

# The Great Glorious Britain

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<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92662398885>

**Is Great Britain really great? If you think "it isn't", then this work is for you since it attempts to convince you that you're wrong. If you think "it is", then still this work could be for you since you may learn something glorious about this great land that you know not already.**

## Contents

1. Some major reasons why Great Britain is truly great & glorious
2. A list of some of the well known British people and their achievements
3. Some Quotations about Great Britain
4. Some common misconceptions about Great Britain

**Some of the following are major reasons why Great Britain is truly great & glorious.**

Britain has played a major role in virtually every area of modern civilisation, be it arts, sciences, sports, law, politics, music, languages...

Britain was at the centre of the Industrial Revolution.

The modernisation that exists in India, the United States, Australia, Canada, is largely a result of the British Empire.

The British Empire, at its height, was the largest empire in history, and was the foremost global power for over a century. At the peak of its power, it was often said that "the sun never sets on the British Empire" because its span across the globe ensured that the sun was always shining on at least one of its numerous territories.

The English language has become the "lingua franca" in many parts of the world. It is the language of science, internet and, in a sense, the most commonly spoken language, combining native and non-native speakers.

Major sports, such as cricket, football, tennis, and/or their modern versions or codes originated in Britain.

A parliament is usually based on the Westminster system, a democratic parliamentary system of government, which was modelled after the politics of the United Kingdom.

The world's largest banking group – HSBC – is British, as of 2009.

The world's largest broadcaster is the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The Royal Society, a learned society for science, is considered by most to be the oldest such society still in existence.

The Royal Air Force (RAF), the UK's air force, is the oldest independent air force in the world.

The United Kingdom has had a large impact on modern cinema and has one of the most respected film industries in the world. The British film industry has produced some of the greatest actors, directors and motion pictures of all time including Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean, Laurence Olivier and Anthony Hopkins.

The University of Cambridge has produced 83 Nobel Laureates to date, more than any other university in the world.

Oxford University Press (OUP), a department of the University of Oxford in England, is the largest university press in the world, being larger than all the American university presses combined.

Cambridge University Press (CUP) is the world's oldest continually operating book publisher.

Encyclopædia Britannica, which is the world's oldest continuously-published encyclopaedia and the one widely regarded as the most scholarly of encyclopaedias, is published by Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., a company founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Eton College, located in Eton, near Windsor in England, has been described as the most famous public school in the world.

Cadbury plc, headquartered in London, UK, is the world's largest confectionery manufacturer.

Vodafone, the British mobile network operator, is the largest mobile telecommunications network company in the world by turnover.

The Wimbledon Tennis Championships is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and is considered the most prestigious.

London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom, is the world's foremost global city alongside New York City and the largest financial centre alongside New York City and Tokyo.

The public transport network, administered by Transport for London, is the most extensive in the world.

The London Underground is the first underground railway system in the world.

London Heathrow Airport is the world's busiest airport by international passenger traffic and the airspace is the busiest of any city in the world.

The London Zoo is the world's oldest scientific zoo.

The London Eye is the world's tallest cantilevered observation wheel.

The largest Hindu temple outside India is The Shri Swaminarayan Temple in Neasden, London.

The planned 2012 Olympics will make London the first city to have hosted the modern Games of three Olympiads.

London was named by New York Magazine as the capital of the world for the 21st century.

## **A list of some well known British people and their achievements**

**Charles Babbage** – The originator of the concept of a programmable computer

**Alan Turing** – The father of modern computer science

**Tim Berners-Lee** – The inventor of the World Wide Web

**Isaac Newton** – The father of the theory of gravitation, the laws of motion, and the inventor of the reflector telescope

**Charles Darwin** – The father of the theory of evolution by natural selection

**William Shakespeare** – The greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist

**William Wordsworth** – A major English romantic poet

**James Watt** – The mechanical engineer whose improvements to the steam engine were fundamental to the changes brought by the Industrial Revolution.

**James Clerk Maxwell** – The developer of the classical electromagnetic theory

**J. J. Thomson** – The discoverer of the electron and of isotopes, and the inventor of the mass spectrometer

**Adam Sedgwick** – A founder of modern geology

**Francis Crick & James D. Watson** – The discoverers of the structure of the DNA molecule

**John Dalton** – Pioneer in the development of modern atomic theory

**Michael Faraday** – The inventor of electromagnetic rotary devices which formed the foundation of electric motor technology; it was largely due to his efforts that electricity became viable for use in technology

**William Herschel** – The discoverer of Uranus

**Robert Hooke** – The father of microscopy

**Edward Jenner** – The father of Immunology

**Alfred North Whitehead** – A co-author of the epochal Principia Mathematica

**Alexander Graham Bell** – The inventor of the first practical telephone

**Francis Bacon** – The developer of the modern scientific method

**David Hume** – A key figure in the history of western philosophy

**John Locke** – Famous philosopher & one of the most influential Enlightenment thinkers

**Henry Cavendish** – The discoverer of hydrogen

**Richard Trevithick & Andrew Vivian** – The developers of the steam locomotive

**George Stephenson** – The civil engineer and mechanical engineer, known as the "Father of Railways", who built the first public railway line in the world to use steam locomotives

**John Logie Baird** – The inventor of the world's first working television system

**Frank Whittle** – The inventor of the Jet Engine

**Alexander Fleming** – The discoverer of penicillin

**Christopher Cockerell** – The inventor of the Hovercraft

**Joseph Swan** – The inventor of the incandescent light bulb

**Archibald Low** – The father of radio guidance systems

**Joseph Bramah** – The inventor of the hydraulic press

**John Harington** – The inventor of the Flush toilet

**Hubert Cecil Booth** – The inventor of the vacuum cleaner

**Alexander Bain** – The inventor of the fax machine

**James Braid** – The father of modern hypnotism

**Dugald Clerk** – The designer of the first two-stroke engine

**John Shepherd-Barron** – The inventor of the Automatic Teller Machine

**Robert Watson-Watt** – The inventor of radar

**Robert Brown** – The discoverer of Brownian motion

**James Starley** – The father of the Bicycle Industry

**Rowland Hill** – The inventor of the modern postal service

**Bertrand Russell** – The influential logician, mathematician, and philosopher

**Stephen Hawking** – The famous theoretical physicist

**Roger Penrose** – The famous mathematical physicist

**George Bernard Shaw** – The famous playwright

**J. K. Rowling** – The creator of the Harry Potter fantasy series

**Charles Dickens** – The most popular English novelist of the Victorian era

**Arthur Conan Doyle** – The creator of the famous fictional character Sherlock Holmes

**John Maynard Keynes** – The economist whose ideas have been a central influence on modern economics, both in theory and practice

**George E. P. Box** – A most influential statistician of the 20th century and a pioneer in the areas of quality control, time series analysis, design of experiments and Bayesian inference

**Stamford Raffles** – The father of modern Singapore

**Jeremy Bentham** – The developer of utilitarianism and the originator of the concept of the Panopticon

**Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson** – The first formulators of the Politeness theory

**Bands -**

**The Beatles** – One of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed bands in the history of popular music, selling over one billion records internationally.

And if you happen to be one of those who think that Britain is nothing but a land of materialism and became great by robbing other nations, think again!

- A source is "Wikipedia"

## Some Quotations about Great Britain

"I am constantly filled with admiration at this – at the way you can wander through a town like Oxford and in the space of a few hundred yards pass the home of Christopher Wren, the buildings where Halley found his comet and Boyle his first law, the track where Roger Banister ran the first sub-four minute mile, the meadow where Lewis Carroll strolled; or how you can stand on Snow's Hill at Windsor and see, in a single sweep, Windsor Castle, the playing fields of Eton, the churchyard where Gray wrote his 'Elegy,' the site The Merry Wives of Windsor was first performed. Can there anywhere on earth be, in such a modest span, a landscape more packed with centuries of busy, productive attainment?"  
- **Bill Bryson**

"This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle  
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,  
This other Eden, demi-paradise,  
This fortress built by Nature for herself  
Against infection and the hand of war,  
This happy breed of men, this little world,  
This precious stone set in the silver sea,  
Which serves it in the office of a wall  
Or as a moat defensive to a house,  
Against the envy of less happier lands,—  
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England."  
- **William Shakespeare, Richard II (1595) Act 2, Scene 1**

"An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one."  
- **George Mikes**

"I have seen much to hate here, much to forgive. But in a world where England is finished and dead, I do not wish to live."  
- **Alice Duer Miller**

"England expects every man will do his duty."  
- **Horatio Nelson**

"By seeing London, I have seen as much of life as the world can show."  
- **Samuel Johnson**

"When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford."  
- **Samuel Johnson**

“London goes beyond any boundary or convention. It contains every wish or word ever spoken, every action or gesture ever made, every harsh or noble statement ever expressed. It is illimitable. It is Infinite London.”

- **Peter Ackroyd**

“With respect, Mr. Gandhi, without British administration, this country would be reduced to chaos.”

- **Kinnoch**

When Britain first, at heaven's command,  
Arose from out of the azure main,  
This was the charter of the land,  
And guardian angels sung this strain:  
“Rule, Britannia, rule the waves;  
Britons never will be slaves.”

- **James Thomson**

## **Some common misconceptions about Great Britain**

1. Britain has no culture.
2. The British are arrogant.
3. Britain is nothing but a land of materialism and became great by robbing other nations.
4. Britain has no future without the United States.