

Shine Brighter 2^{de}

File 21 Paths to freedom

Video p. 171 – Extrait du documentaire “Analysis: what is the Commonwealth?”, *Euronews*, 2018.

Male voice-over: The Commonwealth is one of the world’s oldest political associations. It’s made up of fifty-three states across six continents previously ruled by the British Empire in the 19th and 20th centuries. It has a total population of 2.4 billion people and includes countries like Canada, Australia, Nigeria, India and much of the Caribbean. Three nations, Cameroon, Mozambique and Rwanda, even join, despite having never been in the British Empire.

Membership is voluntary and based on a shared commitment to values including liberty, human rights, trade and good governance. The Commonwealth Games, a sort of “mini Olympics”, also take place every four years.

Vidéo p. 173 – Extrait du documentaire “The end of the British Empire”, *Imperial War Museums*, 2020.

Voice-over: So what we think of as the collapse of the British Empire took place more or less around the middle decades of the 20th century and we normally mark this from the end of the Second World War in 1945 up until let's say the mid to late 60s, although there were in fact decolonisation moments happening after that. Now from 1945 to that period sort of mid-late 60s, what you saw was the formal political legal independence of countries in Asia and Africa, particularly South Asia beginning with India and going through Africa starting with Ghana in 1957 and moving on through from there.

So why did Empire collapse? There are many competing explanations but we can group these broadly into thinking about what's happening inside Britain and what's happening outside Britain. Inside Britain, of course at the end of the Second World War the country was pretty devastated in a material sense and people were keen to focus efforts and energies on rebuilding the country. There was more a sense that the national economy needed to be rebuilt and so the imperial trading arrangements the preferences that had gone before began to become less important. The other idea that circulates about the end of Empire within Britain was the sense that the time was changing, that the period of its imperial rule was coming to an end, and it chose to withdraw from those colonies.

Vidéo p. 175 – Extrait du documentaire “1930: Gandhi begins the Salt March”, *HistoryPod*, 2022.

Voice-over: On 12 March 1930, Mohandas Gandhi began the 240 miles (390 km) Salt March to the coastal village of Dandi. The Salt March took place just two months after the Indian National Congress promulgated the Declaration of the Independence of India, which supported the idea of civil disobedience to achieve complete self-rule. Gandhi chose to focus his protest on the 1882 Salt Act which placed a government monopoly on the collection and manufacture of salt. Gandhi claimed that, “next to air and water, salt is perhaps the greatest necessity of life”. He wrote to the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, ahead of his protest in an attempt to negotiate but the Viceroy refused to meet him.

Gandhi and seventy-nine supporters departed his base on 12 March, and by the end of the twenty-four day march had built a procession that reportedly stretched for two miles. He intended to produce salt from seawater to avoid paying tax and thus undermine Britain’s salt monopoly. After he broke the Salt Laws by picking up a piece of natural salt at Dandi on 6 April, millions of people around the country did the same. Meanwhile, international media coverage of the march brought the issue of Indian independence to a worldwide audience.

The British authorities responded by arresting 60,000 people by the end of April. Gandhi himself was jailed on 5 May. Despite this reaction, Gandhi called off the civil disobedience campaign in January 1931. This led to him attending the Round Table Conference in London, where he began to discuss India’s demands for independence as an equal negotiating partner.

Audio p. 175 – Extrait du reportage “1930: Mau Mau rebels, heroes of Kenya’s independence, still seeking recognition”, *France 24 English*, 2023.

Voice-over: It was on December the 12th 1963, sixty years ago that Kenya gained its independence after sixty-eight years of British rule. The end of the colonial period seeing Prince Philip, husband of course to Queen Elizabeth, in Nairobi for the ceremony and to hear new prime minister Jomo Kenyatta urge a continuation of what he called the “special relationship” that the country had had with Great Britain. Of course, in reality, British rule in Kenya had been far from easy.

Throughout the 1950s, amid numerous disputes, the Kenyan land and Freeman Army better known as the Mau began a violent campaign against white settlers. Attacks were vicious often at night using basic weaponry like machetes. The British hit back imposing a state of emergency, numerous atrocities committed by both sides. Officially 11,000 Mau rebels were killed in the violence, unofficially well figures are much higher. The Kenya Human Rights Commission says 90,000 Kenyans died, just thirty-two white settlers were killed.

Vidéo p. 177 – Reportage du reportage “Jamhuri Day Special: Jomo Kenyatta Speeches Highlights”, *Citizen TV Kenya*, 2014.

Journalist: First of June 1963, Jomo Kenyatta became the first Prime Minister of self-governing Kenya. At midnight, on December the 12th 1963, at Uhuru Stadium, amid world leaders and multitudes of people, a new nation was born. And a year later, on the 12th of December 1964, Kenya became a republic with Kenyatta as its first president. During his tenure, Kenya enjoyed political stability and economic progress. It was in 1974 that he declared free primary education up to primary grade four.

Jomo Kenyatta: My leadership has not been to darkness and death, but to light and prosperity.

Auto-évaluation de la compréhension de l'oral

Audio p. 184 – Extrait du documentaire “The British Empire: From Global Power to Decolonisation”, *Another History*, 2024.

Voice-over: World War II, 1939-1945 marked the beginning of the end for the British Empire. The war left Britain economically weakened and the country struggled to maintain control over its global territories.

After the war, nationalist movements in colonies like India and African nations gained momentum driven by calls for independence and self-determination in 1947.

India achieved independence marking a key turning point in the dissolution of the British Empire. Over the next two decades, Britain granted independence to most of its colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

By the 1960s, the empire had largely been dismantled, replaced by a group of former colonies that formed the common Commonwealth of Nations, a loose association of countries that maintain cultural and historical ties with Britain but are politically independent.

The British Empire's legacy is both far-reaching and complex. It left a lasting impact on global politics, economics, and culture with the English language becoming the dominant global language and British legal, educational, and political systems adopted in many any former colonies.

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'oral – Guide pédagogique

Audio – Extrait du discours du président Ruto à l'occasion du Madaraka Day a Homa Bay, *Citizen TV Kenya*, 2025.

President Ruto: It has been sixty-two eventful years since we took this historic step towards full independence through our hard work, determination and self-belief. We have defied odds, surmounted challenges, triumphed over adversity and emerged as a modern democratic state whose government and economy are energised by the restless ambition of confident citizens.

Our forefathers knew as we do that we the people are the foundation, the pillars and the engine of this nation and that only we can do the work of building the Kenya we want.

More critically, we understand keenly that this country is our home and we have no other. This is why wherever they go all over the world, Kenyans never forget their homeland and vigorously contribute to nation building. We are acutely aware that although we have given a decent account of ourselves since the first Madaraka Day, we are quite far from where we ought to have reached. It is time for us to reflect on the state of our collective self-belief as a people because without it we lose all the opportunities that come with Madaraka.