

英语师范系
英美概况重点课
第12课 英联邦

Commonwealth of Nations



The Colonial History

- Age of Discovery



Christopher Columbus

The Voyages of

Christopher Columbus began in 1492 , and he sighted land in the West Indies on 12 October that year

Vasco da Gama

the first ships to sail directly from Europe to India

Magellan [mə'dʒ elən]

- the first expedition to sail from the Atlantic Ocean into the Pacific Ocean
- the first circumnavigation of the Earth.

Elizabethan era

the Spanish Armada [ar'madə] was repulsed.

The first serious attempts to establish English colonies overseas were made in the last quarter of the 16th century, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Between 1577 and 1580, Sir Francis Drake was circumnavigating the globe. He claimed many lands in North America for the Queen.

The first overseas settlement

- 1607 Jamestown, Virginia
 - between 1607 (Virginia) and 1733 (Georgia)
- 13 colonies in the eastern part of America

- Starting in 1775, the 13 colonial states declared their independence from the British Empire in 1776 and formed a new nation, the United States of America.

- American Revolutionary War /the American War of Independence

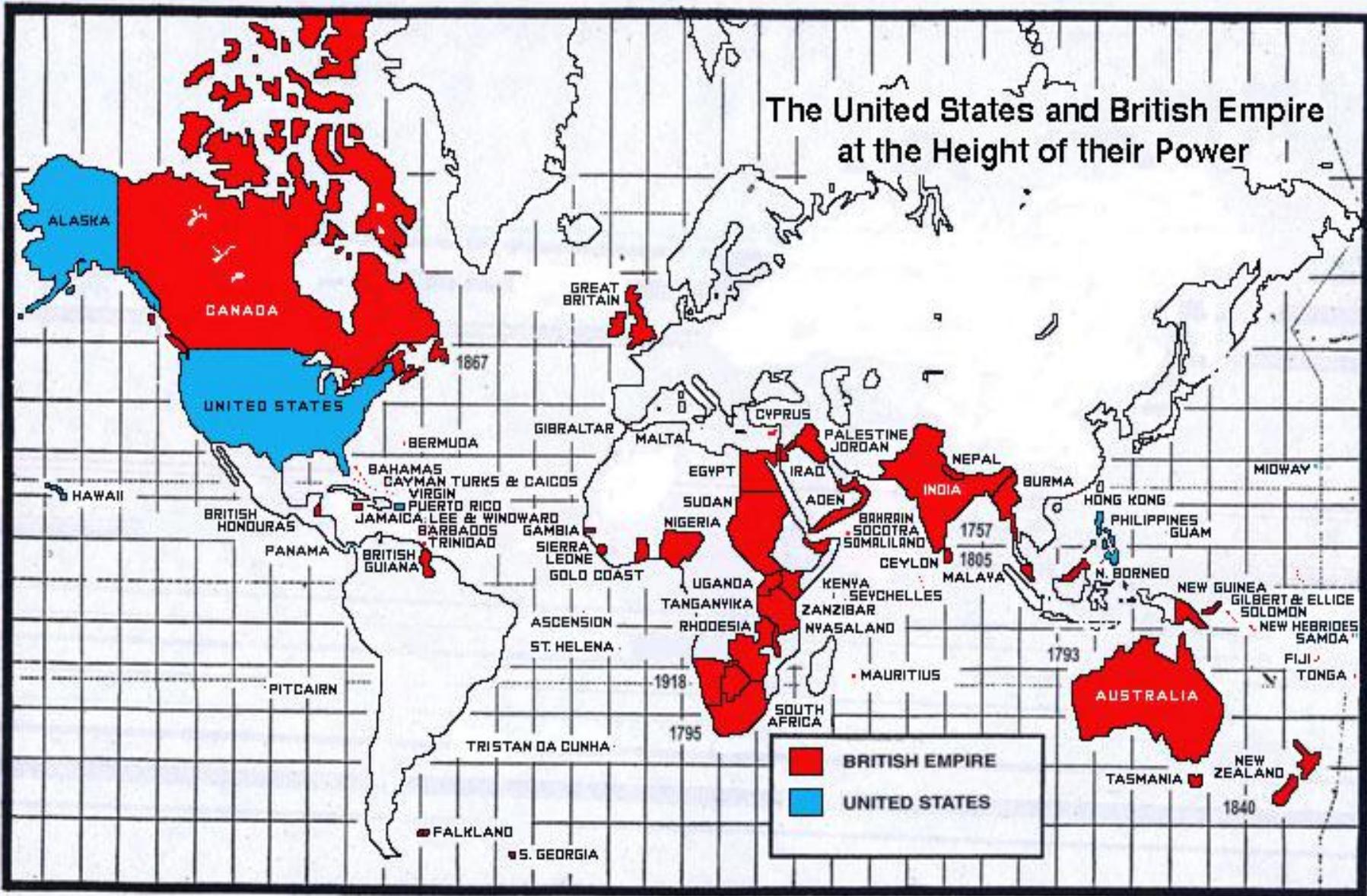
1775–1783

“the sun never sets on the British Empire”

At its height, it was the largest empire in history and, for over a century, was the foremost global power.

By 1922 the British Empire held **one-fifth of the world's population at the time**, and covered **almost a quarter** of the Earth's total land area.

The United States and British Empire at the Height of their Power



"He (Manasseh) also shall be great; but (Ephraim) ... shall become a multitude of nations" (Gen. 48:19). "I will bless thee ... and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:17).

Decolonization

- Indian independence movement

Gandhi

non-violent civil disobedience

- the wave of decolonisation in the 1960s
- the end of the Cold War, and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

The Birth of Commonwealth of Nations

• The London Declaration

The London Declaration is often seen as marking the beginning of the modern Commonwealth.

It was made in London in 1949, and **marked the birth of the modern Commonwealth.**



It allowed the Commonwealth to admit and retain members that were not **Commonwealth realms**, including both republics and indigenous monarchies.

It renamed the organisation from the 'British Commonwealth' to the 'Commonwealth of Nations', reflecting the first change.



- **Singapore Declaration**

The Commonwealth's objectives were first outlined in the 1971 Singapore Declaration

The **Singapore Declaration of Commonwealth Principles** sets out the core political values that would form the main part of the Commonwealth's membership criteria.

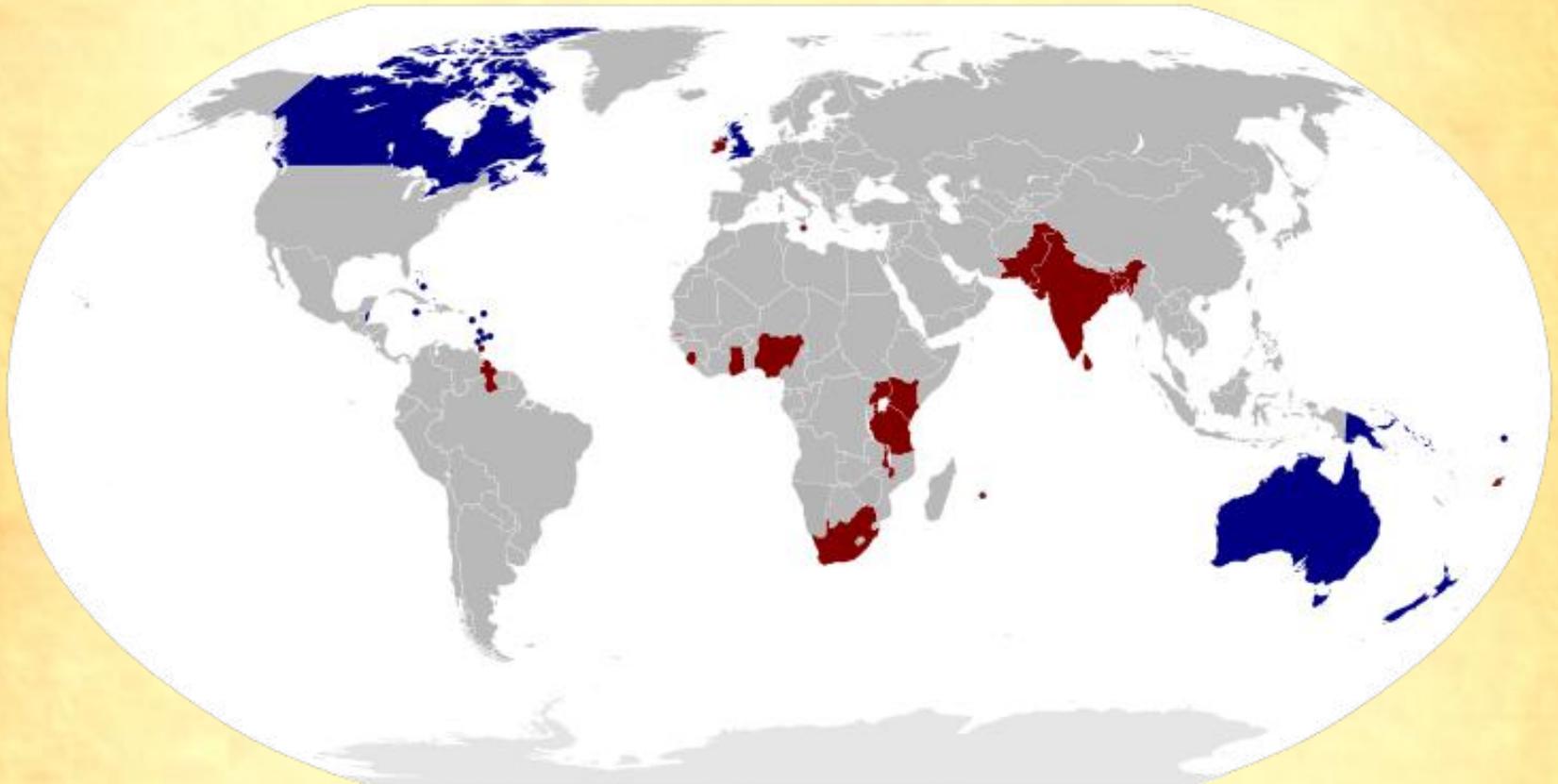
Structure



Under that formula of the London Declaration, **Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth.**

The position is **symbolic**, representing the free association of independent members.

The Commonwealth comprises 54 countries. Sixteen members of the Commonwealth, known as Commonwealth realms, recognise the Queen as their head of state. The majority of members (33) are republics, and five have monarchs of different royal houses.



- **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)**

The main decision-making forum of the organisation





