeing process amongst other things.</p> <p>Battle of Culloden: the defeat of the Jacobite forces; 'the Young Pretender' flees to France; the Scottish Highlands are brutally subjugated by 'Butcher' Cumberland.</p> |
| 1748 | The first machines for carding wool which use a revolving cylinder are created by Lewis Paul. |

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| 1750 | Dramatic increase in Britain's trade with Africa begins based upon the shipment of slaves from West Africa to the Americas at the rate of 50,000 a year. |
| 1752 | Britain adopts the Gregorian Calendar: eleven days between September 2 and 14 were omitted leading to riots with the cry 'Give us back our eleven days.' Benjamin Franklin invents a lightning conductor: he demonstrates the identity of lightning and electricity. |
| 1753 | Naturalisation of Jews is permitted in Britain. Hardwicke's <i>Marriage Act</i> . The Act tightened the existing ecclesiastical rules regarding marriage, providing that for a marriage to be valid it had to be performed in an Anglican church and after the publication of banns or the obtaining of a licence. Jews and Quakers were exempted. |
| 1754 | Henry Cort invents iron-rolling process: sets up a mill at Fareham. |
| 1755 | Samuel Johnson's 'Dictionary of the English Language'. |
| 1757 | Sankey Navigation (Lancashire): the first modern British canal is constructed. |
| 1759 | Capture of Quebec by General Wolfe ensures Canada will become British colony not French. |
| 1760 | George II becomes king. Beginning of intense <i>Enclosure Acts</i> in England is to change the face of rural England over the next 30 years. |
| 1760 onwards | Increasing industrial inventions mean the Industrial Revolution may be said to have begun. |
| 1760–1785 | British cotton production increases tenfold. |
| 1761 | Influenza epidemic spreads across Europe. |
| 1763 | Victory in the 'Seven Years War' against France brings British control of Canada and America, and ends French power in India. |
| 1764 | James Hargreaves invents the spinning jenny. |
| 1765 | James Watt improves on Newcomen's pumping engine with a separate condenser. East India Company gains control of Bengal and Bihar and steadily expands its power up the Ganges river valley. |
| 1768 | Hargreaves improves his spinning jenny and an inexpensive, hand-operated machine is produced. Captain James Cook sets off on his first voyage to the Antipodes. |
| 1769 | Arkwright's water frame: the first mechanical spinning of cotton warp. The domestic system of cotton spinning in England begins to disappear following the invention. Captain James Cook makes the first of three visits to New Zealand. |
| 1770 | Cook discovers Botany Bay. European smallpox epidemic. |

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| 1773 | <p>Parliament regulates the wages of the Spitalfields silk trade.</p> <p>Samuel Crompton designs spinning mule for warp and weft producing the finest yarn ever woven.</p> <p>The Boston 'Tea Party'.</p> |
| 1774 | Export of cotton making machinery from Britain is prohibited. |
| 1775 | <p>Arkwright's carding patent.</p> <p>American War of Independence to 1781. Britain loses most of its North American colonies.</p> |
| 1776 | <p>James Watt and Matthew Boulton produce first steam engines designed by Watt.</p> <p>American Declaration of Independence ratified.</p> |
| 1778 | <p>Thomas Coke of Norfolk embarks upon his agricultural experiments which play a key part in the agrarian revolution.</p> <p>Irish MP Henry Grattan secures the removal of most anti-Catholic land laws.</p> |
| 1779 | World's first iron bridge built in Shropshire. |
| 1782 | <p>Bread riots in England.</p> <p>Legislative independence for the Irish parliament.</p> |
| 1784 | <i>India Act</i> establishes a governing board of the East India Company, with government representatives; despite this, successive governors general occupy hostile territories or form protectorates to prevent disruption to the company's lucrative trade. |
| 1785 | <p>Use of steam power is introduced in the cotton industry.</p> <p>Cartwright patents his power-loom.</p> |
| 1786 | Pitt carries out financial reforms, reduces imports. |
| 1788 | Colonisation of Australia begins: the transportation of the first convicts: eleven ships from Britain land their passengers, which include more than 700 convicts, at Port Jackson (now Sydney) and a penal colony is established in New South Wales. |
| 1789 | First steam-driven cotton factory is established in Manchester. |
| 1790 | <p>Beginnings of the new multi-story factory blocks in towns: they are bigger than the country mills.</p> <p>Free settlers begin arriving in Australia.</p> |
| 1791 | <p>Wilberforce's motion for the abolition of the slave trade is passed through Parliament.</p> <p><i>Catholic Relief Act</i>—Catholic chapels could be legally established.</p> |
| 1792 | <p>Gas light invented.</p> <p>The last year in which Britain exports surplus wheat.</p> <p>France becomes a Republic: the King is put on trial.</p> <p>Final anti-Catholic restrictions on education and the right to vote are removed.</p> |

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| 1793–1815 | Britain goes to war with revolutionary and Napoleonic France. Renewal of enclosures in Britain: 2,000 <i>Enclosure Acts</i> from 1793–1815 |
| 1793 | <i>Seditious Publications Act</i> in Britain limits freedom of the press. Execution of Louis XVI. |
| 1795 | First European settlements in New Zealand. Speenhamland System to provide poor relief is adopted in England. Ulster Protestants set up the Loyal Orange Institution (the Orange Order) to defend land and other rights against Catholics. |
| 1796 | Edward Jenner introduces immunisation against smallpox. |
| 1797 | Financial crisis in Britain: Bank of England suspends payments. |
| 1798 | Ceylon is seized from the Dutch and becomes a British crown colony. First weaving mill starts in Bradford. United Irishmen rebellion against British rule, led by Wolfe Tone, is crushed. |
| 1799 | Pitt introduces income tax as a wartime measure. Tennant and Mackintosh invent bleaching powder for bleaching cloth. |
| 1800 | Major growth of non-Anglican religions in Britain: non-conformists and Methodists. |
| 1801 | Britain holds its first census: 8 towns have more than 50,000 and there are 600,000 domestic servants. Grand Union Canal opened in England. Surrey iron railway: horse-drawn trucks carry coal and farm produce. Act of Union formally unites Great Britain and Ireland as the United Kingdom. |
| 1803 | Poaching made a capital offence if capture is resisted. Thomas Telford the engineer begins constructing road in Scotland. First settlement in Van Diemen's Land (later Tasmania): a penal colony. |
| 1804 | Hobart is established in Tasmania. Richard Trevithick builds the first successful steam locomotive. |
| 1805 | Battle of Trafalgar. London Docks are opened. First factory to be lit by gaslight – in Manchester. |
| 1806 | Gas lighting of cotton mills becomes general. British cotton industry employs 90,000 factory workers and 184,000 hand loom weavers. |
| 1807 | Slave Trade (but not slavery) abolished throughout the British Empire. Gas lighting is used for London streets. |
| 1808 | Beginning of Luddite troubles in Britain: fear of new machines in factories. |

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| 1810 | <p>Engineer John McAdam begins road construction in England and gives his name to the process of road metalling he introduced.</p> <p>Durand discovers how to preserve food in cans.</p> |
| 1811 | Agrarian distress and rioting in Britain: Luddite riots. |
| 1812 | English famine. |
| 1814 | Britain gains the Cape Colony in southern Africa from the Dutch. |
| 1815 | <p>Battle of Waterloo.</p> <p><i>Corn Law</i> in Britain controls imports of cheap foreign corn so as to protect English farmers.</p> <p>Agrarian distress and rioting in England.</p> <p>Humphrey Davy develops safety lamp for miners.</p> |
| 1816 | <p>The rise in wheat prices increases social distress in Britain: Spa Field Riots and agrarian riots in East Anglia.</p> <p>Large scale emigration to North America.</p> <p>Trans-Atlantic packet service begins.</p> |
| 1817 | March of the Manchester Blanketeers: continuing distress and unrest in Britain; Derby and Huddersfield Risings; the suspension of Habeas Corpus. |
| 1818 | <p>The vast east Indian state of Rajputana becomes a British protectorate.</p> <p>Manchester cotton spinners' strike.</p> <p>First iron passenger ship on the Clyde.</p> <p><i>Savannah</i>, first steamship to cross the Atlantic.</p> |
| 1819 | <p>British <i>Factory Act</i> for children in cotton industry: no employment for under 9's; 12 hour day for under 16's; it proves largely ineffective.</p> <p>Peterloo Massacre: soldiers fire on political meeting in Manchester killing 11 and wounding 400.</p> <p>Singapore founded by Sir Stamford Raffles as Britain expands its empire in Malaya.</p> |
| 1820 | <p>British emigrants to South Africa establish Port Elizabeth.</p> <p>George IV becomes king.</p> |
| 1823 | Sir Robert Peel as Britain's Home Secretary begins penal reforms: the death penalty is abolished for over 100 crimes. |
| 1825 | <p>New Zealand Colonisation Company is established.</p> <p>Stockton–Darlington Railway line (43km) opens, first passenger railway built by Stephenson.</p> <p>Trade Unions are partly legalised.</p> <p>Colony of Van Diemen's Land founded.</p> |
| 1826 | <p>Telford's Menai Bridge completed.</p> <p>First railway tunnel built on the Liverpool–Manchester line.</p> |
| 1826–1886 | Burma progressively conquered by Britain. |

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| 1828 | Repeal of the <i>Test and Corporation Acts</i> in Britain allows Nonconformists to hold public office. |
| 1829 | Creation of Metropolitan Police in London, nicknamed 'Bobbies' after the Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel the creator. Stephenson's 'Rocket' wins Rainham Trials. <i>Catholic Relief Act</i> passed allowing Catholics to hold a seat in Parliament after Daniel O'Connell is elected to parliament in 1828 but is unable to take his seat because he is a Catholic. <i>Colony of Western Australia founded.</i> |
| 1830 | Liverpool to Manchester railway is opened. Cholera epidemic spreads across Europe from Russia to Britain. William IV becomes king. |
| 1831 | Mysore becomes a British protectorate. |
| 1832 | Great <i>Reform Bill</i> becomes law in Britain confers voting rights on middle-class men and redistributes seats on a fairer basis: the beginnings of the modern electoral system. |
| 1833 | 10 Hour campaign in Britain. <i>Factory Act</i> forbids employment of children under nine in factories. <i>Education Grant Act</i> : the first state grant to voluntary education in Britain. Britain abolishes slavery in her Empire. Jews first permitted to become barristers. |
| 1834 | <i>Poor Law Act</i> in Britain: workhouse system established. Tolpuddle Martyrs: six Dorset labourers are transported (to <i>Australia</i>) for attempt to set up a trade union. Babbage designs his analytical engine, forerunner of the modern computer. |
| 1835 | First railway boom occurs in Britain: construction of Great Western Railway. Gas begins to be used for cooking. Jews first permitted to vote in England. |
| 1836 | Act is passed in Britain for the registration of births, marriages and deaths. Chartist Movement is launched in Britain: demands votes for all adult males. <i>Colony of South Australia is founded.</i> |
| 1837 | Industrial poverty in Britain: 10,000 weavers unemployed for three months. Victoria becomes queen. |
| 1838 | Chartists in Britain publish <i>People's Charter</i> demanding popular involvement in politics: huge demonstrations (100,000 Glasgow, 200,000 Birmingham, 300,000 West Yorkshire). Regular Atlantic steamship service is inaugurated. |
| 1839 | Cunard Steamship Co established. Boers found independent republic of Natal. |

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| 1840 | <p>Treaty of Waitangi: New Zealand becomes British Crown Colony.</p> <p>Penny Post begins, the first flat-rate postal service in the world. "Penny Black" stamp issued.</p> <p>Transportation of convicts to New South Wales is ended.</p> |
| 1841 | <p><i>Chimney Sweeps Act</i> in Britain makes it illegal for anyone under 21 years old to sweep chimneys: largely ignored.</p> |
| 1842 | <p>Depression and poverty in industrial Britain: 60% of Bolton cotton mill workers and 36% of Bolton ironworkers are out of work.</p> <p>Second Chartist Petition is presented to Parliament: Chartist riots.</p> <p>British <i>Mines Act</i> forbids underground employment for women and girls and sets up inspectorate to supervise boy labour.</p> <p>Income Tax reintroduced to Britain.</p> <p>Sir John Lawes implements the use of artificial fertiliser.</p> <p>Maori War against settlers for breach of Treaty of Waitangi.</p> <p>China cedes Hong Kong to Britain after the First Opium War;</p> |
| 1843 | <p>Natal becomes a British protectorate.</p> <p>Sind is conquered.</p> <p>First public telegraph line from Paddington to Slough.</p> |
| 1844 | <p>British <i>Factory Act</i>: a 12 hour day and no night work for women; safety provisions laid down for textile industry.</p> <p>There are 3598 km of railway line in Britain.</p> |
| 1845 | <p>Maori rising against the British in New Zealand: Grey appointed first governor.</p> <p>The Hungry '40s: poor corn harvests and soaring prices are followed by potato harvest failure throughout Europe: famine in Ireland.</p> <p>Between 1845 and 1860 about 2½ million Irish emigrate.</p> |
| 1846 | <p>Kashmir becomes a British protectorate.</p> <p>Potato famine reaches its height in Ireland: over one million die and over one million emigrate by 1851.</p> <p>Repeal of <i>Corn Laws</i>: a significant victory for the free-trade lobby over landed protectionists.</p> <p>Sewing Machine patented by Elias Howe.</p> <p>Jews first permitted to obtain military commissions.</p> |
| 1846–49 | <p>Punjab is conquered.</p> |
| 1847 | <p>European crop failure – corn and potatoes – produces an agricultural crisis; typhus and cholera epidemics.</p> <p>Collapse of railway boom and mass unemployment.</p> |
| 1848 | <p>First <i>Public Health Act</i> in Britain established the Board of Health.</p> <p>Third Chartist Petition: mass arrests and failure of movement.</p> <p>Year of Revolutions in Europe.</p> |

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| 1849 | A dramatic rise takes place in European emigration at a rate of 200,000 to 300,000 a year; 13 million between 1841 and 1880. |
| 1850 | Britain beaming heavily urbanised: London population is 2.3 million; nine cities have more that 100,000 and 18 more 50,000. Beginnings of petrol refining. British Parliament passes the <i>Australian Colonies Government Act</i> which allows colonies to set up legislatures and fix franchises. |
| 1851 | New Model Unionism starts. Singer produces first practical sewing machine in USA. Colony of Victoria is founded. Gold is discovered at Bathurst, New South Wales and Ballarat, Victoria. The ensuing gold rush attracts thousands. |
| 1852 | Tasmania ceases to be convict settlement. The British parliament passes a <i>Constitution Act</i> which creates a House of Representatives and Legislative Council for New Zealand. |
| 1853 | Vaccination against smallpox made compulsory in Britain. Transportation for the UK to Tasmania is ended. Transportation is temporarily introduced to Western Australia to provide labour. |
| 1854 | Crimean War starts. |
| 1855 | Fourth major outbreak of cholera in London. Florence Nightingale introduces hygiene into military hospitals in Crimea. New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania gain self-government. |
| 1856 | <i>County and Borough Police Act</i> makes constabulary compulsory in United Kingdom. Oudh conquered. Crimean War ends. |
| 1856–57 | Mutiny against British rule in India. |
| 1857 | End of transportation of convicts to Australia. |
| 1858 | Irish Republican Brotherhood (Fenians) formed to fight for an independent Irish republic. |
| 1859 | Peaceful picketing during a strike is legalised in Britain. Colony of Queensland is founded. |
| 1860 | Britain gains more territory from China after the Second Opium War. In New Zealand, the Taranaki War begins when British troops try to remove Maori people from land allegedly bought by the Crown. |

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| 1863 | <p>First underground (steam) train in London.</p> <p>In New Zealand a war between the Maori people and British troops breaks out over land in the Waikato. The colonial government eventually confiscates the land.</p> |
| 1860–1870 | Second Maori War in New Zealand. |
| 1861–1865 | American Civil War. |
| 1867 | <p>Trade unions are declared illegal in Britain.</p> <p>Transportation of convicts to West Australia (the last place to which they were sent) ceases.</p> <p>Typewriter invented.</p> <p>Nobel produces dynamite.</p> <p>Lister uses carbolic antiseptic.</p> <p><i>Reform Act</i> widens enfranchise.</p> <p>Canada becomes first dominion or independent state in the British Empire.</p> <p>Four Maori seats are established in the New Zealand House of Representatives.</p> |
| 1869 | <p>Suez Canal opens.</p> <p>Britain abolishes imprisonment for debt.</p> <p>Irish [Anglican] church disestablished.</p> |
| 1870 | <p>First legislation in Britain to introduce compulsory free education.</p> <p>Water closets come into wide use.</p> <p>First <i>Land Reform Act</i> begins to tackle issues of absentee landlords, lack of tenant security, and unfair rents.</p> |
| 1871 | <p><i>Bank Holiday Act</i> passed: allows four paid holidays per year.</p> <p><i>Trade Union Act</i> secures legal status for unions in Britain but <i>Criminal Law Amendment Act</i> makes picketing illegal.</p> <p>Abolition of the practice of purchasing commissions in British armed forces.</p> <p>Jew first allowed to enter Oxford and Cambridge Universities.</p> |
| 1872 | <i>Ballot Act</i> introduces the secret ballot in British elections. |
| 1873 | Beginning of world depression as wheat prices fall. In Britain, bankruptcies, unemployment, halt in public works, trade slump until 1897. |
| 1875 | <p>Britain passes legislation to permit peaceful picketing by trade unions.</p> <p>Britain purchases majority share in Suez Canal.</p> |
| 1876 | <p>Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone.</p> <p>'Plimsoll Line' established.</p> |
| 1877 | <p>Beginning of modern steel age.</p> <p>Edison patents phonograph.</p> |
| 1878 | Britain gains control of Cyprus from Ottoman Empire. |

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| 1879 | Edison produces successful incandescent electric light. |
| 1880 | 10,000 Irish evictions. |
| 1882 | Britain establishes a protectorate over Egypt to protect its interest in the Suez Canal. Irish MPs in London form Irish Parliamentary Party to fight for home rule. |
| 1883 | General acceptance of Greenwich Mean Time establishing time zones throughout the world. |
| 1884 | <i>Reform Act</i> allows people in counties voting qualifications on same basis as those in towns. |
| 1885 | European emigration reaches 780,000 a year. |
| 1886 | <i>Irish Home Rule Bill</i> , granting Ireland its own parliament, is defeated in UK parliament. |
| 1886 | New Zealand Police introduce photography of prisoners. |
| 1890 | First electric underground trains in London. |
| 1891 | All elementary education in England is to be free. The first Australian Federal Convention meets. Delegates draw up a draft constitution to federate the states. |
| 1893 | Women given franchise in New Zealand. Second <i>Irish Home Rule Bill</i> defeated in UK parliament. |
| 1894 | Opening of Manchester Ship Canal. New Zealand government passes legislation providing for industrial arbitration, better factory conditions, and old-age pensions. |
| 1899 | Anglo–Boer War starts in South Africa. |
| 1900 | School leaving age in Britain raised to 14. |
| 1901 | The Australian Commonwealth is formed: self-governing Dominion. A parliament is created, consisting of a House of Representatives and a Senate. The British monarch is head of state and appoints a Governor-General. The Australian <i>Immigration Restriction Act</i> limits non-European immigration, beginning the 'White Australia Policy'. Marconi sends wireless signals from Cornwall to Newfoundland. |
| 1902 | Anglo-Boer War ends. |
| 1903 | Wright Brothers make their first flight in a heavier-than-air machine. Ford Motor Company set up. Women's Social and Political Union in Britain by Emmeline Pankhurst to demand votes for women. |
| 1905 | <i>Aliens Act</i> in Britain: Home Office control of immigration. Sinn Féin founded. |

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| 1906 | <p>First radio program of voice and music broadcast in USA.</p> <p>Reformist Liberal Government introduces old-age pensions and national insurance.</p> |
| 1907 | <p>New Zealand becomes a self-governing Dominion although remaining subordinate to the UK parliament.</p> |
| 1909 | <p>First commercial manufacture of bakelite signals commencement of plastic age.</p> <p>First old age pensions paid in UK.</p> |
| 1910 | <p>South Africa becomes an independent Dominion within the British Empire.</p> |
| 1911 | <p><i>Parliament Act</i> reduces the power of the House of Lords to delay legislation. Maximum duration of parliament is reduced from seven to five years. MPs are paid for the first time.</p> <p><i>National Insurance Act</i>: some workers allowed unemployment benefit; sickness benefit paid.</p> <p>Canberra founded as new federal capital city.</p> |
| 1912 | <p>Royal Flying Corps founded in Britain.</p> <p><i>Home Rule Bill</i>: unionists and nationalists set up armed militia.</p> |
| 1914 | <p>Outbreak of World War I. Britain declares war on Germany after German troops march through Belgium, supposedly violating Belgium's neutrality.</p> <p>Battle of Ypres (Oct–Nov)</p> <p>Panama Canal opened.</p> |
| 1915 | <p>Gallipoli Campaign to 1916.</p> |
| 1916 | <p>Battle of Somme: tanks used in battle for the first time.</p> <p>Military conscription introduced.</p> <p>Easter Rising in Dublin by the Irish Republican Brotherhood soon crushed. The British execute the leaders, increasing support for the Republican cause.</p> |
| 1917 | <p>Battle of Passchendaele.</p> <p>Mustard gas comes into use.</p> |
| 1918 | <p>11 November: Armistice Day. End of WW1: 750,000 dead and many more seriously injured.</p> <p>Worldwide influenza epidemic.</p> <p>Women aged 30 and over can now vote in Britain.</p> <p>Sinn Féin wins landslide in general election: its MPs do not take up their seats but set up independent Dáil Eireann in Dublin and declare Irish independence.</p> |
| 1919 | <p>First woman takes her seat in British parliament.</p> <p>Britain gains Iraq, Palestine, Tanganyika, Cameroon, and Togoland as League of Nations mandates.</p> <p>British Empire now at its greatest territorial extent.</p> |
| 1920–21 | <p>Anglo-Irish War between IRA and British army.</p> |

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| 1921 | Anglo-Irish Treaty: Ireland partitioned between the six-county province of Northern Ireland. |
| 1922 | Britain grants Egypt limited independence. Irish Free State set up. Six northern counties remain in UK. |
| 1926 | General Strike in Britain in support of the miners fails. |
| 1928 | Universal suffrage: British women achieve voting equality with men; able to vote at 21. |
| 1929 | World stock market crash causes widespread unemployment: start of the Great Depression. |
| 1931 | <i>Statute of Westminster</i> grants the six self-governing dominions independence from the United Kingdom. |
| 1932 | British mandate over Iraq ends. |
| 1936 | British occupation of Egypt ends. Edward VIII becomes king but abdicates. George VI becomes king. |
| 1937 | Ireland gains full sovereignty as Eire. |
| 1938 | United Kingdom Prime Minister Chamberlain meets Hitler. Chamberlain believes appeasement will avert the threat of war with Germany. |
| 1939 | Hitler invades Poland: Britain declares war on Germany. Start of World War II. |
| 1945 | World War II ends with victory at the cost of 330,000 British lives and massive damage to the economy and to British towns and cities. |
| 1947 | Independence of Indian subcontinent begins the dismemberment of the British Empire. New Zealand gains full independence when it adopts the 1931 <i>Statute of Westminster</i> . |
| 1948 | Burma and Ceylon gain independence. Britain ends its mandate over Palestine. |
| 1949 | Eire becomes Republic of Ireland and leaves the British Commonwealth. |
| 1952 | Elizabeth II becomes queen. |

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