



Is there a future for an event that some feel is a relic of Empire?

In April 2022, the Australian state of Victoria was awarded hosting rights for the 2026 edition, when over 70 nations were expected to participate. But just over a year later, it backed out. Organizers have not found it easy to find a replacement. Even if the next games go ahead, there are doubts as to whether it can survive into the second half of the century.

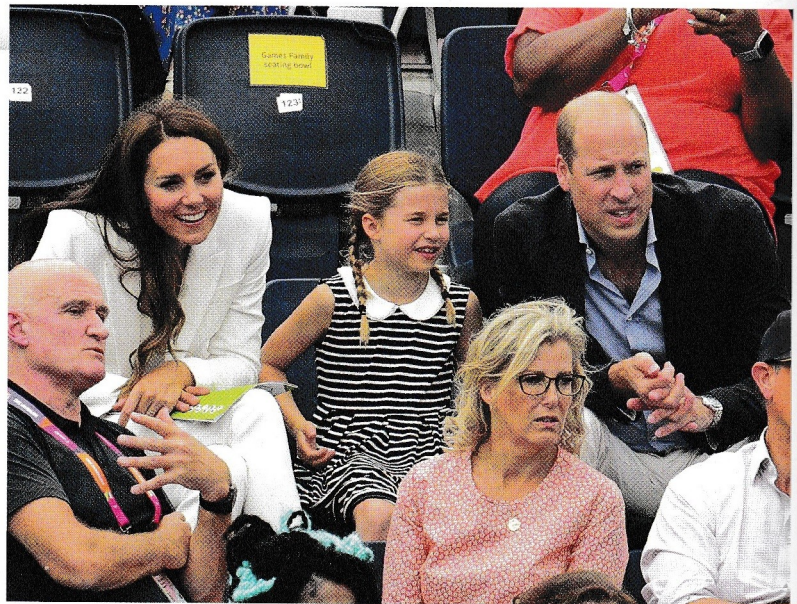
- 10 The Commonwealth Games, a quadrennial multi-sport event featuring nations that were formerly part of the British Empire, is in trouble. [...]

“One of the Commonwealth Games’ biggest problems is identifying and emphasizing why it exists and what its role is,” said Simon Chadwick, Professor of Sport and Geopolitical Economy. “In a post-colonial world, the event seems like an anachronism and out of kilter¹ with the strong sense of national self-identity and pride that many Commonwealth countries now have.”

While many nations of the Commonwealth still have strong links with the United Kingdom, Chadwick sees a need for change. “It carries with it associations with colonialism, oppression, and enslavement,” he said, adding that it needs rebranding and repackaging if there is to be any survival. [...]

Even that may not be enough. “I can’t see a future,” said Wong, former sports editor. “What are the Games but a celebration or reminder of a time of British colonialism? It’s become a sporting relic and increasingly irrelevant competitively, and I won’t be surprised if they cease to exist by 2040.”

John Duerden, *dw.com*, 2024



▲ Members of the British royal family attend the Commonwealth Games, 2022.

1. en décalage

METHODS to help you understand the text :

Before you read :

- Introduce the document (what type ? When was it written ? Who wrote it?)

First reading :

- Read the document and use different colours to highlight words and expressions referring to :
people - places - dates main topic

2nd reading :

- Give a title to each paragraph to show you have understood the main ideas

3rd reading :

- Are there different points of view on the topic ? (which ones?)
- what is the goal of the document ?
- what is the tone ?

Now, use what you have understood and the method to write an account.