

The Evolution of the World-wide British Influence	
<p>Faire société / relation au monde - “The Commonwealth has played a catalytic role in strengthening society’s capacity to manage disparity and diversity through its emphasis on the shared values and principles as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter, its Good Offices role, various programmes and activities as well as assistance in building democratic institutions, good governance, credible and transparent elections.” - Malaysia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wisma Putra</p>	
	What is the legacy of the British Empire?
At the end of the Unit, I will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learn more about the past of the British Empire - the legacy of the Commonwealth - what future options may be considered
What documents will be used ?	<p>1- Introducing the British Empire 1a- Horrible Histories Rise and Fall of the British Empire, humoristic video, 2014 1b- The British Empire explained, How it Rose, Ruled and Fell, <i>video 1440 Daily</i>, 2024 1c- The Secret of England's Greatness' (Queen Victoria presenting a Bible in the Audience Chamber at Windsor) Thomas Jones Barker (1815–1882) 1d- Sipping the tea: an elegant British tradition, photo 1e- - Views on the British Empire, Maria BARRETT, Dishonored, 1996</p> <p>2- The influence of the British culture 2a- The once, all-encompassing empire left its mark firmly on Malta... Casa ellul blog, November 2020 2b- A voice for Jamaica, Visit jamaica.com, 2025 2c- The danger of a single story Chimamanda Adichie 2020, Ted Talk CO</p> <p>3- The difficult path to independance 3a- The Salt March, 1930 : photo 3b- Who was Ghandi ? 3c – Britisth departure from Hong kong, 1997</p> <p>4- Loosening the ties 4a - The Māori in Me: How colonisation has impacted on Māori identity 4b- New Zealand mountain gets same legal rights as a person Kathryn Armstrong, <i>BBC News</i>, 30 January 2025 4c- Jamaica, Kingston : Prince William and Kate, in the Land Rover as a nod to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visiting Jamaica during their Royal Tours, <i>BBC</i>, 25 March 2022 4d -Prince William and Kate’s Tour Was Meant to</p>

	<p>Secure the Monarchy in the Caribbean. Instead, It's Raising New Questions About Its Future Eloise Barry, <i>Times</i>, March 24, 2022</p> <p>4e- Which nations wants to cut ties with the British Monarchy – Statista</p> <p>5- The legacy of the commonwealth</p> <p>5a- Why is the Queen still head of state in 14 independent countries Eloise Barry, <i>Times</i>, March 24, 2022</p> <p>5b - From the British Empire Games to the Commonwealth Games, Utathya Nag, www.olympics.com, 25 Oct. 2024</p> <p>5c - Prince William suggests Commonwealth could be led by a non-royal one day Sky News 26 March 2022</p> <p>5d -Canada 'strong and free' and other takeaways from King's throne speech, Jessica Murphy <i>BBC News</i>, May 28 2025</p>
What will I learn about ?	The evolution of the British Empire, from colonialism to Commonwealth and the question at stake
Final project : EOC	The year is 2031. HRH Prince / King William is celebrating the 100 th anniversary of the Commonwealth and delivers a speech.

Instructions for your Final Project :

- 1- You will be alone to make this speech
- 2- You will have to send a video on D-Day to your teacher and might have some points taken away if you are late.
- 3- You may decide to deliver the speech in class on d-day.
- 4- You must tell us where this speech is delivered from.
- 5- You must include the issues raised by unit.
- 6- You may use some notes but not read them.
- 7- Don't forget to tell us whether HRH is King William V or Prince William of Wales

The Evolution of the World-wide British Influence

The year is 2031. HRH Prince / King William is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Commonwealth and delivers a speech.

	Qualité du contenu	Pt scor	Expression orale en continu	Pt score	Correction de la langue orale	Pt scor	Richesse de la langue	Pt score
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		e				e		
C2	J'ai rendu de fines nuances de sens en rapport avec le sujet	30	J'ai rendu de fines nuances de sens en rapport avec le sujet	30	J'ai utilisé avec une bonne maîtrise tout l'éventail des traits phonologiques de la langue cible , de façon à être toujours intelligible	30	J'ai employé de manière pertinente un vaste répertoire lexical incluant des expressions idiomatiques, des nuances de formulation et des structures variées	30
C1+		25		25		25		25
C1	J'ai traité le sujet et produit un oral fluide et convaincant, étayé par des éléments (inter)culturels pertinents, et pas simplement des éléments du cours. J'ai pleinement exploité les différents aspects et questions soulevées	20	J'ai développé une argumentation complexe , fondée sur des aspects (inter)culturels, de manière synthétique et fluide tout en m'assurant de sa bonne réception..	20	J'ai utilisé avec une assez bonne maîtrise tout l'éventail des traits phonologiques de la langue cible , de façon à être toujours intelligible. Les rares erreurs de langue ne donnent pas lieu à des malentendus.	20	J'ai employé de manière pertinente un vaste répertoire lexical incluant des expressions idiomatiques, des nuances de formulation et des structures variées.	20
C1-		15		15		15		15
B2+		12		12		12		12
B2	J'ai traité le sujet de façon claire, détaillée et globalement efficace , J'ai exploité plusieurs aspects du cours, j'ai posé des questionnements par rapport à l'avenir du Commonwealth, j'ai su posé le personnage de William	10	J'ai développé un point de vue pertinent et étayé, y compris par des reformulations qui ne rompent pas le fil du discours. J'ai parlé pendant plus de 2 minutes 30, en utilisant mes notes en soutien et non en support	10	Mon accent subit l'influence d'autres langues mais n'entrave pas l'intelligibilité . Mes erreurs de langue ne donnent pas lieu à malentendu.	10	J'ai produit un discours et des énoncés assez fluides, l'étendue de min lexique est suffisante pour permettre précision et variété des formulations .	10
B2-		8		8		8		8
B1+		6		6		6		6
B1	Mon discours était structuré, j'ai utilisé des éléments du cours en développant au moins trois aspects du Commonwealth, j'ai ancré mon discours dans une réalité historique	5	J'ai exposé un point de vue de manière simple , j'ai beaucoup utilisé mes notes mais sans les lire de façon continue. J'ai parlé pendant environ deux minutes	5	Je m'exprime de manière intelligible malgré l'influence d'autres langues. J'ai une bonne maîtrise des structures simples .	5	J'ai produit un discours et des énoncés dont l'étendue lexicale relative nécessite l'usage de périphrases et répétitions .	5
B1- / A2+		4		4		4		4
A2	Mon discours était bref et les éléments en sont juxtaposés.. J'ai utilisé qu'une ou deux facettes du cours	3	J'ai exprimé un avis en termes simples . J'ai parlé pendant moins de deux minutes. J'ai lu mes notes	3	Je m'exprime de manière suffisamment claire pour être compris, mais la compréhension requiert un effort de mes interlocuteurs .	3	J'ai produit un discours et des énoncés dont les mots sont adaptés à l'intention de communication, en dépit d'un répertoire lexical limité .	3
A1	J'ai exprimé un avis en termes très simples .	1	Mes énoncés sont ponctués de pauses, d'hésitations et de faux démarrages .	1	J'ai utilisé un répertoire très limité d'expressions et de mots mémorisés de façon	1	J'ai produit des énoncés intelligibles malgré un lexique très limité .	1

1- Introducing the British Empire

1a- Horrible Histories Rise and Fall of the British Empire, 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuDQ6B1ygFo>

1b- The British Empire explained,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63u7akSOBs>

travail sur les vidéos : prise de note contenu + image (travail en pair work)
mise en commun des éléments donnés puis contraste : que disent les deux vidéos ?
Message donnés ?

1c- The Secret of England's Greatness' (Queen Victoria presenting a Bible in the Audience Chamber at Windsor) Thomas Jones Barker (1815–1882)

travail sur le tableau, repérage des éléments

1d- Sipping the tea: an elegant British tradition, photo

travail sur l'image : description, analyse

liste de verbe d'action pour décrire l'image → partage puis rédaction d'un texte utilisant un minimum de verbes

Le texte doit être cohérent et intéressant, point de vue interne imposé (numéro donné aux personnages, choisis au hasard en amont)

1e- Views on the British Empire, Maria BARRETT, Dishonored, 1996

travail de repérage sur le texte : les personnages les verbes d'actions, verbes de mouvement => texte imprimé, 3 couleurs

what does it say of the different characters ? Describe the atmosphere

rédaction de la suite, point de vue interne (Colonel ou Jaguar) : pensées + dialogue

2- The influence of the British culture

2a- The once, all-encompassing empire left its mark firmly on Malta... Casa ellul blog, November 2020

travail sur l'influence de Malte : article positif, repérage des éléments d'influence britannique

écrire un guide touristique

2b- A voice for Jamaica, Visit jamaica.com, 2025

read the text, focus on the languages mentionnes, how are they related to Jamaica, definition of Patois ? How is it a way for Jamaicans to have their own identify ? How was it spread and known ?

2b-- The danger of a single story | Chimamanda Adichie 2020, Ted Talk CO

3- The difficult path to independance

3a-- The Salt March, 1930 : photo, travail d'anticipation make supposition, travail sur la question

3b- - Who was Ghandi

trouver le sens des mots en gras à partir des synonymes ou antonyme donné
correction

résumé en 6 mots clés puis échange des mots clés, résumé le texte à partir des mots clés en 15 lignes environ.

Échange des paragraphes : trouver une série de 5 /6 questions pour comprendre le texte

échange des questions puis réponses rédigée

correction par un groupe (soit celui des 1er mots soit celui qui a rédigé les paragraphes – prévoir d'avoir une seule feuille pour mots et paragraphes et une autre feuille pour les questions et leurs réponses)

mise en commun pour un TE

3c – British departure from Hong Kong : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db-TcjHS-QM&t=142s>

reperage sur la vidéo, éléments d'analyse

4- Loosening the ties

4a - The Māori in Me: How colonisation has impacted on Māori identity

travail sur le texte : repérage de vocabulaire : underline 5 words which are new to you and propose a definition of it

et idée principale : besoin de reconnaissance

mise en parallèle avec l'Australie

rédaction d'un thread of thoughts pour s'approprier les idées principale

4b- New Zealand mountain gets same legal rights as a person Kathryn Armstrong, BBC News, 30 January 2025

même exercice de repérage et d'appropriation du texte → rédaction d'un commentaire / op-ed d'un neo-zelandais non maori

4c- Jamaica, Kingston : Prince William and Kate, in the Land Rover as a nod to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visiting Jamaica during their Royal Tours, BBC, 25 March 2022

4d -Prince William and Kate's Tour Was Meant to Secure the Monarchy in the Caribbean. Instead, It's Raising New Questions About Its Future Eloise Barry, *Times*, March 24, 2022

travail sur le texte – écriture d'un article correspondant : article Jamaican et article journal britannique

rédaction ramassée et notée

4e- Which nations wants to cut ties with the British Monarchy – Statista

5- the legacy of the commonwealth

5a- Why is the Queen still head of state in 14 independent countries Eloise Barry, *Times*, March 24, 2022

5b - From the British Empire Games to the Commonwealth Games, Utathya Nag, www.olympics.com, 25 Oct. 2024

travail de repérage sur les origines du Commonwealth, rédaction d'un article de journal suite à ces 1ers jeux : origine canadienne, britannique ou d'un pays du

Commonwealth au choix

5c - Prince William suggests Commonwealth could be led by a non-royal one day
Sky News 26 March 2022

5d -Canada 'strong and free' and other takeaways from King's throne speech
Jessica Murphy *BBC News*, May 28 2025

travail sur les éléments de langue : connivence Canada et royauté

Why is the Queen still head of state in 14 independent countries?



Queen Elizabeth II is not only the monarch of the U.K., but also of 14 other countries, including Canada, Australia, and Papua New Guinea, known as the Commonwealth realms. They are distinct from the Commonwealth of Nations, a group of 54 countries that were once part of the British Empire—the majority of which no longer recognize the Queen as sovereign.

The nations of the Commonwealth realms are constitutional monarchies—the Queen is a symbolic head of state but the countries are ruled by elected governments. The Queen is not involved in governing but she does still have some constitutional duties, such as approving new governments and legislation, which are carried out by a royal representative. Although the Queen's position in these nations is mostly symbolic, the U.K. government noted that the monarchy forms part of Britain's outsized influence on the world.

In November, Barbados became the first country to remove the Queen as head of state since Mauritius in 1992. Dame Sandra Mason, the island's governor-

general since 2018, was named as president-elect of the nation. “The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind,” she said. Debates about abolishing the monarchy have rumbled on for decades in other Commonwealth realms. Both Australia and the Caribbean nation St. Vincent and the Grenadines held failed referendums on becoming republics, in 1999 and 2009 respectively. The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Arden, told the *Guardian* in 2018 that she expected the country to transition to a republic in her lifetime.

According to Barbadian political analyst and pollster Peter Wickham, certain Commonwealth realms may struggle to relinquish the monarchy even if the public and government want it. Barbados was able to become a republic because its constitution allowed the government to take the decision independently. In countries like Jamaica, it can only happen through a referendum with a two-thirds majority. “I don’t believe it will ever happen because the referendum will be manipulated by political parties,” Wickham says, drawing comparisons with the divisions caused by the U.K.’s Brexit referendum.

Why do campaigners no longer want the Queen as head of state?

Although the Queen’s role in Commonwealth realms is largely symbolic, attitudes towards the royal family are varied and complex. Wickham says that although Elizabeth herself is quite popular in many Caribbean countries, she is perceived as “not really relevant.”

“We don’t have a problem with her or even monarchy as such,” he says. “Most of us think she’s all the way in England and there’s no reason why we should maintain her as head of state.”

Some believe that keeping the Queen as head of state undermines independence, and only serves to perpetuate colonial subservience. “Imagine being given independence, and then to be told as an adult nation, that the Queen still had a stake in Jamaica and that the island is not really free. It is still an infant colony,” Jamaican-born British writer and academic Dr. Velma McClymont told TIME.

Calls for republicanism have been growing in Jamaica, which celebrates its 60-year anniversary of independence from Britain this year.

Another issue influencing public opinion in former British colonies is allegations of racism made by Meghan Markle, the first biracial woman to marry into the royal family.

“Suddenly, all of us who before didn’t really take much notice of the royal family began to see what was happening to Markle,” McClymont says. “She was vilified as a Black woman and no statement of support was made by the [royal] family.”

Markle’s allegations were so damaging the royal family was forced to respond. The Queen issued a statement calling them “concerning,” while Prince William defended the monarchy, saying, “We’re very much not a racist family.”

What does the future hold for the British monarchy around the world?

Despite a string of royal controversies in recent months, public opinion of the Queen herself remains high. But the same may not be true of her heir. A poll conducted by Ipsos Mori of over 2,000 British adults found that the Queen is more than three times more popular than her immediate heir, Prince Charles. Some royal observers have suggested that the Queen is investing in Prince William and Kate, aged 39 and 40 respectively, as future leaders of the royal family. The couple are twice as popular as Charles who, at 73, may not be on the throne as long as his mother. The Caribbean tour was a crucial test of the monarchy’s relevance in the modern era—the scale of the opposition William and Kate faced may well trouble

the Queen.

Ultimately, however, Barbadian political analyst Wickham believes the future of the British monarchy outside the U.K. is less an issue of royal popularity than it is about countries' national identity. "This is not about Queen Elizabeth herself. It's not about an individual," he says. "It's really about us moving in a different direction."

Eloise Barry, *Times*, March 24, 2022



Jamaica, Kingston : Prince William and Kate, in the Land Rover as a nod to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visiting Jamaica during their Royal Tours, BBC, 25 March 2022

sipping the tea: an elegant British tradition



Views on the British Empire

A British colonel attends a party hosted by an Indian family during the British Raj.

"Please, Colonel Sahib, please go into my house and the bearer will bring you a drink!"

Indrajit stepped in front of his son, his eyes lowered, and edged the colonel toward the interior of the bungalow. He had begun to sweat anxiously. Alicia smiled at several of their acquaintances, nodding to the left and the right, and the colonel relaxed slightly.

"But what I do not understand is why so many of our countrymen do not question the supremacy of the British. Pah! It would seem to me that we are all too afraid of putting the situation right." Jagat Rai had his back to the rest of the party as he spoke to a small group of young men in the corner of his father's large open drawing room. "It would seem to me" he broke as one of his friends jabbed him in the ribs. The colonel was within earshot and had glanced several times in their direction: his ear was constantly tuned to any talk of unrest. Jagat was undeterred.

"It would seem to me," he went on, but louder this time, his voice rising above the swell of small talk, "that where the British are concerned, we are frightened of speaking our minds, it would seem to me"... Jagat received a sharp prod with a bony elbow and turned toward his friend to protest. He saw then, quite clearly, that the colonel had stopped talking and was staring hard at him. The chatter around the room died away but he matched the colonel's stare.

A new lesson

The scene takes place in Kenya shortly after the country gained its independence. A white supervisor comes to assess a black schoolmistress.



A shy, young thing with **pimples** and thin legs. Lois had taught at the village school and was everybody's good example. Suddenly Lois became heroine of the village. She went to jail.

It was a General Knowledge class. Lois put the problem word on the blackboard. The lady supervisor who went round the schools stood **squarely** at the other end, looking down the class. Lois swung her stick up and down the class and said,

"What is the Commonwealth, children? Don't be shy, what does this word mean?"
The girls chewed their thumbs.

"Come on! All right. We shall start from the beginning. Who rules England?"

Slowly, the girls turned their heads round and faced the white supervisor. Elizabeth, they knew they should say. But how could Lois bring them to this? England sounded venerable enough. Must they go further now and let the white lady there at the back hear the Queen of England mispronounced, or even uttered" by these tender things with the stain of last night's onions in their breath? Who would be the first? They knit their knuckles under the desks, looked into their exercise books, and one by one said they didn't know. One or two brave ones threw their heads back again, met with a strange look in the white queen's eye which **spelt** disaster, immediately swung their eyes onto the blackboard, and catching sight of Lois's stick, began to cry.

"It's as if you have never heard of it." Lois was losing patience. "All right, I'll give you another start. Last start. What is our country?"

Simultaneously, a flash of hands shot up from under the desks and thirty-four girls clamoured.

"A colony!"

Slowly, the lady supervisor walked down the class and having eliminated the gap that came between master and servant, stood face to face with Lois.

The children chewed at their rubbers.

Then the white queen slapped Lois across the mouth and **started** to the door. But Lois caught her by the hair, slapped her back once, twice, and spat into her face. Then she gave her a football kick and swept her out with a right.

When at last Lois looked back into the class, she only saw torn exercise books flung on the floor. Thirty-four pairs of legs had fled home through the window to spread the formidable news of their new queen and heroine.

Abridged from Leonard Kibera, *African Short Stories*, "The Spider's Web", 1985

A voice for Jamaicans

Jamaica's official language is English, but we also speak Jamaican or Patois (or Patwa) - a colorful, descriptive and emphatic creole dialect that has been shaped by our African, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English colonial heritage. A beautiful symbol of our resilience, patois is the crafting of the expressions of a people, forced into a society with a different language, to express themselves in their own way, and to give meaning to it.

Today, speaking Patois fills us with immense pride, as it has become a symbol of our vibrant Jamaican culture, recognized and cherished across the globe. At the forefront of this movement was the renowned poet, the Honorable Dr. Louise Bennett-Coverly, affectionately known as Miss Lou, considered to be the mother of Jamaican culture. Her influential works have allowed Patois to transcend barriers, captivating hearts both locally and internationally. Her tireless efforts have played an important role in establishing Patois as an integral part of our nation's language. Today Patois has been incorporated into academic linguistic programs, offering formal education in our cherished language, further solidifying the significance and enduring legacy of Patois in Jamaican society.

The indomitable spirit of reggae music, carried forward by iconic figures like Bob Marley have propelled Patois into the mainstream, permeating every corner of the world. Even today, the Jamaican language is constantly evolving, heavily influenced by dancehall culture.

Accented by our signature lilting sing-song style of speaking, Jamaicans are easily recognized by our language world-wide. We are a passionate people, and so you can often hear us speak Patois when we can get loud and animated.

Visit jamaica.com



The once, all-encompassing empire left its mark firmly on Malta...



The British Period in Malta is one of the most significant and impactful eras of the archipelago's history.

Malta served as a strategic stronghold for the British, from where they could oversee the Mediterranean and orchestrate trade and military attacks. The islands played a pivotal role in the First and Second World War – leading to Malta being called the “Nurse of the Mediterranean” and being awarded the “George Cross” by King George V for the citizens’ bravery during wartime.

Despite Malta’s independence in 1964, the islands still form part of the Commonwealth and still enjoy a special relationship with the UK and other Commonwealth countries.

The once, all-encompassing empire left its mark firmly on Malta, and foreigners and locals alike can still witness the British Empire’s legacy. Let’s have a look at the British elements that still characterise the islands to this day.

The Old Barracks

The British-built town of Pembroke houses the old military barracks, which the British Army and Royal Marines used during the two world wars.

Pembroke Garrison was built around a Victorian fortification.

The legal, education and political system

As a parliamentary democracy within the Commonwealth, the Maltese legal system is one of the pillars of the country’s democratic system.

While the legal system is based on the Napoleonic Code, it has been influenced by its British counterpart and has several key characteristics of the English Common Law.

The education system also follows the British education model. Both English and Maltese are spoken in class and on the playground, and most subjects are taught in English

Various national museums and iconic buildings

The British Period in Malta led to the renovation of 6 museums that are still standing to this day. The national agency for museums, conservation practice and culture heritage – Heritage Malta – is now responsible for the following British-era museums, namely: The National War Museum, Maritime Museum, Malta At War Museum, Lascaris War Rooms, and Aviation Museum.

Other iconic buildings include the majestic fortifications, which serve as a modern-day testament of Malta’s military past as part of the British Empire.

Cultural influences

Other significant British mannerisms and elements that have been adopted by the Maltese include driving on the left, the popularity of afternoon tea and tea in general, the use of English and Maltese-english in both informal and formal settings, the legendary English breakfast, the George Cross on the national flag, the notoriety of British football teams, the red letterboxes and telephone boxes and English street and village names

Canada 'strong and free' and other takeaways from King's throne speech

King Charles III has given a major speech at the opening of parliament in Canada in which he sought to define its place in an uncertain world and its relationship with the US.

The address in Ottawa set out the government's priorities on behalf of new Prime Minister Mark Carney, whose Liberals won the country's general election in April. The campaign was dominated by US President Donald Trump's threats to Canada's independence. The King, who is Canada's head of state, said relationships with partners - including the US - were changing, and he stressed the sovereignty of both nations.



Here are five takeaways from Tuesday's address, which was the first time a monarch has delivered the throne speech opening parliament in almost 50 years.

A message to Trump on sovereignty

Carney's invitation to King Charles was in part a message to Trump, who has made repeated remarks undermining its sovereignty. Tensions with Canada's neighbour were a theme throughout, though the US president was never mentioned by name.

The speech opened with an appeal to patriotism as a trade war looms with the US, Canada's largest economic partner. The King spoke of the "pleasure and pride" of being in the country at a time of renewed "national pride, unity, and hope". He expressed his "admiration for Canada's unique identity" and its growth since the last time a sovereign opened parliament - Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. (She gave a second throne speech 20 years later). It has become "a bold, ambitious, innovative country," he said.

"The Crown has for so long been a symbol of unity for Canada," the King added. "It also represents stability and continuity from the past to the present. As it should, it stands proudly as a symbol of Canada today, in all her richness and dynamism."

The speech concluded on a similar note: "As the anthem reminds us: The True North is indeed strong and free!"

The King's decision to open parliament - a role traditionally left to the governor general, his top representative in Canada - has been seen as a symbolic show of support for the Commonwealth nation.

Emphasis on 'opportunity' of uncertain world

Another major theme of the speech was how Canada would face a world with "unprecedented challenges, generating uncertainties across the continents".

Another nod to the US and tensions between the two countries followed: "The system of open global trade that, while not perfect, has helped to deliver prosperity for Canadians for decades, is changing. Canada's relationships with partners are also changing," the King said.

The speech underscored the need for the country to reinforce its established trading relationships, notably with European allies, while moving forward with economic and security relationship talks with the US. During the recent election campaign, Carney repeatedly said the country was at a pivotal moment in its history. The King's speech emphasised that "this moment is also an incredible opportunity". "An opportunity to think big and to act bigger. An opportunity for Canada to embark on the largest transformation of its economy since the Second World War."

Plan to end barriers to internal trade

The King also focused directly on domestic policy and plans set out by Carney's Liberals to address the country's economic headwinds. There was a commitment to speed up major national infrastructure projects and to double a loan programme that would enable more indigenous ownership of major projects.

A tax cut and new housing investment

Canada faces housing affordability crises as housing prices have skyrocketed across the country in the last decade. Alongside the US-Canada relationship, it was one of the top issues on the campaign trail. Carney's Liberals promised to double the rate of building to 500,000 new homes a year.

The King's speech underlined the government's other plans to address the issue, including investing in prefabricated and modular housing, and cutting municipal development charges in half for housing with multiple units.

Another major issue during the campaign was crime. The speech contained promises to address tougher penalties for car thefts, home invasions, human trafficking and drug smuggling.

House Leader Alexandre Boulerice for the left-wing NDP said after the speech that there were "big holes" on issues like climate and women's rights.

Boosting defence spending alongside Europe

Canada has been under mounting pressure from the US and other Nato partners to increase its military spending, as it continues to fall short of the 2% of GDP on military spending target set out for alliance members. Carney has committed to hitting that benchmark by 2030.

Tuesday's speech contained commitments to "rebuilding, rearming, and reinvesting" in its military; reinforcing defence relationships with European allies, including by joining Rearm Europe, a plan to dramatically increase defence spending on the continent; and to strengthen Canada's Arctic.

Jessica Murphy BBC News, May 28 2025

Prince William suggests Commonwealth could be led by a non-royal one day

"What matters to us is the potential The Commonwealth family has to create a better future for the people who form it, and our commitment to serve and support as best we can," the duke says at the end of a tour of the Caribbean.

Prince William has ended a tour of the Caribbean by suggesting he doesn't mind if he isn't head of The Commonwealth in future-and that he believes one day it may be led by someone other than a member of the Royal Family.

In remarks issued to mark the end of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's first official trip to the region, he said: "Who The Commonwealth chooses to lead its family in the future isn't what is on my mind. What matters to us is the potential the Commonwealth family has to create a better future for the people who form it, and our commitment to serve and support as best we can."



His comments are striking when you consider the importance of The Commonwealth to the Queen throughout her reign as head of the institution. [...] There has also been a perception that some of the photo opportunities have looked out-dated and colonial.

William said: "I know that this tour has brought into even sharper focus questions about the past and the future. In Belize, Jamaica, and the Bahamas, that future is for the people to decide upon. But we have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with communities in all three countries, understanding more about the issues that matter most to them." [...] "Catherine and I are committed to service," he said. For us, that's not telling people what to do. It is about serving and supporting them in whatever way they think best, by using the platform we are lucky to have. It is why tours such as this reaffirm our desire to serve the people of The Commonwealth and to listen to communities around the world."

Sky News 26 March 2022

The Māori in Me: How colonisation has impacted on Māori identity Myjanne Jensen, *NZ Herald*, 18 Jul, 2024

The Māori in Me: How colonisation has impacted on Māori identity

The ramifications of colonisation on Māori and other indigenous people around the world continue to this day, hundreds of years after their lands were first settled by Europeans.

On this episode of *Herald* podcast *The Māori in Me*, host Myjanne Jensen talks to renowned Māori academic and rights activist Professor Margaret Mutu about what life was like in Te Hiku o Te Ika at the start of the 20th century and the impact of colonisation on the region.

“Every whānau has their own story to tell, but the overall effect of colonisation is the same,” Mutu said. “For us at Karikari Peninsular, it was ok until the government came in and wanted to use our lands for dairy farming. A lot of our whānau were driven off the land because of those farm development schemes ... the Department of Māori Affairs ran up huge debts against those farms ... and confiscated the land. .”

She says it led to many of her whānau moving to Auckland to try to earn money to pay off those debts. Dire poverty and hunger were also factors which drove Māori to the cities, in the hope of a better life.

This, while also being actively recruited by the government, Mutu says, to get Māori into the cities to be factory workers and effectively “servants” to the state. She says this all relates back to the Doctrine of Discovery which the British brought with them to Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Doctrine of Discovery is a legal and religious concept that was used for centuries to justify Christian colonial conquest. It advanced the idea that European peoples, culture and religion were superior to all others, which meant they could effectively go into other countries, take over their lands and resources, and either exterminate or permanently enslave the people.

Mutu says despite a lot of headway in recent years, the impacts of colonisation can still be felt by Māori today. Intergenerational trauma, poor health outcomes and poverty are just some of the ongoing issues as a result of colonisation.

“It pushes you down to the lowest possible social economic level,” Mutu said. “Nothing will spark off divisions, fights, poverty, marginalisation and deprivation than when you feel you are not worth anything.”

Mutu says a lot of the disconnect whānau feel generations after their parents or grandparents left their whenua was another remnant of colonisation, as people attempt to find their way back to their homelands after years of living away. Even that can be difficult, Mutu says, and has often witnessed clashes between the ahikaa (people keeping the home fires burning) and those coming home to connect.

She says this type of behaviour is typical of colonisation’s “divide and rule” tactic, which she describes as a deliberate mechanism imposed on the people whose lands, resources and lives were taken.

“I have seen some horrible cases of that, where people go home, they go to their marae and are encouraged to get up and speak and then get attacked,” Mutu said. “Then you won’t see that person for 10, 20 years because they’re so hurt. It’s the realities of colonisation and that’s something our people don’t recognise. Our people don’t see it - they it is as themselves as being at fault.”

Myjanne Jensen, *NZ Herald*, 18 Jul, 2024

New Zealand mountain gets same legal rights as a person



Mount Taranaki is considered sacred and an ancestor of the local Māori people

A settlement under which a New Zealand mountain has been granted the same legal right as a person has become law after years of negotiations. It means Taranaki Maunga [Mt Taranaki] will effectively own itself, with representatives of the local tribes, iwi, and government working together to manage it.

The agreement aims to compensate Māori from the Taranaki region for injustices done to them during colonisation - including widespread land confiscation. "We must acknowledge the hurt that has been caused by past wrongs, so we can look to the future to support iwi to realise their own aspirations and opportunities," Paul Goldsmith, the government minister responsible for the negotiations, said.

The Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Bill was passed into law by New Zealand's parliament on Thursday - giving the mountain a legal name and protecting its surrounding peaks and land. It also recognises the Māori worldview that natural features, including mountains, are ancestors and living beings.

"Today, Taranaki, our maunga [mountain], our maunga tupuna [ancestral mountain], is released from the shackles, the shackles of injustice, of ignorance, of hate," said Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, co-leader of political party Te Pāti Māori [the Māori Party]. Ngarewa-Packer is among one of the eight Taranaki iwi, on New Zealand's west coast, to whom the mountain is sacred.

Hundreds of other Māori from the area also turned up at parliament on Thursday to see the bill become law. The mountain will no longer be officially known as Egmont - the name given to it by British explorer James Cook in the 18th Century - and instead be called Taranaki Maunga, while the surrounding national park will also be given its Māori name.

The Taranaki Maunga settlement is the latest that has been reached with Māori in an attempt to provide compensation for breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi - which established New Zealand as a country and granted indigenous people certain rights to their land and resources. The settlement also came with an apology from the government for the confiscation of Mt Taranaki and more than a million acres of land from local Māori in the 1860s.

Paul Goldsmith acknowledged that the "breaches of the Treaty mean that immense and compounding harm have been inflicted upon the whānau [wider family], hapū [sub-tribe] and iwi of Taranaki, causing immeasurable harm over many decades".

He added that it had been agreed that access to the mountain would not change and that "all New Zealanders will be able to continue to visit and enjoy this most magnificent place for generations to come".

The mountain is not the first of New Zealand's natural features to be granted legal personhood. In 2014, the Urewera native forest became the first to gain such status, followed by the Whanganui River in 2017.

Kathryn Armstrong, BBC News, 30 January 2025

Prince William and Kate's Tour Was Meant to Secure the Monarchy in the Caribbean. Instead, It's Raising New Questions About Its Future

The British royal family is facing embarrassment on the international stage this week as protests disrupt Prince William and Kate Middleton's tour of former British colonies in the Caribbean. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge began their week-long visit to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas March 19.

Officially, the trip was meant to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, celebrating 70 years on the throne. Many observers say the trip was meant to persuade the three countries to keep the Queen as head of state. But growing calls to cut formal ties with the Queen and campaigns for slavery reparations have ignited a reckoning with the region's colonial past.



How is Prince William and Kate's visit sparking controversy?

Prince William and Kate arrived in Jamaica, the second stop of their trip, on March 22. Only a day later, The Independent reported that the Jamaican government had begun the process of transitioning the island nation—which is the largest English speaking country in the Caribbean—to a republic.

The news arrived at a difficult moment for the royals. The day before the couple's arrival in the country, one hundred Jamaican academics, politicians, and cultural figures signed an open letter calling for the royal family and British government to apologize and pay reparations for subjecting the island to colonial rule and slavery.

"We are of the view an apology for British crimes against humanity, including but not limited to the exploitation of the indigenous people of Jamaica, the transatlantic trafficking of Africans, the enslavement of Africans, indentureship and colonialization

is necessary to begin a process of healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and compensation,” the letter said.

The letter’s consignatories describe Prince William and Kate as “direct beneficiaries of the wealth accumulated by the royal family...from the trafficking and enslavement of Africans”. In reference to the Queen’s Jubilee, the letter reads: “We see no reason to celebrate 70 years of the ascension of your grandmother to the British throne because her leadership, and that of her predecessors, has perpetuated the greatest human rights tragedy in the history of humankind.

The group, called the Advocates Network, staged a protest March 22 outside the British High Commission in Kingston to coincide with the couple’s arrival. Demonstrators held banners reading “#SehYuhSorry and make REPARATIONS.”

The following day, Prince William stopped short of an apology, instead expressing “profound sorrow” for the “appalling atrocity of slavery” during an address to Jamaica’s prime minister March 23. “Slavery was abhorrent and it never should have happened,” he said. “I strongly agree with my father, the Prince of Wales, who said in Barbados last year that the appalling atrocity of slavery forever stains our history.”

Events in Jamaica weren’t the only controversy for the couple on their tour. They canceled their first major engagement the day before touching down in Belize, the first stop on the trip. William and Kate were due to visit a cocoa farm March 20 but locals staged a protest against the visit, objecting to the couple’s plans to land their helicopter on a nearby football pitch without consultation, the Daily Mail reported.

The protests were part of a wider land dispute between indigenous communities and Flora and Fauna International (FFI), the conservation charity that William supports as patron. Locals allege that the charity controls their communal ancestral lands, lost in the colonial era, as “private property,” according to the report. Demonstrators carried banners reading ‘Prince William leave our land’ and ‘Colonial legacy of theft continues with Prince and FFI’.

Eloise Barry, *Times*, March 24, 2022



The secret of GB tableau

The Commonwealth of Nations

Acknowledging the past

- apologise (v.) colonial heritage (n.) • colonialism (n.)
- imperialism (n.) slavery (n.)
- reconcile /'rekansail/ (v.)
- relics from the past (exp.)
- the wrongs, the injustices, the harms of the past (exp.)

Shaping a better future

- empower (v.)
- growth mindset (exp.) innovate (v.), innovation (n.)
- opportunity (n.)
- resilient (adj.)
- springboard (n.) sustainability (n.)

Addressing today's challenges • address (v.)

- be held responsible/ accountable for (exp.)
- heal (v.)
- mend, repair (v.)
- relations, ties, bonds (n.) restore justice (exp.)

Upholding democratic values advocate

- /-kert/ (v.),
- be an advocate /-kat/ for (exp.)
- be respectful, show respect (v.) defend human rights (exp.)
- fight for climate justice /'klarmat/ (exp.)
- implement the United Nations' Sustainable Goals /'impliment/ (exp.)

Inspiring action

- contribute (v.)
- convince (v.), convincing (adj.) inspire (v.), inspiring (adj.)
- lead the way (v.)
- participate (v.), participant (n.) set an example (exp.)

6 Leading change

- address an audience (exp.) brave, bold, courageous (adj.)
- care about (v.)
- delegate /-gat/, representative (n.)

- deliver a speech /dr'liva/ (exp.) game-changer (n.)

BROADEN YOUR VOCABULARY

Discontent

- call for reform
- global challenges
- a milestone
- a withdrawal = a removal
- polarised = divided /dr'vardid/, split
- postcolonial legacy
- good governance
- guidance /'gaidəns/
- a head of state
- leadership /'li:dərfip/

Legacy

- common heritage
- bring people together
- equal opportunities
- former British colonies
- cultural exchange

The Commonwealth Games Values

- solidarity
- empower people
- team spirit
- diversity conformity exclusion.
- inclusion
- disabled, disable, disability
- para-athlete
- compete /kam'pi:t/

Organisation

- include a sport + cut a sport
- prioritise
- significance = importance
- costly = expensive
- an elite athlete = a top-level competitor
- a host city, a venue /'venju:/ = where an event takes place
- a sporting event
- showcase sth show the best qualities of sth

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