

GCSE HISTORY – Migrants to Britain – 20th Century, 1900-present day

Overview: 20 th century, 1900-1999		Dates	1939-1945
20 th century	1900-1999	Germans welcome?	At first any German people were interned in camps , like WW1. This was only for a short period in 1940 .
Religion	England is less religious. Before 1950, most people are still Protestant . After 1950, Britain becomes a very multicultural society.	Treatment of Germans compared to WW1	German migrants in Britain faced much less hatred during WW2 when compared to WW1.
Multicultural	A place that has many different cultures living within it.	Polish migration to Britain	After the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, many Poles came to Britain .
British Empire	British Empire was at its most powerful at the start of the 20th century . It controlled 20% of the world's population .	Post-war Britain	
The Aliens Act		Polish Resettlement Act, 1947	This law stated that Poles could return to England , or stay.
When?	1905	Polish workers after the war	Many Poles worked as coal miners after the war due to a shortage of male workers.
Impact?	The Aliens Act limited the number of migrants coming to Britain. This was a direct response to the large number of migrants that arrived at the end of the 19th century .	Government support for Poles	The British Government gave support to Poles in finding jobs .
WW1		Postwar Britain needed rebuilding	After WW2 , Britain needed workers from all over the empire to help rebuild Britain.
Dates	1914-1918	Nationality Act, 1948	Nationality Act of 1948 allowed people to settle in Britain from all over the empire .
Belgian Refugees	At the start of WW1, 250,000 Belgian refugees arrived to Britain after they were invaded by Germany .	Empire Windrush	The first ship bringing migrants from the Empire .
Belgians welcome?	At the start of WW1 , Belgian refugees were welcomed into Britain . Over time they became resented .	Response to black migrants?	Very negative. Racism and hostility . Not the same for white migrants.
Germans welcome?	Any German people in Britain upon the outbreak of war were sent to an internment camp on the Isle of Man called Knockaloe . During the war some German migrants' shops and businesses were attacked .	Commonwealth examples:	- West Indies - Jamaica - India
Lascars	During WW1 many Lascars took the jobs of the British men who had gone to war.	The Commonwealth	The group of nations that were formerly part of the British Empire .
Reaction to the Lascars	Reaction to the Lascars was very hostile that they had taken the 'women' and 'jobs' .	1960s and 1970s	
1919 Lascar Riot	After WW1 there was a riot against the Lascars . The police recommended that they be sent back to their country of origin.	Increasing hostility	In the 1960s there was increasing racism and hostility to non-white migrants .
1930s		Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1962	This ended the automatic right of people from the Commonwealth to live and work in Britain .
More Jews arrive after 1933	After Hitler came to power in Germany , some Jewish migrants started arriving in Britain.	Race Relations Act, 1968	It made it illegal to refuse housing or employment on the grounds of race, colour or religion .
Kindertransport	The British Government lifted restrictions so that Jewish children could flee to Britain .	Economic depression in the 1970s	In the 1970s there was an increase in racist attacks .
Charities supported Jews	Charities and private individuals paid for Jews to have food and shelter in Britain. The British Government would not pay for them.	WW2	
Impact?	Big cultural impact . Many Jews were artists, musicians, writers and journalists.		
Financial burden	After 1933 , Jews had to prove that they would not be a financial burden and could pay for themselves before being allowed into Britain.		

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Commission for Racial Equality, 1976	This was set up by the British Government in 1976 to work for better racial equality in Britain.
Groups that opposed immigration to the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Front - British National Party
Groups that supported multiculturalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-Nazi League - Unite against Fascism

European Migrants

Joining the EEC	In 1973 , Britain joined the European Economic Community (EEC) , which is now known as the European Union (EU) .
Right to free movement	As a member of the EEC (later EU) , you have the right to move freely between any country to settle and work in the EEC/EU .
Early 2000s	In the early 2000s , there was a large influx of migrants from Eastern Europe .
Polish migrants in 2004	300,000 Polish migrants came to Britain after joining the EU in 2004 .

Asylum Seekers

Asylum seeker	This is a person who is fleeing violence or persecution in their homeland .
Less appealing	In the 1990s , Britain passed laws to make seeking asylum in Britain less appealing .
Leave to remain	An asylum seeker can be given leave to remain , which means that they can stay in Britain for 5 years .