



Dr Asmi Shaheen

According to the New Syllabus of CSS

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Some Words from the Author

England has the most variable and multidimensional history which incorporated different events and remarkable personalities in a great combination. The themes of integration and diversity are crucial to understand British history. History is not made only by monarchs, but the contribution of the political party the opposition leaders and even the common man twisted the history that not only inspired the reader but also paved a path for the future scenarios. Throughout its history, the British Empire was an astonishingly diverse dominion, 'a rag-bag of territorial bits and pieces', created and governed in a correspondingly disorganized and unsystematic way.

The era which is covered in this book is from 1650 onwards. Between 1689 and 1815, in the face of formidable rivals and despite the loss of America, England grew from a second-rank nation on the periphery of the Continent into a great power whose wealth, stability and liberty were the envy of Europe. Seventeenth century was one of the most turbulent centuries and also one of the most important in terms of developing the concept of the Britain. It finally put the stamp on the dominance of Protestantism and also established English dominance in the British Isles. All this was accompanied by a rise in power and importance of Parliament

Major development of the Nineteenth Century was the industrial revolution. The importance of Political parties however rose over this period. In the middle of it all a new Queen Victoria, came to the throne. She would be the longest serving monarch in British history and would oversee the high point of British power. During the 64 years of Victoria's rule Britain was transformed into the World's greatest industrial and military power, and its urban landscape changed forever.

By the early Twentieth century the British Empire was larger than ever - "The Empire on which the Sun never sets". Victorian Age witnessed a glorious era of victories and progress due to her marvellous sensibility and the cooperation of the most remarkable prime minister and foreign secretary's wisdom and farsightedness.

Britain entered the war as one of the most dominant countries in the world. Its Status was retained four years later but the war was deeply affected the cultural and political life of the bloodied and bruised country.

During the Second World War British defiance of the Nazi threats through its own resistance and outside help to some represent a high point in British History through the ages. There can be a little doubt that the country endured terrible deprivation during the war and the post war years because of its stand against Hitler's regime. By the end of the Second World War Britain was an exhausted Nation.

The arrival of a Euro currency in 1999, and ever closening political ties ensured that Europe will remain a major political issue into the new century. The last years of the twentieth century have been a time of drastically changing fortune of the British monarchy. The confusion over the role it should take in the new millennium has been marked. After the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997, there have been criticism that the monarchy has now lost its mystique and with that much of its prestige and standing in British political Life.

In today's Britain reforms is on its way for the House of Lords, devolution in Scotland and Wales has begun, local government is being totally overhauled. Consensus politics is back in fashion, with high ranking members of the liberal Democratic Party appointed to cabinet committees.

In the end, nothing succeeds like success. And success, above all success in war, was what the men who governed Great Britain were able to hold out as a legitimization of their rule to the millions below them. The assembling of this book allows the leader to follow all of the themes through the centuries. Britain History is rich and fascinating, complex and important. This book helps to make sense of it all. With luck this book will build in you an enthusiasm that why and how the nation created the most remarkable and glorious histories.

My goal in writing this book was to generate an accessible and relatively complete introduction to the students of British history. A concise yet analytical study of the life of the Kings & Queens and all the respected and glorious events. Even today's England in one book. Here it is very necessary to mention that I have made use of books of many authors on the subject and I want to express immensurable debt of gratitude to them. My thanks are due to Mr. Imtiaz Shahid, the guide, for the various supports and help I received from him in the preparation of the manuscripts of the book.

If the book will meet the requirements of those for whom it is meant, I shall deem my labour more than rewarded. We will appreciate the suggestion and questionable statements to avoid the errors, so that the more improvement of the matter can be made.

Dr. Asmi Shaheen

This book is dedicated

То

the dreams of my father,

То

the most beautiful woman on earth; my mother "Amme",

То

my dearest sisters, Fozia & Shazia,

То

my family, friends and some very special people

Who helped me realize my dreams with the inspirations and magic of love

Thanks for believing in me

Dr. Asmi Shaheen