

# CHRONOLOGY

- 55–54 BC Expeditions of Caesar  
49 BC *Caesar defeats Pompey: effective end of Roman Republic\**  
*Julio-Claudian Emperors (27 BC–AD 68)*  
34–26 BC Projected expeditions of Augustus  
Britain between the invasions: period of political and economic change  
by 12 BC *Permanent Roman bases on Rhine*  
AD 40 Expedition of Gaius cancelled  
*Claudius (41–54)*  
by 43 Death of Cunobelinus  
43 Claudian invasion  
by 47 Conquest of south and east of England completed  
49 Foundation of Colchester  
c.50 Foundation of London  
51 Defeat and capture of Caratacus  
*Nero (54–68)*  
61 Revolt of Boudica  
68–9 ‘Year of the Four Emperors’  
*Flavian Emperors (69–96)*  
70–84 Conquest of Wales and north completed  
Conquest of Scotland  
*Trajan (98–117)*  
c.100 Scotland temporarily lost: frontier on Tyne–Solway line  
*Hadrian (117–38)*  
122 Hadrian in Britain: the Wall begun  
*Antonine Emperors (138–92)*  
*Antoninus Pius (138–61)*  
140–3 Antonine advance into Scotland: by 143 Antonine Wall begun  
c.158 Serious trouble in the north  
? c.160 Temporary reoccupation of Antonine Wall

\* Entries in italics denote events belonging to the history of the Roman Empire.

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- Marcus Aurelius (161–80); major wars on the Danube*  
 ? c.163 Hadrian's Wall restored  
 193 Clodius Albinus proclaimed in Britain  
*Severan Emperors (193–235)*  
 196–213 Britain becomes two provinces  
 208–11 Campaigns of Septimius Severus and Caracalla in  
 Scotland  
 235–70 *Imperial crisis: civil wars and invasions in East and  
 West*  
 260–73 'Gallic Empire'  
 270s Renewed growth in Britain  
*Diocletian (284–305)*  
*'The Tetrarchy'*  
 287–96 Carausius and Allectus  
 296 Britain recovered by Constantius  
 after 296 Britain becomes a civil diocese of four provinces  
*House of Constantius (305–63)*  
 306 Campaign of Constantius I in Scotland; Constantine  
 the Great proclaimed at York  
 324 *Constantine sole emperor; foundation of  
 Constantinople*  
 340–69 Period of severe stress: internal troubles, harassment by  
 barbarians  
 350 *Magnentius proclaimed in Gaul*  
 353 *Constantius II sole emperor*  
 353 Purge by Paul the Chain  
*House of Valentinian (364–92)*  
 367–9 'Barbarian Conspiracy', recovery and restoration of  
 Britain by the elder Theodosius  
*House of Theodosius (379–455)*  
*Theodosius the Great (379–95)*  
 383 Magnus Maximus proclaimed in Britain; victory over  
 Picts  
*Honorius (395–423)*  
 398–400 Victories over Picts, Scots, Saxons  
 400–2 Possible troop withdrawals by Stilicho  
 402/3 *Western imperial court withdrawn from Milan to Ravenna*  
 406 Britain revolts from Honorius: two emperors  
 proclaimed

- 407 Constantine III proclaimed in Britain  
*Constantine III rules from Arles (407–11)*
- 409 Britain revolts from Constantine III: end of Roman rule in Britain
- 410 ‘Rescript of Honorius’: letter to Britons (?), significance disputed
- 429 St Germanus visits Britain
- c.450 The *adventus Saxonum*: Hengest and Horsa settle in Kent (traditional date)
- 455 Hengest rebels against Vortigern (traditional date)
- 477 Saxon settlement of Sussex (traditional date)
- 495 Saxon settlement of Wessex (traditional date)
- c.500 Battle of *Mons Badonicus*
- 560 Æthelberht, later over-king, becomes king in Kent
- 577 The West Saxons capture Gloucester, Cirencester, and Bath
- 597 St Augustine’s mission arrives in Kent
- 616 Raedwald of East Anglia, as over-king, makes Edwin king of Northumbria
- c.624 Death of Raedwald, and his probable burial in the Sutton Hoo barrow
- 627 Conversion of Edwin and the Northumbrian court
- 633 Battle of Heavenfield; Oswald of Northumbria becomes over-king
- 635 Conversion of King Cynegils of Wessex
- 642 Oswald is killed at Oswestry by King Penda of Mercia
- 655 Penda is defeated and killed at the *Winwaed* by Oswy of Northumbria, who becomes over-king
- 664 Synod of Whitby
- 669 Arrival of Archbishop Theodore
- 672 Synod of Hertford; battle of the Trent, marking the beginnings of the rise of Mercia
- 685–8 Expansion of Wessex under Caedwalla to include Kent, Surrey, and Sussex
- 716 Æthelbald becomes king of Mercia
- 731 Bede completes his *Ecclesiastical History*
- 746–7 First Council of Clofesho
- 757 Death of Æthelbald; Offa becomes king of Mercia
- 786 Legatine Council held under Offa

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- 793–5 Danish raids on Lindisfarne, Jarrow, and Iona  
 796 Death of Offa  
 825 Eǵbert of Wessex defeats Mercia and annexes Kent,  
 Essex, Surrey, and Sussex  
 835 Big Danish raid on Kent  
 865 The Danish ‘Great Army’ lands  
 867 Northumbria falls to the Danes  
 870 East Anglia falls to the Danes; murder of St Edmund  
 871 The Danes attack Wessex; Alfred becomes king  
 874 Mercia falls to the Danes  
 878 (March) The Danes drive Alfred into the Somerset  
 marshes  
 (May) Alfred defeats the Danes at Edington; Guthrum  
 is baptized  
 899 Death of Alfred; Edward ‘the Elder’ becomes king of  
 Wessex  
 910–20 Edward and Æthelflaed reconquer most of the  
 Danelaw  
 919 Norse kingdom of York is founded by Raegnald  
 924 Death of Edward; Athelstan becomes king  
 937 Athelstan defeats the Norse, Scots, and Strathclyde  
 Welsh at Brunanburh  
 939 Death of Athelstan; Edmund becomes king  
 940 Dunstan begins to refound Glastonbury as a regular  
 monastic house  
 946 Death of Edmund  
 954 The last king of York is deposed  
 959 Edgar becomes king  
 960 Dunstan becomes Archbishop of Canterbury  
 c.970 *Regularis Concordia* is compiled  
 973 Edgar is crowned and consecrated, and receives the  
 submission of British princes  
 975 Death of Edgar; Edward ‘the Martyr’ becomes king  
 979 Murder of Edward; Æthelred ‘the Unready’ becomes  
 king  
 991 The Danes defeat Alderman Byrhtnoth and the Essex  
 levies at Maldon; treaty between England and  
 Normandy  
 1002 Æthelred orders the massacre of all Danes in England

- 1003 Danish invasion led by King Swein  
1013 Swein returns with a new army; the Danelaw accepts him as king  
1014 Swein dies; the Danish army in England elect Cnut as their king  
1016 (April) Æthelred dies; Edmund 'Ironside' becomes king (autumn) Cnut defeats Edmund at Ashingdon; Edmund dies and Cnut becomes king of all England  
1017 Cnut divides England into four earldoms  
1035 Death of Cnut  
1037 Harold becomes king  
1040 Death of Harold; Harthacnut becomes king  
1042 Death of Harthacnut; Edward 'the Confessor' becomes king  
1051-2 Conflict between King Edward and Godwin earl of Wessex  
1053 Death of Godwin; his son Harold becomes earl of Wessex  
1064-5 Earl Harold visits Duke William in Normandy  
1066 (January) Death of King Edward; Earl Harold becomes king  
(September) King Harold of England defeats and kills King Harold of Norway at Stamford Bridge  
1066 (October) Duke William of Normandy defeats and kills King Harold of England at Hastings  
(December) William is consecrated king  
1067-70 English rebellions  
1069-70 The harrying of the north  
1086 Domesday Survey carried out  
1087 Death of William I; accession of William II Rufus  
1088 Rebellion in support of Robert Curthose  
1093 Anselm appointed Archbishop of Canterbury  
1096 Robert pawns Normandy to Rufus  
1100 Death of William Rufus; accession of Henry I  
1101 Invasion of Robert Curthose  
1106 Battle of Tinchebray; Curthose imprisoned; Henry I takes Normandy  
1107 Settlement of Investiture Dispute in England  
1120 Wreck of the White Ship

- 1128 Marriage of Empress Matilda to Geoffrey of Anjou  
 1135 Death of Henry I; accession of Stephen  
 1139–53 Civil war in England  
 1141 Battle of Lincoln; Stephen captured; later exchanged  
     for Robert of Gloucester  
 1141–5 Geoffrey of Anjou conquers Normandy  
 1149 Cession of Northumbria to David of Scotland  
 1152 Henry of Anjou (later Henry II) marries Eleanor of  
     Aquitaine  
 1153 Henry invades England; he and Stephen come to terms  
 1154 Death of Stephen; accession of Henry II  
 1157 Henry regains Northumbria  
 1162 Becket appointed Archbishop of Canterbury  
 1164 Council and Constitutions of Clarendon; Becket goes  
     into exile  
 1166 Assize of Clarendon  
 1169–72 English conquest of Ireland begins  
 1170 Coronation of the young king; murder of Becket  
 1173–4 Rebellion against Henry II; William ‘the Lion’ (king of  
     Scotland) invades the north  
 1183 Death of the young king  
 1189 Death of Henry II; accession of Richard I  
 1190–2 Richard I on crusade  
 1193–4 Richard in prison in Germany  
 1193–1205 Hubert Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury (justiciar  
     1194–8; chancellor 1199–1205)  
 1197 Death of Rhys of Deheubarth  
 1199 Death of Richard I; accession of John; establishment of  
     Chancery Rolls  
 1203–4 Philip Augustus conquers Anjou and Normandy  
 1208–14 Interdict in England  
 1214 Battle of Bouvines: French victory  
 1215 Magna Carta; civil war in England  
 1216 Louis (later Louis VIII) invades; death of John;  
     accession of Henry III  
 1217 Battle of Lincoln and Dover; Louis withdraws  
 1221–4 Arrival of Dominican and Franciscan friars in England  
 1224 Louis VIII completes conquest of Poitou  
 1232 Dismissal of Hubert de Burgh

- 1240 Death of Llywelyn the Great  
1254 Henry III accepts papal offer of throne of Sicily  
1258 Barons take over royal government; provisions of Oxford  
1259 Treaty of Paris between England and France  
1264 Battle of Lewes; Henry III captured; government of Simon de Montfort  
1265 Battle of Evesham; killing of Simon de Montfort  
1267 Henry recognizes Llywelyn ap Gruffydd as Prince of Wales  
1272 Death of Henry III; accession of Edward I  
1276–7 First Welsh War  
1282–3 Edward's conquest of Wales  
1286–9 Edward I in Gascony  
1291 Edward I asserts his overlordship over Scotland  
1294 War with France begins  
1295 Franco-Scottish alliance  
1296 Edward I invades Scotland; his conflict with the Church  
1297 Edward I's conflict with his magnates; his expedition to Flanders  
1306 Rebellion of Robert Bruce  
1307 Death of Edward I; accession of Edward II  
1314 Scottish victory at Bannockburn  
1315–16 Great famine  
1321–2 Civil war in England  
1327 Deposition and death of Edward II; accession of Edward III  
1330 Edward III takes the reins of government  
1337 The Hundred Years War begins  
1339–41 Political crisis in England  
1346 English victories at Crécy and Neville's Cross  
1347 English capture Calais  
1348 First occurrence of plague in England  
1356 English victory at Poitiers  
1361 Second major occurrence of plague  
1376 'Good Parliament' meets; death of Edward, the Black Prince  
1377 Death of Edward III; accession of Richard II

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- 1381 The Peasants' Revolt
- 1382 Condemnation of John Wycliffe's works
- 1388 'Merciless Parliament' meets; battle of Otterburn  
against the Scots
- 1389 Richard II declares himself of age
- 1394-5 Richard II's expedition to Ireland
- 1396 Anglo-French treaty
- 1397-9 Richard II's 'tyranny'
- 1399 Deposition of Richard II; accession of Henry IV
- 1400 Rebellion of Owain Glyndŵr begins (to 1410)
- 1403 Henry Hotspur defeated at Shrewsbury
- 1405 Execution of Archbishop Scrope of York
- 1408 Defeat of the earl of Northumberland at Bramham  
Moor
- 1413 Death of Henry IV; accession of Henry V
- 1415 English victory at Agincourt
- 1419-20 English conquest of Normandy
- 1420 Anglo-French treaty of Troyes
- 1422 Death of Henry V; accession of Henry VI
- 1435 Death of John, duke of Bedford; Franco-Burgundian  
treaty of Arras
- 1436-7 Henry VI comes of age
- 1445 Henry VI marries Margaret of Anjou
- 1449-50 French overrun Normandy
- 1450 Murder of the duke of Suffolk; John Cade's rebellion
- 1453 French overrun Gascony; Henry VI becomes ill
- 1455 Battle of St Albans between Richard, duke of York and  
the royalist forces
- 1459 Defeat of the duke of York at Blore Heath and Ludford  
Bridge
- 1461 Deposition of Henry VI; accession of Edward IV
- 1465 Capture of Henry VI
- 1469 Rebellion of Richard, earl of Warwick and George,  
duke of Clarence
- 1470 Deposition of Edward IV; return of Henry VI
- 1471 Return of Edward IV; death of the earl of Warwick at  
Barnet; death of Henry VI
- 1475 Edward IV's expedition to France; Anglo-French treaty  
of Picquigny



- 1477 William Caxton's first printed book in England  
1483 Death of Edward IV; accession, deposition, and death of Edward V; accession of Richard III; rebellion of Henry, duke of Buckingham  
1485 Death of Richard III at Bosworth; accession of Henry VII  
1487 Rebellion of Lambert Simnel  
1491 Birth of Prince Henry  
1509 Accession of Henry VIII  
1510 Execution of Empson and Dudley  
1512 War with France and Scotland  
1513 Battle of Flodden: English victory over Scotland  
1515 Wolsey appointed Lord Chancellor  
1522 War with France  
1525 Peace with France  
1527 Divorce crisis begins  
1528 War with Spain  
1529 Peace of Cambrai; fall of Wolsey: Sir Thomas More succeeds as Lord Chancellor  
1532 More resigns  
1533 Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn; Act of Appeals; birth of Princess Elizabeth  
1534 Act of Supremacy  
1535 Execution of More and Fisher  
1536 Dissolution of the Monasteries; Pilgrimage of Grace; union of England and Wales  
1542 Battle of Solway Moss; English victory over invading Scottish army  
1543 War with France  
1547 Succession of Edward VI; ascendancy of Protector Somerset; battle of Pinkie: English victory over Scotland  
1549 First Book of Common Prayer; Northumberland's coup  
1553 Accession of Mary  
1554 Pole returns; reunion with Rome; Wyatt's rebellion  
1555 Persecution of Protestants begins  
1557 War with France  
1558 New Book of Rates; accession of Elizabeth I

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- 1559 Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis; religious Settlement in England
- 1566 Archbishop Parker's *Advertisements* demand religious conformity
- 1568 Mary Stuart flees to England
- 1569 Northern Rebellion
- 1570 Papal bull declares Elizabeth excommunicated and deposed
- 1580 Jesuit missionaries arrive in England
- 1585 War with Spain
- 1587 Execution of Mary Stuart
- 1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada
- 1594 Bad harvests begin
- 1601 Essex's rebellion
- 1603 Death of Elizabeth; accession of James VI of Scotland as James I; peace in Ireland; Millenary Petition of the Puritans
- 1604 Peace with Spain (treaty of London); Hampton Court Conference (king, bishops, Puritans)
- 1605 Gunpowder Plot, the last major Catholic conspiracy
- 1606–7 Failure of James's plans for union of kingdoms
- 1607 Settlement of Virginia
- 1609 Rebellion of the Northern Earls in Ireland; beginnings of the Planting of Ulster by Scots and English Protestants
- 1610 Failure of Great Contract (reform of royal finance)
- 1611 Publication of Authorized Version of the Bible (Anglican–Puritan co-operation)
- 1612 Death of Prince Henry, James's promising elder son
- 1613 Marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Elector Palatine, Protestant zealot, enmeshed Britain in continental politics
- 1617–29 Ascendancy of George Villiers, duke of Buckingham
- 1619–22 Inigo Jones designs the Banqueting House, the first major royal public building since the reign of Henry VIII
- 1620 Pilgrim Fathers inaugurate religious migration to New England
- 1622–3 Prince Charles and Buckingham go to Spain to woo the king's daughter and are rebuffed

- 1624–30 War with Spain
- 1625 Death of James I; accession of Charles I and marriage to Henrietta Maria, sister of Louis XIII of France
- 1626–9 War with France
- 1628 Petition of Right; publication of Harvey's work on the circulation of the blood; assassination of Buckingham
- 1629 Charles I dissolves Parliament, determines to govern without one
- 1630 Large-scale emigration to Massachusetts begins
- 1633 William Laud translated to be Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1634–40 Ship Money case
- 1637 Hampden's case supports Charles I's claim to collect Ship Money
- 1637–40 Breakdown of Charles's government of Scotland and two attempts to impose his will by force
- 1640 Long Parliament summoned
- 1641 Remodelling of government in England and Scotland; abolition of conciliar courts, abolition of prerogative taxation, triennial bill, Grand Remonstrance; rebellion of Ulster Catholics
- 1642 King's attempt on the Five Members; his withdrawal from London; the 19 Propositions; the resort of arms: Civil War
- 1643 King's armies prosper; Scots invade on side of Parliament
- 1644 Parliamentary armies prosper, especially in the decisive battle of the war, Marston Moor (June)
- 1645 'Clubmen' risings of armed neutrals threaten both sides; Royalist armies disintegrate, but parliamentary forces reorganized (New Model Army)
- 1646 King surrenders to the Scots; bishops and Book of Common Prayer abolished, Presbyterian Church established
- 1647 Army revolt; radical movements criticize parliamentary tyranny; king prevaricates
- 1648 Second Civil War: Scots now side with the king and are defeated; provincial risings (Kent, Colchester, South Wales, Yorks., etc.) crushed

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- 1649 Trial and execution of Charles I; England a Republic  
 1649–53 Government by sovereign single-chamber assembly, the ‘Rump’ Parliament thoroughly purged of royalists and moderates
- 1649–50 Oliver Cromwell conquers Ireland (Drogheda massacre)
- 1650–2 Oliver Cromwell conquers Scotland (battles of Dunbar and Worcester)
- 1651 Thomas Hobbes’s *Leviathan* published
- 1652–4 First Dutch War
- 1653 Cromwell dissolves Rump, creates the Nominated or Barebones Assembly; it surrenders power back to him, and he becomes Lord Protector under a paper constitution (*The Instrument of Government*)
- 1655–60 War with Spain
- 1655 Royalist insurrection (Penruddock’s rising) is a complete failure
- 1657 *Instrument of Government* replaced by a parliamentary paper constitution, the *Humble Petition and Advice*; Cromwell rejects title of king and remains Lord Protector, but nominates his own House of Lords
- 1658 Cromwell dies and is succeeded by his son Richard
- 1659 Richard overthrown by the army; Rump restored but displeases many in the army
- 1660 Charles II restored
- 1662 Church of England restored; Royal Society receives its Charter
- 1663 Failure of first royal attempt to grant religious toleration
- 1665–7 Second Dutch War
- 1665 Great Plague (final major outbreak)
- 1666 Great Fire of London
- 1667 Milton’s *Paradise Lost* published
- 1672–3 Failure of second royal attempt to grant religious toleration
- 1672–4 Third Dutch War
- 1674 Grain bounties introduced (England self-sufficient in food)
- 1678 Titus Oates and the Popish Plot; Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*, part I, published

- 1679–81 The Exclusion Crisis; emergence of Whig and Tory parties
- 1683 The Rye House Plot; Whigs proscribed
- 1685 Charles II dies; accession of James II; rebellion by Charles II's protestant bastard, the duke of Monmouth, fails
- 1687 James II's Declaration of Indulgence; Tories proscribed; Newton's *Principia Mathematica* published
- 1688 James II's son born
- 1688 William of Orange invades: James II takes flight, accession of William III (of Orange) and Mary
- 1689 Bill of Rights settles succession to the throne and declares illegal various grievances; Toleration Act grants rights to Trinitarian Protestant dissenters
- 1690 Battle of the Boyne: William III defeats Irish and French army
- 1694 Bank of England founded; death of Queen Mary; Triennial Act sets the maximum duration of a parliament at three years
- 1695 Lapse of Licensing Act
- 1697 Peace treaty of Ryswick between allied powers of the League of Augsburg and France; Civil List Act votes funds for the maintenance of the royal household
- 1701 War of Spanish Succession begins; Act of Settlement settles the royal succession on the descendants of Sophia of Hanover
- 1702 Death of William III; accession of Anne
- 1704 Battle of Blenheim: British, Dutch, German, and Austrian troops defeat French and Bavarian forces; British capture of Gibraltar from Spain
- 1707 Union of England and Scotland
- 1710 Impeachment of Dr Sacheverell; Harley ministry
- 1713 Peace treaty of Utrecht concludes the War of Spanish Succession
- 1714 Death of Anne; accession of George I
- 1715 Jacobite rebellion aimed at overthrowing the Hanoverian succession fails
- 1716 Septennial Act sets the maximum duration of a parliament at seven years

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- 1717 Whig split; suspension of convocation  
1720 South Sea Bubble: many investors ruined after speculation in the stock of the South Sea Company  
1721 Walpole ministry  
1722 Atterbury Plot, the most notable Jacobite plot  
1726 Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* published  
1727 Death of George I; accession of George II  
1729 Alexander Pope's *Dunciad* published  
1730 Walpole/Townshend split  
1733 Excise crisis: Walpole has to abandon his plans to reorganize the customs and excise  
1737 Death of Queen Caroline  
1738 Wesley's 'conversion': the start of Methodism  
1739 War of Jenkins' Ear: Anglo-Spanish naval war  
1740 War of the Austrian Succession  
1741 Samuel Richardson's *Pamela* published  
1742 Fall of Walpole  
1744 Ministry of Pelham  
1745 Jacobite Rebellion led by 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'  
1746 Battle of Culloden: the duke of Cumberland routs the Jacobite army  
1748 Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle concludes War of the Austrian Succession  
1752 Adoption of Gregorian Calendar  
1753 Jewish Naturalization Bill  
1754 Newcastle ministry  
1756 Seven Years War: Britain allied with Frederick the Great of Prussia against France, Austria, and Russia  
1757 Pitt–Newcastle ministry; battle of Plassey: British victory over Bengal  
1759 Capture of Quebec: British victory over the French  
1760 Death of George II; accession of George III  
1761 Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* published  
1762 Bute's ministry  
1763 Peace of Paris concludes Seven Years War; Grenville ministry; Wilkes and General Warrants  
1765 Rockingham ministry; American Stamp Act attempts to make the defence of the American colonies self-financing; repealed 1766

- 1766 Chatham ministry
- 1768 Grafton ministry; Middlesex election crisis
- 1769 James Watt's steam engine patented
- 1770 Lord North's ministry; Edmund Burke's *Thoughts on the Present Discontents* published; Falkland Islands crisis
- 1773 Boston Tea Party; American colonists protest against the East India Company's monopoly of tea exports to America
- 1774 Coercive Acts passed in retaliation for Boston Tea Party
- 1776 Declaration of American Independence; Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* and Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* published
- 1779 Wyvill's Association movement
- 1780 Gordon Riots develop from a procession to petition parliament against the Catholic Relief Act
- 1781 Surrender at Yorktown: American victory over British troops
- 1782 Second Rockingham ministry
- 1783 Shelburne ministry; Peace of Versailles recognizes independence of American colonies; Fox–North coalition; Younger Pitt's ministry
- 1784 East India Act
- 1785 Pitt's motion for parliamentary reform defeated
- 1786 Eden commercial treaty with France
- 1789 French Revolution
- 1790 Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* published
- 1791 Thomas Paine's *The Rights of Man* published
- 1792 Coal gas used for lighting; Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women* published
- 1793 Outbreak of war with France; voluntary Board of Agriculture set up; commercial depression
- 1795 'Speenhamland' system of outdoor relief adopted, making up wages to equal cost of subsistence
- 1796 Vaccination against smallpox introduced
- 1798 T. R. Malthus's *Essay on Population* published; tax of 10 per cent on incomes over £200 introduced

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- 1799 Trade Unions suppressed; Napoleon appointed First Consul in France
- 1799–1801 Commercial boom
- 1801 Union with Ireland; first British Census
- 1802 Peace with France; Peel introduces first factory legislation
- 1803 War with France; General Enclosure Act simplifies process of enclosure of common land
- 1805 Battle of Trafalgar: Nelson defeats the French and Spanish fleets
- 1809–10 Commercial boom
- 1811 Depression because of Orders in Council; ‘Luddite’ disturbances in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire; George, Prince of Wales, made Prince Regent
- 1813 East India Company’s monopoly abolished
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo: defeat of Napoleon; peace in Europe; Congress of Vienna; Corn Law passed setting price of corn at 80s. per quarter
- 1815–17 Commercial boom
- 1817 Slump; the Blanketeers’ march and other disturbances
- 1819 Peterloo massacre: troops intervene at mass reform meeting, killing 11 and wounding 400
- 1820 Death of George III; accession of George IV
- 1821–3 Famine in Ireland
- 1824 Commercial boom
- 1825 Trade unions legalized; Stockton and Darlington railway opens; commercial depression
- 1829 Catholic Emancipation, ending most denials or restrictions of Catholic civil rights, ownership of property, and holding of public office
- 1830 Death of George IV; accession of William IV; Liverpool and Manchester railway opens
- 1830–2 First major cholera epidemic; Whigs in power under Grey
- 1831 ‘Swing’ riots in rural areas against the mechanization of agriculture
- 1832 Great Reform Bill brings climax to period of political reform, enlarging the franchise and restructuring representation in Parliament



- 1833 Factory Act limits child labour; beginning of Oxford Movement in Anglican Church
- 1834 Slavery abolished in the British Empire; parish workhouses instituted; Robert Owen founds the Grand National Consolidated Trade Union: action by government against 'illegal oaths' in unionism results in failure of GNCTU and transportation of six 'Tolpuddle Martyrs'
- 1835 Municipal Reform Act extends local government franchise to all ratepayers
- 1835-6 Commercial boom: 'little' railway mania
- 1837 Death of William IV; accession of Queen Victoria
- 1838 Anti-Corn Law League established; People's Charter drafted
- 1839 Chartist riots
- 1840 Penny post instituted
- 1841 Tories in power: Peel ministry
- 1844 Bank Charter Act; Rochdale Co-operative Society founded; Royal Commission on Health of Towns
- 1844-5 Railway mania: massive speculation and investment leads to building of 5,000 miles of track; potato famine begins in Ireland
- 1846 Corn Law abolished; Whigs in power
- 1848 Revolutions in Europe; Public Health Act
- 1851 Great Exhibition
- 1852 Derby's first minority Conservative government
- 1852-5 Aberdeen's coalition government
- 1853 Gladstone's first budget
- 1854 Northcote-Trevelyan civil service report
- 1854-6 Crimean War, defending European interests in the Middle East against Russia
- 1855 Palmerston's first government
- 1857-8 Second Opium War opens China to European trade
- 1858-9 Derby's second minority Conservative government
- 1858 Indian Mutiny and India Act
- 1859 Publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*
- 1859-65 Palmerston's second Liberal government
- 1860 Anglo-French 'Cobden' treaty and Gladstone's budget codify and extend principles of free trade

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- 1861 Death of Albert, Prince Consort
- 1862 Limited Liability Act provides vital stimulus to accumulation of capital in shares
- 1865 Death of Palmerston (October)
- 1865–6 Russell's second Liberal government
- 1866 Russell–Gladstone moderate Reform Bill fails
- 1866–8 Derby's third minority Conservative government
- 1867 Derby–Disraeli Reform Act; Dominion of Canada Act
- 1868 Disraeli succeeds Derby as Prime Minister (February)
- 1868–74 Gladstone's first Liberal government
- 1869 Suez Canal opened; Irish Church disestablished
- 1870 Irish Land Act; Forster–Ripon English Elementary Education Act; Married Women's Property Act extends the rights of women in marriage
- 1872 Scottish Education Act
- 1873 Gladstone government resigns after defeat on Irish Universities Bill; Disraeli declines to take office
- 1874–80 Disraeli's second Conservative government
- 1875 Disraeli buys Suez Canal shares, gaining a controlling interest for Britain
- 1875 Agricultural depression deepens
- 1875–6 R. A. Cross's Conservative social reforms passed
- 1876 Victoria proclaimed Empress of India; massacres of Christians in Turkish Bulgaria provoke anti-Turkish campaign in Britain, led by Gladstone
- 1877 Confederation of British and Boer states in South Africa
- 1878 Congress of Berlin; Disraeli announces 'peace with honour'
- 1879 Trade depression; Zulu War: British defeated at Isandhlwana, win at Ulundi
- 1879–80 Gladstone's Midlothian campaign denounces imperialism in Afghanistan and South Africa
- 1880–5 Gladstone's second Liberal government
- 1880–1 First Anglo-Boer War
- 1881 Irish Land and Coercion Acts
- 1882 Britain occupies Egypt; Triple Alliance between Germany, Austria, and Italy
- 1884–5 Reform and Redistribution Acts

- 1885 Death of Gordon at Khartoum; Burma annexed;  
Salisbury's first (minority) Conservative government
- 1886 Royal Niger Company chartered; gold found in  
Transvaal; Gladstone's third Liberal government  
introduces first Home Rule Bill for Ireland; Liberal  
Party splits
- 1886-92 Salisbury's second (Conservative-Liberal-Unionist)  
government
- 1887 British East Africa Company chartered
- 1888 County Councils Act establishes representative county  
authorities
- 1889 London dock strike; British South Africa Company  
chartered
- 1892-4 Gladstone's fourth (minority) Liberal government
- 1893 Second Home Rule Bill rejected by the Lords;  
Independent Labour Party founded
- 1894-5 Rosebery's minority Liberal government
- 1895-1902 Salisbury's third Unionist ministry
- 1896-8 Sudan conquered
- 1898 German naval expansion begins
- 1899-1902 Second Anglo-Boer War  
(autumn) British disasters in South Africa
- 1900 Khaki election won by Salisbury; formation of Labour  
Representation Committee; Commonwealth of  
Australia Act
- 1901 Death of Victoria; accession of Edward VII
- 1902 Balfour's Education Act; Anglo-Japanese alliance
- 1902-5 Balfour's Unionist government
- 1903 Chamberlain's Tariff Reform campaign starts
- 1904 Anglo-French *Entente*
- 1905-8 Campbell-Bannerman's Liberal government
- 1906 Liberals win general election (January); Labour Party  
formed
- 1907 Anglo-Russian *Entente*
- 1908-15 Asquith's Liberal government
- 1908 Asquith's Old Age Pensions plan introduced
- 1909 Churchill's Employment Exchanges introduced; Lloyd  
George's budget rejected by Lords; Union of South  
Africa Act

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- 1910 (January) General election: Liberal government retains office  
(May) Death of Edward VII; accession of George V  
(December) General election: Liberal government again retains office
- 1911 Parliament Act curtails power of the House of Lords, establishes five-yearly elections; Lloyd George's National Insurance Act; Moroccan crisis
- 1911-12 Railway, mining, and coal strikes
- 1912 Anglo-German navy talks fail
- 1912-14 Third Home Rule Act (for Ireland) and Welsh Church Disestablishment Act passed, but suspended
- 1914 (28 June) Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo  
(4 August) British Empire enters the First World War
- 1915-16 Dardanelles expedition, ending in British withdrawal from Gallipoli
- 1916 Easter rising in Dublin; battle of the Somme; battle of Jutland; Lloyd George succeeds Herbert Asquith as prime minister
- 1917 United States enters the war; battle of Passchendaele
- 1918 Representation of the People Act enfranchises women aged 30 and over; end of First World War (11 November); Lloyd George coalition government returned in 'coupon election' (December)
- 1919 Treaty of Versailles establishes peace in Europe; Addison Housing Act
- 1921 Miners seek support of dockers' and railwaymen's unions (the 'Triple Alliance') in major strike: on 'Black Friday' the dockers and railwaymen back down, and the alliance is broken; Lloyd George concludes treaty with Sinn Fein
- 1922 Fall of Lloyd George; Bonar Law heads Conservative government
- 1923 Baldwin becomes Conservative Prime Minister; general election
- 1924 (January) MacDonald leads first Labour government  
(November) Conservatives return to office under Baldwin

- 1925 Britain goes back on the gold standard
- 1926 General Strike (3–12 May)
- 1929 General election; MacDonald leads second Labour government
- 1931 Financial crisis and run on the pound; Britain abandons the gold standard; MacDonald resigns and is returned in the election to head National Government
- 1932 Ottawa Conference on imperial trade institutes protective tariffs
- 1935 National Government re-elected; Baldwin succeeds MacDonald as Prime Minister; Hoare–Laval pact on Abyssinia; Government of India Act
- 1936 Death of King George V; abdication of Edward VIII; George VI becomes king
- 1937 Neville Chamberlain succeeds Baldwin as Conservative Prime Minister
- 1938 Chamberlain meets Adolf Hitler at Berchtesgaden, Bad Godesberg, and Munich
- 1939 British guarantee to Poland; British Empire declares war on Germany (3 September)
- 1940 Churchill succeeds Chamberlain as Prime Minister; withdrawal from Dunkirk; battle of Britain
- 1941 *Luftwaffe* ‘blitz’ on many British cities; Soviet Union and United States enter the war
- 1942 Loss of Singapore; Montgomery’s victory at El Alamein; battle of Stalingrad; Beveridge Report on social security
- 1943 Successful campaign in North Africa; Anglo-American armies invade Italy
- 1944 D-day invasion of France; R. A. Butler’s Education Act
- 1945 End of war in Europe (8 May) and in far East (15 August); general election: massive Labour victory and Attlee becomes Prime Minister
- 1947 Coal and other industries nationalized; convertibility crisis; transfer of power to independent India, Pakistan, and Burma
- 1948 Bevan launches National Health Service; withdrawal from Palestine
- 1949 NATO founded; devaluation of the pound by Stafford Cripps

- 1950 General election: Labour retains power by narrow majority; outbreak of war in Korea
- 1951 Festival of Britain; general election: Conservatives defeat Labour, and Churchill again becomes Prime Minister
- 1952 Death of King George VI; Queen Elizabeth II proclaimed
- 1954 British troops withdraw from Egypt; rationing ends
- 1955 Eden becomes Prime Minister; general election won by Conservatives
- 1956 Anglo-French invasion of Suez, followed by withdrawal
- 1957 Eden resigns; Macmillan becomes Prime Minister
- 1959 General election: Conservatives win with larger majority
- 1963 French veto Britain's application to join the European Common Market; test-ban treaty in Moscow limits nuclear testing; Profumo affair; Douglas-Home succeeds Macmillan as Prime Minister
- 1964 General election: Labour under Harold Wilson win narrow majority
- 1965 Unilateral declaration of independence by Rhodesia
- 1966 General election: Labour win with much larger majority
- 1967 Devaluation of the pound; Britain again rebuffed over Europe
- 1968 Restriction of Commonwealth immigration
- 1970 General election: Conservatives under Edward Heath returned to office
- 1972 National miners' strike; Stormont government abolished in Northern Ireland
- 1973 Britain enters European Common Market
- 1974 National miners' strike; two general elections: Labour under Harold Wilson win both with narrow majorities
- 1975 Popular referendum confirms British membership of the Common Market
- 1976 Economic crisis: Britain obtains help from International Monetary Fund
- 1978 'Winter of Discontent' amongst the unions
- 1979 Devolution referendums in Wales and Scotland; general election: Conservatives under Thatcher

- returned to office; independence granted to Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)
- 1980 Britain becomes self-sufficient in North Sea oil
- 1981 Social Democratic Party founded
- 1982 Britain defeats Argentina in war over the Falkland Islands
- 1983 General election: Thatcher's Conservative government returned with massive majority; Cruise missiles installed
- 1984 National miners' strike
- 1985 Miners' strike ends after a year; Anglo-Irish Hillsborough Agreement signed
- 1986 Channel Tunnel treaty signed; 'Big Bang' in Stock Exchange
- 1987 General election: Thatcher's Conservative government again returned with a majority of over 100; Stock Exchange collapse in the autumn
- 1989 Poll tax introduced first in Scotland
- 1990 Britain joins Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM); resignation of Thatcher; John Major becomes Prime Minister
- 1991 Gulf War against Iraq
- 1992 Conservatives unexpectedly retain power at general election; 'Black Wednesday': Britain leaves the ERM; Maastricht treaty
- 1994 IRA declares ceasefire in Northern Ireland
- 1996 Prince Charles and Princess Diana divorce
- 1997 Labour wins general election with majority of 179; Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister; death of Princess Diana in car crash in Paris; Scotland and Wales vote for devolution in referendums; Britain withdraws from Hong Kong
- 1998 Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland
- 1999 Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) begins (1 January), without Britain; first elections for Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly; hereditary peers in the House of Lords abolished
- 2000 Millenium Dome; Tate Modern opens; first elected mayor of London

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- 2001 '9/11' bombings in New York and Washington, DC: sixty-seven British people killed
- 2002 Queen Elizabeth's golden jubilee
- 2003 Anglo-American invasion of Iraq; massive protest marches in London
- 2005 Labour wins third term in general election; London wins bid for 2012 Olympic Games; terrorist bombings in London
- 2007 European reform treaty; Gordon Brown succeeds Tony Blair as Prime Minister; Northern Ireland assembly meets with Revd Ian Paisley heading all-party government; Scottish Nationalists form government in Edinburgh; severe floods in the Severn Valley; Thameslink rail connection between London and Paris
- 2008 Sharp economic downturn; transatlantic banking failures lead to a crisis in British banking; several banks effectively nationalized
- 2009 Britain in economic recession; crisis for Parliament after MP's expenses scandal; troops withdrawn from Iraq
- 2010 Three MPs and a peer charged with expenses fraud