



Universität des Saarlandes
Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft sowie
Übersetzen und Dolmetschen

Imperial Britain

Robert Spence

CS

Preview

Some Case Studies

Unit 9

Imperial Britain

“Land of Hope and Glory” (?)

Introduction to Culture Studies (UK & Ireland)

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Figure: Queen Victoria (reigned 1837–1901). On the representation of women in art, see: John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, 1972, episode 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1GI8mNU5Sg>

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- Evolution of Productive Forces
- Evolution of Relations of Production
- Evolution of State Institutions
- Evolution of Ideology

2 Some Case Studies

- Productive Forces: The Great Exhibition (Q3)
- Relations of Production: A famous quotation
- State Institutions: Two-party system (Q2, Q5)
- Ideology: A paragraph by Strachey (Q1)
- Ideology: Three paragraphs by Darwin (Q4)

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Figure: The British Empire

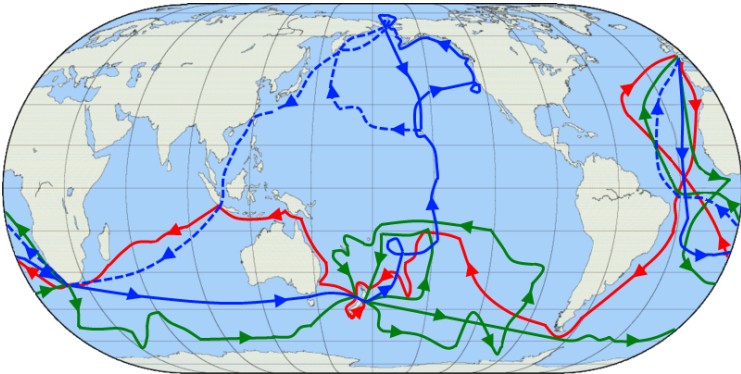


Figure: James Cook's three voyages



Figure: Reconstruction of the Endeavour

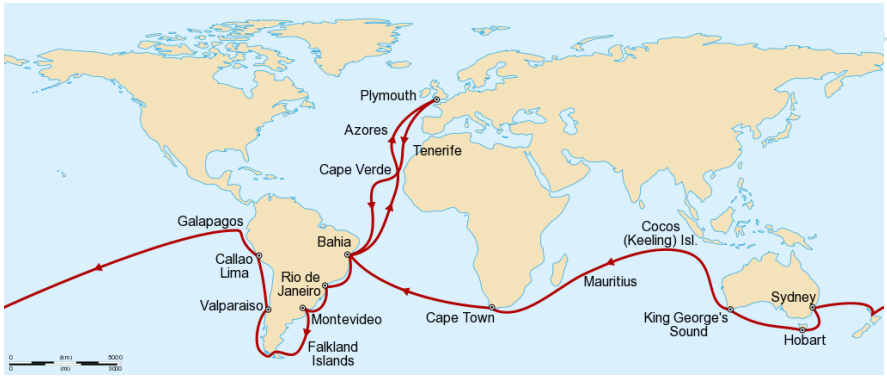


Figure: The Voyage of the Beagle

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- Triumph of industrial capitalism (mechanized mass production) by 1830

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- Triumph of industrial capitalism (mechanized mass production) by 1830
- 1830–1850 development of railways and of new generations of industrial plant (which British factory-owners could scarcely afford)

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- 1830–1850 development of railways and of new generations of industrial plant (which British factory-owners could scarcely afford)
- Great Exhibition of 1851

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**Evolution of Relations of
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- All previous class distinctions replaced by a single opposition:

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- All previous class distinctions replaced by a single opposition:
- Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat

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- All previous class distinctions replaced by a single opposition:
- Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat
- See the column “The People” in your chronological table.

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- All previous class distinctions replaced by a single opposition:
- Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat
- See the column “The People” in your chronological table.
- The novels of Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy provide insight into the conditions under which people struggled to survive in nineteenth-century England.

- Parliament gradually catching up with the effects of the industrial revolution: Factory Acts, Reform Bill (1832)

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- Parliament gradually catching up with the effects of the industrial revolution: Factory Acts, Reform Bill (1832)
- Petitions by the Chartists (check dates!) seeking even more democratic reforms

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- Britain's "unwritten Constitution" (here: role of Prime Minister vis-à-vis the Crown) continued to be influenced in its development by the interplay of "wisdom and chance" (see Lytton Strachey's biography of Queen Victoria).

- Arts:
- Sciences:
- Philosophy:

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- Arts:
 - Romanticism in literature, art, music – a backward-looking or a forward-looking movement?
- Sciences:

- Philosophy:

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 - Romanticism in literature, art, music – a backward-looking or a forward-looking movement?
- Sciences:
 - Towards a unified theory of energy
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 - Adam Smith, Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill
 - Towards a materialist theory of history (Marx)

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Figure: Queen Victoria opening the Great Exhibition (1851) in the Crystal Palace

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- The world's first "expo" (1 May–11 Oct 1851)
- State-initiated, privately funded
- A pet project of the Prince Consort, Albert
- Housed in the world's first steel-and-glass building, the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park.

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Figure: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: Manifesto of the Communist Party (21 Feb 1848)

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- “The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. (...)”

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- “The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones.”

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- “The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones.”
- “Our epoch, the epoch of the bourgeoisie, possesses, however, this distinct feature: it has simplified class antagonisms. Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other — Bourgeoisie and Proletariat.”

State Institutions: Two-party system (Q2, Q5)

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- Whigs (“Schottische Landeier!”) (Liberals) vs. Tories (“Irische Schurken!”)(Conservatives)

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- History (17th and 18th century)
- At time of Potato Famine (1845–49 in Ireland; 1 million deaths): Peel (Cons.) broke then repealed the Corn Laws to provide aid; Russell (Lib.) trusted market forces and let people starve

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- Latter 19th century: Disraeli (Cons., novelist who persuaded Victoria to be “Empress of India”) vs. Gladstone (Lib. reformer with a social conscience)

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- Latter 19th century: Disraeli (Cons., novelist who persuaded Victoria to be “Empress of India”) vs. Gladstone (Lib. reformer with a social conscience)
- It’s the latter 19th century situation in Britain that contextualizes current American usage of the term “liberal” (‘big government spending’)

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- Lytton Strachey's famous biography of Victoria contains an equally famous paragraph, about the English Constitution

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- Theme (method of development); Focus of New (main point), in relation to lexis: wisdom/chance, growth, government.

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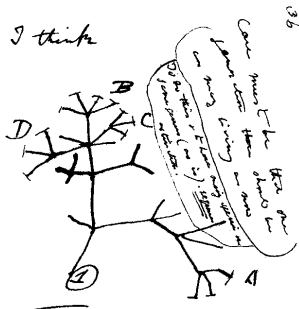
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Then between A & B. various
size of union. C & B. The
first gradation, B & D
rather greater distinction
Then forms would be
formed. - binary union

Figure: Der Augenblick der Erkenntnis — Darwin's "B" Notebook (begun mid-July 1837), page 36

Ideology: Three paragraphs by Darwin (Q4)

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- See Scene 1 of Episode 9 of Bronowski’s “The Ascent of Man”

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- Darwin published “On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection” on 24.11.1859 after Alfred Russel Wallace had independently formulated the same idea.

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- See Scene 1 of Episode 9 of Bronowski’s “The Ascent of Man”
- Darwin published “On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection” on 24.11.1859 after Alfred Russel Wallace had independently formulated the same idea.
- Darwin died 19.4.1882, was buried in Westminster Abbey. (Why?)