A brief history of Britain

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Schedule of topics:

Week 1

Roman and Anglo-Saxon Britain
Fabled Island
Claudian invasion
Saxon settlements
The Vikings

Roman Britain was marked by constant, alternating phases of social upheaval and readjustment, long before the final retreat of the Romans. The dynastic turbulence and the dramatic growth of urban life in the Anglo-Saxon period persisted, until the final violent end at Hastings.

Week 2

The Middle Ages

An oppressed majority
Magna Carta
The Hundred Years
The triumph of English

The early Middle Ages was a saga of conquest punctuated by frequent defeats on French and British soil, with an exploding society under strains by the late thirteenth century. In the later Middle Ages, long wars in France were followed by aristocratic turmoil, accompanied by domestic recovery from plague and social revolt.

Week 3

The Tudors and the Stuarts

Henry VIII
Leviathan

Did you know? Your registration in the LinR program allows you to borrow materials from Carleton University’s MacOdrum Library. To receive a temporary borrowing card, visit the circulation desk and identify yourself as a participant of LinR.
Lord Protector

Paradise Lost

The Tudor Age was marked by extreme pressure of population upon economic resources, by religious conflict, and the threat of foreign invasion. The house of Stuart inherited a century in which two civil wars, regicide, a republic, a restoration, and a revolution, followed each other in bewildering, breathless profusion.

Week 4

The Long Eighteenth Century

Union of England and Scotland

Surrender at Yorktown

Union with Ireland

Waterloo

The apparent surface stability, prosperity, and cultural expansiveness of the Georgian age gave way to an explosive tumult of industry, trade, and technology unprecedented in the history of the world. Then, the new revolutionary impulses surged in from the American colonies and from republican France.

Week 5

The Long Nineteenth Century

Reform

Free trade

An urban nation

The Victorian Age

Britain did indeed manage to avoid the revolutionary malaria raging through other European states. But the nineteenth century brought massive dislocations in the social fabric and the notion of the legal community, and a seemingly unbridgeable class division described by Marx.

Week 6

Modern Britain

The Imperial mystique

Playing Greece to America’s Rome
God Save the Queen

There’s no future?

The years since 1914 saw two worlds, pulverizing economic pressures in the thirties and the seventies, and a forcible wrenching of Britain out of its place in the sun and in Europe. Can the idea of Britain deal with globalization, immigration and nationalism to renew itself for another thousand years?

**Recommended readings for continued learning:**


D. Wallace (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature* (Cambridge, 1999)


**Other interesting resources:**

The British High Commission Ottawa  https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-high-commission-ottawa

The Royal Family  https://www.royal.uk/

BBC  https://www.bbc.com/

The Times  https://www.thetimes.co.uk/

The British Library  https://www.bl.uk/

The National Archives  http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/