

Words of Visionaries

Module: Speeches by Visionaries & Changing World Order

At Dreamers & Innovators, we have two ongoing modules. First, **Speeches by Visionaries**, for our junior Dreamers, strives to inspire them with the ideas, words and achievements of world-renowned figures such as Kalam, Martin Luther King Jr., Steve Jobs etc.

Our module for seniors, **Changing World Order**, demystifies the conflicts and crises of today by identifying the roots and evolutions of these issues, which all go back to events of the 20th century.

This week's newsletter showcases the ideas of three promising Dreamers: Advik, who writes about the lesser-known facts of India's hasty partition; and Uday and Manek, who provide their insight into the decline of the largest empire in history: the British Empire.

Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

A Partition made in Haste

Advik Rajaani
10 years



The Radcliffe Line leads to a hasty partition of India-

The Radcliffe Line is the border that divided India and Pakistan in 1947. It was made by a lawyer (and not a cartographer), Sir Cyril Radcliffe in only six weeks! This led to a genocide where people of different religions attacked each other. Let's elaborate this.

The British, weakened by World War II, declared that they would be leaving India in July 1948. The British wanted a separate country for Muslims. Leader of the Muslim League, Muhammed Ali Jinnah, also wanted a country for Muslims. Then, the Viceroy of India, Lord Louis Mountbatten convinced Jinnah to form such a country. After that, Mountbatten invited the lawyer Sir Cyril Radcliffe to India.

Mountbatten, Gandhi, Nehru, Jinnah and Radcliffe had a meeting, at which the June 3 Plan was revealed. Pakistan got physically separated from India on 17th August 1947. Prior to that, Radcliffe spent six weeks in the parliament making the Radcliffe line. The revelation of the border so suddenly led to chaos. All this happened because of a hasty line drawn by a lawyer who had no cartography experience. The sources Radcliffe used to make the line were not limited and fuelled the fire that led to a genocide.

British Empire: Glory to Ashes

Uday Nanda
13 years



The British empire: the empire where the sun never sets. It had a myriad of colonies across the world. It had an area of 34 million km square. It was the greatest and largest empire in the world. Still, every empire has an end.

The greatest decline was because of the two world wars. First, India gained Independence in 1947. Then in 1948 Burma or Myanmar and Palestine gained independence. In 1959 the gold coast became Ghana and left the British empire. Cyprus gained independence in 1960. In 1958 Malaya became independent, in 1963 Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo were freed and these 4 nations combined to be known as Malaysia. Malta became independent in 1964.

All African colonies were granted independence in 1968 except South Rhodesia. The Caribbean Islands gained independence in the '70s' and '80s'. Jamaica and Trinidad had gotten it earlier in 1961 and 1962 respectively. The western Pacific regions gained independence in 1970-1980. In 1980 South Rhodesia also got independence and became Zimbabwe. The last colony was Hong Kong which became independent from British rule in 1997. This was the end of the British empire. July 1st 1997 was the end of history's greatest empire.

The Sun Sets on the Empire

Manek Mehra
14 years



"The British empire, the land where the sun never sets."

Well, this article is not about how that sun rose, but about how it set. The British empire, the largest empire we've ever seen ended after basking in its glory for about five hundred years before its decline began. The main reason for its collapse was because of the World Wars which had drained Britain of most, if not all of its wealth and resources. One of the other reasons why it collapsed was because of many post-war agreements, and independence movements such as that of India. In the year 1947, the crown jewel of the empire, India was getting harder to handle because of its independence movements. This eventually led to Britain relinquishing India.

Now after Britain relinquished India, the next in line was Palestine. In 1948, the British withdrew from Ceylon (present-day Sri-Lanka), along with many other smaller colonies in Asia. After this, it withdrew from Palestine leaving behind Jews and Arabs as a part of the UN partition plan. In 1957, Britain also granted independence to the Federation of Malaya. Then in 1960, it withdrew from Cyprus, after which it withdrew from the African territories. The last territory of Britain, Singapore, was handed to China in 1997, after a 99-year lease. July first 1997, marks the symbolic end of the British empire. And the sun did set on vast empire!