



Universität des Saarlandes
Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft sowie
Übersetzen und Dolmetschen

Roman Britain

Robert Spence

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Physical advantages of
Britain and Ireland

Pre-Roman Britain

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Preview: Christianity in
Britain

Unit 3

Roman Britain

The history of Britain up to 450 A.D.

Introduction to Culture Studies (UK & Ireland)

11 May 2017 (N.S.) / 28 April 2017 (O.S.)

A.D. IV KAL. MAI. MMDCCLXX A.V.C.

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Figure: Way beyond Britain and way before Roman times: Sí an Bhrú (Newgrange). at Brú na Bóinne in County Meath, Ireland – constructed 3000–2500 B.C. (Source: shira /Wikipedia / CC2.5)

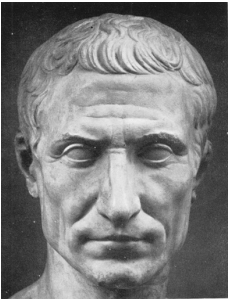


Figure: Gaius Julius Caesar, the leader of two military expeditions to Britain (55 and 54 BC). (Source: Wikipedia)



Figure: A bronze head of the Emperor Claudius, thought to have been removed from a statue at Camulodunum (Colchester) by British rebels during Queen Boudicca's [Boadicea's] revolt (AD 60). (Source: Wikipedia)



Figure: Queen Boadicea by Thomas Thornycroft (1814-1885). Bronze. 1902. Westminster Bridge, London. (Photograph © 1999 by George P. Landow. [This photograph may be used without prior permission for any scholarly or educational purpose.]

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- the north of England: narrow, with mountains in the middle and fast-flowing streams (... under what conditions could this be an advantage?)

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- bronze age → iron age: typical development, but later than in the middle east

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- later: tribes had kings (or often queens) and capitals (towns), even coins

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Pre-Roman Britain (3): Population

(Difficulty of correlating what we know about three separate things:
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 - ... and this was about to have interesting historical consequences.

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- after Caesar's expeditions, there continued to be economic and cultural contact (e.g. the title “Rex Brittonum”—in Latin!—on a British coin)

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- Hibernia (Ireland) is not part of Britain and was never part of the Roman Empire; sometimes the Romans called it Scotia, because the Scots originally lived there.

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- 5 Scottish highlands: twice invaded, never subdued.

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Figure: Roman Britain 410 A.D.

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A shockingly brief interlude: Roman music

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- Roman civilization lasted for a thousand years ...
- and left us precisely:

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- Roman civilization lasted for a thousand years ...
- and left us precisely:
- 15 seconds of music

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A shockingly brief interlude: Roman music

- Roman civilization lasted for a thousand years ...
- and left us precisely:
- 15 seconds of music
- and even *that* is now of doubtful authenticity (!)

A shockingly brief interlude: Roman music

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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4enIpgfUrk>

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- between 447 and 597 we have no reports from travellers going to Britain: the Dark Ages, i.e. the coming of the English.

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 - (read Malinowski on the difference between magic and religion)

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- C1: Christianity as underground movement
- C4: Christianity becomes official Roman religion
- C5: Anglo-Saxon Paganism
- C7: Roman Catholicism
- C16: Protestantism ('established' church)

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- 1st century A.D.: first Christians in Britain → beginnings of Celtic Christianity (with own local saints and traditions)

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