

A Rough Guide to the United Kingdom

Facts, Myths and Stories

Much is known about the United Kingdom. Little is documented. The recent troubles of the country's second civil war has ensured that much of the system of Civil Records have either been filed away in one of the multitude of Regional General Headquarters or have been destroyed in the sackings of several of the country's major cities and the centres of Local Government held therein.

What is known of the country, the state it's in at the moment and the general demographics are held within this document. An attempt at giving an outsider an idea of the country's recent history, its ideals and mindset and the hard facts.

There is much outstanding from what is written here, but that cannot be helped.

LIFE IN THE UK

Great Britain, Scotland and Ireland in the early twenty-first century are not pleasant. The unemployment rate is sky-high – only around 35% of the population *have* jobs - the welfare state and the National Health Service struggling to keep their heads above water and the national debt (mainly to the Tripartite Union) is crippling the country in interest payments alone.

The people of Great Britain are poor – Northern England was officially declared a third-world country by the UN/UES at the height of the war with the Red Cross transporting in food and staging makeshift medical facilities throughout the country. Long-thought-dead conditions like cholera and influenza made a dramatic comeback through overuse of broad-spectrum antibiotics and poor water supply and basic medical equipment and drugs were in drastically short supply as a result of most going to the troops.

Gang warfare and crime is, unsurprisingly, at the highest levels ever seen in the United Kingdom. Criminal organisations have taken advantage of the people of the British Isles during their time of trouble. Sale of black market goods such as weapons and medical supplies is widespread, as is drug dealing and prostitution. People want to forget what is going on and will spend what little money they have to do it. The West Indian and Asian gangs already indigenous to this country before the war have used their position to great effect against the encroaching East European criminal cartels from the fractured and long since dissolved Soviet Union. They are used to criminal activity in a war zone, and consequently, fit right in.

The death rate is high and outbreaks of viruses such as during the Winter of Discontent has made life almost unbearable, especially in Northern England and Scotland. There is still very much a North-South divide. People in the North are resentful of the resources of those in the south and the Southern populace blame the northerners for the outbreak of the war. The two don't mix, and in the Midlands, there have been bloody scenes of murder and other violent crimes by both factions. Despite the war being officially over, there is still much hatred in the people of the United Kingdom.

*Gunshots shatter the peace of night
It's just another firefight
For the people of this little town
But for the dying soldier
He's feeling ten years older
And he's lying face down on the ground
All the words that are in his head
Are all the words his mother said
As she would put him to bed back home*

Another Man's Cause – The Levellers

The British Isles – Demographic Information

Location:
Western Europe.

Geographic coordinates:
54 00 N, 2 00 W

Area:
total: 244,820 sq km

land: 241,590 sq km

water: 3,230 sq km

note: includes Rockall and Shetland Islands

Land boundaries:
total: 360 km

border countries: Ireland 360 km

Coastline:
12,429 km

exclusive fishing zone: 200 NM

territorial sea: 12 NM

Climate:
temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current; more than one-half of the days are overcast

Terrain:
mostly rugged hills and low mountains; level to rolling plains in east and southeast

Elevation extremes:
lowest point: Fenland -4 m

highest point: Ben Nevis 1,343 m

Natural resources:
coal, petroleum, natural gas, tin, limestone, iron ore, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, lead, silica, arable land

Land use:
arable land: 25%

permanent crops: 0%

permanent pastures: 46%

forests and woodland: 10%

other: 19% (1993 est.)

Irrigated land:
1,080 sq km (1993 est.)

Population:
67,647,790 @ July 2035 (estimated)

THE MONARCHY

As national debt increased, the United Kingdom's creditors, in the form of the European Tripartite Union and various Transnational Corporations, began to put pressure on the British government to do something to repair the devastated economy. As a board of investors would place demands on a company to reduce the outlay in order to increase productivity, the same demands were placed on the British Administration.

The main outcome of these demands was the disbanding of the Monarchy.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth II in 2005, her son, King Charles III was crowned. His reign lasted two years before he abdicated in favour of his son, William. William was always going to be a popular King. Handsome and down to earth, with a face and character made for television - very much in the mold of his mother. The decision to abolish this national treasure was not taken well by the citizens of the UK. Unfortunately, the corporations held the nation in their grasp, and the general public and government of the United Kingdom had little say in the matter.

This decision was not helped by the fact that the removal of the Royal Family made Prime Minister, Richard Cookson, Head of State. Speculation was made that said he had done it as a move for personal power - not that this was ever printed in the national press or media - they were owned by the same transnationals that held Britain in their economic grip. The ensuing public unrest and royalist outrage blew over before long. Once the corporate media and the Government went to work with their official statements, reports and forecast dictating how much money would become available for public spending from the budget set aside for the civil list. Much was promised towards the National Health Service, food production and reducing unemployment. This, of course, never came to be, but it pacified the populous in the run up to the war. When the war came, all the promises were forgotten.

So what happened to the Royals ? On the whole, they moved to the continent: Monaco, Spain, Germany and France. Unfortunately, the immediate, nuclear (no pun intended) family, including the ex-King, his father and grandparents, were all in France at the time of the explosion.

*This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happier lands,
This blessed plot, this earth, his realm, this England*

- Richard II, Act 2 (Shakespeare)

BRITISH CIVIL WAR BACKGROUND AND GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Perceived Cause

In the late 20th and early 21st Century, various economic disasters struck. There was a stock market crash, the continuing agricultural crisis (exasperated by the mounting effects of global warming and climate change), a continued and costly domestic and international struggle against terrorism, and the dissolution of the EU. The United Kingdom of Great Britain saw the largest ever increase in divide between the poor and the wealthy since the middle Ages. Most of the wealthy (who were only comparatively wealthy) lived in the Southeast, South and Midlands of England. The poor (who were famine-level poor) lived mainly in the North and the far Southwest of England, and in Scotland.

The government at this time was seen to be protecting the interest of the wealthy in the South, while marginalising the North. Mass protests began in 2009, the usual sub-culture "road protest" people, joined by thousands of ordinary Northerners. The government denied any favouritism. By 2010, refugees from the North were flooding into the Midlands. There were clashes with Police in Nottingham and Birmingham. Large camps of refugees were set up. The government denied aid to the refugees, sticking to its bureaucratic guns. During the summer of 2010, more protests were violently broken up than those not. A great many arrests were made, many for assault, and a few drugs offences.

On 21st June 2011, the summer solstice, the biggest and last protest took place. Now known as the M25 Party, thousands of vehicles blockaded the London Orbital motorway, denying access to the capital. Huge sound-systems were played and the protesters partied in the hot sun. However, the trapped road users rioted: most spectacularly and famously, a band of lorry drivers were filmed as they attacked a blockade of protesters and beat one woman to death while she tried to stop them boarding the bus that she lived on.



Twenty-three other people died in the riots that day, and several hundred were injured. Millions of pounds' worth of damage was done. From this point on, the various organisations behind the Northern protesters began to arm themselves. It is generally seen as the start of the British Civil War, although the actual declaration came later.



The Opening Moves

Throughout 2011 violent clashes between protesters and police or citizens increased. By the end of September, the recently formed Northern Egalitarian Organisation under the charismatic Kevin Johnson was buying weapons from former Eastern Bloc countries. On October 3rd 2011, the NEO moved into Nottingham, gunning down the armed response from the local constabulary and establishing a base of operation in the high ground of Nottingham Castle. On the 4th, with command of the city in the balance, they brought in their artillery.

Johnson set up two anti-aircraft guns and six mortar positions. His "freedom fighters" had access to surface-to-air missiles. Military-style defences defeated ground attacks by police. A helicopter over-flying the area was brought down by the AA guns. The police headquarters was razed to the basement under the Northern bombardment.

In London, the government elected to deal harshly with the rebels. The anti-terrorism provisos in the law allowed full military force to be used. On the 6th, the famous SAS were brought in. In the ensuing attack, several of the NEO team were killed. Johnson was killed in the attack.

British Army personnel, imposing a curfew and spot-searching the locals quickly occupied Nottingham. On the October 7th 2011, the vengeful NEO shelled the city from the north, destroying the castle and its historic surrounds. Then began a running artillery battle that would devastate the plains of Nottinghamshire within weeks, finally ending with the blanket-bombing of the Sneinton/Carlton area in South-East Nottingham, killing or routing the remaining, retreating NEO soldiers.

There was no denying that the British Civil War was truly on.

*Forgetting the mercies of Great Britain's King,
Who saved their forefathers' necks from the string,
With hunting shirts and rifle guns,
They renounce all allegiance and take up their arms,
Assemble together like hornets in swarms,
So dirty their backs, and so wretched their show,
That carrion-crow follows wherever they go,
With their hunting shirts and rifle guns.*

THE REBELS (1778)

When the Rules are Re-Written....

The outcry over the sacking of Nottingham was on both sides. Leaders of the groups that would become the Northern Coalition called both for action and political solutions. The high tension caused some hard words to be spoken, exasperating the matter. Several groups sprang up declaring the rights of the dispossessed, some of whom have gone down in history. The government would not back down from its anti-terrorist stance, the North would not lie down and submit, riots continued, the Northern Resistance Group gained support among the people of the North as it gained revulsion from the South. The government mobilised the whole military might of Great Britain, as it had against the Provisional IRA. Historians have highlighted this as the greatest mistake of the conflict.

The desertions following the mobilisation should have been predictable. In the late 20th century and the early 2000s, the demographic of the military (in particular, the Army and Navy) had seen a swing to the North. With northern Britain and the south-west, increasingly impoverished, recruitment to the Armed Forces was highest in the worst-affected regions.

Approximately eighty percent of the British Armed Forces deserted during or shortly after the mobilisation. Whole regiments were lost. Most spectacular of all was the "Mutiny on the Illustrious". Captain Jason Banks, as he was then, was commanded to sail the aircraft carrier Illustrious into the Humber to put down resistance in time for Christmas. He surrounded himself with sympathetic officers and crew before marooning any who would not come with him on a gas-drilling rig in the North Sea. Banks is, of course, now Rear Admiral Jason Banks of the Northern Coalition Navy.

The Conservative Party was elected to power in 2008. Cookson was PM at the time of the first uprisings and it was he that the leaders of the North, and the dispossessed Southwest, reviled the most. With its conciliatory tactics and traditionally working class background, the troubled Labour Party fell from favour and lost the opposition place in the Commons. In 2012, when War was declared, Jonathon Norton resigned as Leader of the Labour Party, stating that his Party's view that War was unacceptable was something he could no longer support in light of such rebellion. Commentators said at the time that he was the best Prime Minister that Britain never had.

Meanwhile, Cookson's handling of the War drew praise from the citizens of the South. As the conflict drew out, the loyalist counties of Britain formed the Southern England Allied Nation. A long debate in the still functioning House of Commons formed the Civil Organisational Bill (Emergency Mutual Alliance), rushing it through the bureaucracy in time for the next election.

The Northern armies were frequently shown to be barbaric rebels in propaganda. Though he resigned over the South's perceived poor handling of the Siege of Hereford in 2016, the public considered him a good leader. Sullivan replaced him following an internal vote by the Conservative Party, who had held their majority through the five years of conflict. The governments of the rest of the world were floundering against the corporations, but no businesses seemed to want to interfere in British affairs.

In 2020, both sides seemed to be locked in place. The front lines for this period, up to 2024, barely move more than ten miles. The various groups of the North and South West held talks – beginning their own Coalition.

“They say everyone British remembers where they were when the Prime Minister's car exploded.”

In 2024 there were several events that reshaped the political map. Lawrence Sullivan was assassinated.

It was en route to the 2024 UK Peace Accord in Westminster. Live Vidcast beamed across most of the Western world showed the rocket streak across the screen and hit the black limousine. Two men were shot at the scene and following a chase through central London, the third terrorist, a woman, was pulled, alive from the River Thames after the car she was driving careered through the barriers and into the river. She was taken away by the police for questioning.

THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE

Key Players

Donovan Hardy
Leader of English Free Counties (Devon, Cornwall & Somerset - later taking the form of the breakaway SWDU).

Malcolm Braithwaite
Leader of Northern Counties Confederation from 2011 to 2024.

Milo Dunfries
Leader of Northern Resistance Group / Army between 2011 and 2024.

Field Marshall Marcus Maximillian
Leader of Northern Volunteer Army



With their symbol, the Angel of the North at the heart of their flag, the Northern Coalition have succeeded where their Southern counterpart has failed by making the most of the resources at hand. Whilst SEAN has fought the war on conventional levels, the NC has made good use of whatever precious resources that they can find. An example of this would be the amnesty offered to 'home hydroponics professionals' (read 'drug growers') in an attempt to utilise their skills and resources. Many came forward with a two-fold result. Those with larger operations were offered resources and premises in which to set up for food production. Tower blocks in run down inner cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle were refurbished as best as possible and food crop production began, distributing to the cities in which the operations were based. The smaller outfits were similarly given more resources and requested to continue the production of their once-illicit marijuana and cannabis crops. In return for the aid given, they were required to turn over 70 percent of their product to the government. These narcotics were then sold in the south and overseas in Western Europe to fund the coalition forces in the struggle against the South.

Additionally, many of the run down industrial areas in the North East were renovated as much as possible and put to good use, for example, the long derelict Tyne and Wear area, having docklands and warehousing space, was given a minor facelift and used as the Northern Coalition Navy HQ.

THE MIDLANDS WAR ZONE

Although strictly belonging to neither the Northern Alliance or the SEAN government, the UK Midlands south of Leeds and north of Bedford were the worst hit by the war. No city in this band was unaffected by ferocious street fighting or air assault. The major cities such as Leicester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Northampton, Peterborough and Coventry were the worst hit, with Nottingham and Northampton being almost completely destroyed and Birmingham and Coventry coming close. Charity organisations such as the Red Cross and Amnesty International, as well as the UN did what they could for this war-torn landscape, but with the fighting recurring on a daily basis, sometimes it was just too dangerous for them to be there, simply having to set up staging posts just to ship the wounded to more secure hospitals in the North or South. Leaders of the NEO and SEAN both went public with sympathetic statements aimed at the people of this area, but neither really did anything to stop the war for their sakes. For the people of these cities, 'The Unwanted'

as they were sometimes referred, cared little for these platitudes as their friends and families died though injury or disease as a result. In reaction, many guerrilla defence groups were formed. Many soldiers were from this area, and when confronted with what was happening to their home towns, simply went back to defend what was left. The second battle of Birmingham took place between three factions, with the Northern and Southern forces thinking they were fighting each other, they were often also fighting the local defence militia who were simply protecting their own. These facts only recently came to light, casting yet more shame on the war in general.

THE SOUTHERN ENGLAND ALLIED NATION (SEAN)

Key Players

Luke Chriton-Stuart

Home Secretary for the Conservative Party from 2008 to present day.

Jonathon Norton

Leader of the Labour Opposition between 2008 and 2012 and Prime Minister of Southern Allied English Nation from 2024 to present day.

Steven P. Sherman

Leader of the Liberal Opposition from 2012 to 2024.

David Croft

Conservative Defence Minister from 2008 to present day.

Richard Cookson

Prime Minister of Great Britain for the Conservative Party from 2008 to 2016.

Lawrence Sullivan

Conservative Prime Minister of Southern England Allied Nation between 2016 and his assassination in 2024.

This is where the money and the power lay. Despite the desertion of nearly 80 percent of the Army, and a substantial amount of the Navy, the RAF was still very much on the side of the South, and as any military tactician knows, you cannot win a war without air superiority. This was where SEAN held it's own.

SEAN ran the Southern half of the country from the old capital city, London. London stood pretty much physically unscathed by the whole war. Psychologically and economically was a different story. Organised crime took over much of the city – West Indian, African, Asian and Eastern European gangs held sway over their own little quarters. Gang warfare between these groups was widespread, especially in the disputed areas around Brixton, Camberwell and Battersea.

Most of the time during the war, the country was run from Kelvedon Hatch Regional General Headquarters just outside Brentwood in Essex. This four-storey, self-contained underground facility was built during the cold war as a centre of Governmental Operations in the event of a nuclear confrontation. Sold off at the end of the twentieth century, the facility was maintained as a museum. At the outbreak of the war, the fully operational site was commandeered and recommissioned in this capacity. Here the members of the SEAN Government eat, slept and planned the eventualities of the war, communicating with GCHQ in Cheltenham and a similarly recommissioned facility, RAF Rudloe Manor, in Wiltshire.



The main strength that SEAN had over the Northern Alliance was that of air superiority. The RAF were almost entirely loyal to the Southern Government with a desertion rate of eleven percent. With most significant Air Force bases in the South, this gave SEAN a marked advantage and meant that the Northern Alliance would have very little success in mounting attacks on Southern targets.

Other significant locations in the SEAN arsenal were Southampton, Bristol, Great Yarmouth and Felixstowe.

Southampton accommodated what was left of the SEAN aligned Royal Navy. The RN was more or less split down the middle with regards to allegiance, and Southampton was where many of SEAN's carrier battle groups were based when not on operation around the south coast. Many of SEAN's naval strategists compared the concentration of Southern naval power at Southampton to that of the US Pearl Harbour base, commenting that it was a good thing that the NEO forces did not have significant enough an air force or the placement of the Navy here would be tantamount to suicide.

Bristol was SEAN's main port. Close to the main Cymru import/export centre of Swansea, the SEAN government knew that the Northern Forces would not risk a conflict in the Bristol Channel for fear of damaging or sinking Welsh sea

traffic. This was played as an advantage by SEAN, who often flew Welsh flags on their merchant ships when sailing along the south coast to the European mainland, a tactic condoned by the Cymru authorities.

Bristol was eventually attacked in June 2017 by a fleet of nine NEO ships commanded by the now Rear Admiral Jason Banks. This fleet consisted of one aircraft carrier, the NEO flagship, HMS Illustrious, two conventional destroyers, four missile destroyers, and two frigates. Bristol and SEAN as a whole were taken completely by surprise by the night raid, and the SEAN shipyards were substantially damaged in the attack. The NEO were not without loss though. Two squadrons of Fleet Air Arm Typhoon fighters from Southampton, as well as one squadron of Hurricane fighters from RAF Middle Wallop were scrambled to deal with the attack. The NEO lost two missile destroyers to the fighters and another to Bristol's array of coastal defence missiles. The NEO still considered this to be a victory, despite the loss of three ships and almost 1500 men, as a victory – the SEAN merchant shipping supply line was close to eliminated for the foreseeable future.



Great Yarmouth and Felixstowe are SEAN's main ports. The line of supply to Holland, Germany and, at one point, France. A great deal of sea traffic comes through these ports and, as a result, is a heavy traffic flightpath for the RAF. Yarmouth has been the most frequently attacked of these seaports – being further north than Felixstowe. In 2022, Yarmouth came under attack from the NEO Navy as a diversion for combat units coming into North Norfolk via The Wash. These troops were tasked with the destruction of selected communications arrays in the area. The task was achieved with the loss of 85% of the soldiers involved. After severe fighting in and around the Norwich area, the remaining NEO troops escaped either by sea, or by land in stolen vehicles.

The Millenium Dome

What started out as a tourist attraction and architectural carbuncle has turned out to be a post of hope for the desperate. The Dome has been turned into a hospital by the Red Cross to cope with casualties not only on both sides of the war, but also for victims of disease and injury throughout London. Donated by the SEAN government to the Red Cross in return for the services provided, the Dome has become a safe haven for those without private corporate health care or sufficient insurance to use the dwindling National Health Service. Since it's opening in this capacity in 2014, the Dome Hospital has cared for over 1.5 million patients.



THE REST OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Cymru



Wales declared its independence in 2013. With viable seaports, a good agricultural and industrial base, the Welsh saw little reason in continuing to attach themselves to their struggling erstwhile oppressors. With their borders closed, and an aggressive policy on immigration, Wales became the most affluent of the UK countries. Their military, in the form of the Welsh Guards - most of whom had deserted at the declaration of independence – stood as a border guard, thus allowing the police to continue the job of law enforcement. Welsh industry continued to prosper, and import and export went on as normal through the seaports of Newport and Swansea. Wales was never going to become an international power, but no one in the country died of poverty, starvation or disease as a result of the war.

The South-Western Democratic Union

  In a knee-jerk reaction to Welsh independence, Somerset, Cornwall and Devon also petitioned for independence, allying themselves with the new free Welsh state in direct opposition to the civil war, already raging in England. This was granted almost without argument from the Government, and the SWDU was born. With a healthy industry, and access to the southern Welsh city-port of Swansea, the SWDU had little to worry about with regards to the war. The nearest strategic position to them was Bristol, and that was far enough away to afford little concern. With little wish to be a major power, and a tiny population to care for, the SWDU survive to this day, their head of state, Malcolm Trevelyan and his small government have been re-elected every four years since their rise to power at the end of 2013.

The main strategic reason that the SWDU was granted freedom was that many Royal Navy seaports were located in this area, and if the NEO were precluded from using these bases, then they would not have the advantage of a key military location near to the heart of the SEAN homeland. Bases like Portsmouth and Plymouth were effectively rendered useless due to the neutral status of the SWDU and the NEO would not risk starting a war on two fronts.

The Eden Project

As in the case of the Dome Hospital in London, the Eden Project in Cornwall similarly started out primarily as a tourist attraction. The geodesic dome array set in a natural crater, east of St Austell, has become one of the main sources of food in the SWDU, growing a variety of vital crops in hydroponics labs. Despite the ease in which genetically modified crops could be grown in this facility, the concept of the project remains true and only natural foods are grown, using traditional and modern techniques for high crop yield. All the domes have been converted to food crops except one of the smaller geomes, which remains devoted to conservation of endangered plant species.



Scotland



Too far North to be bothered by the conflicts in the South and the Midlands, the Scots were only marginally affected by the combat-side of the war. Edinburgh held a tenuous peace as a SEAN enclave in the North. Almost a microcosm of the UK's overall political situation, there was street fighting and guerrilla warfare against the British Government establishment by both the NEO and the Scottish Nationalists. It was not the case that the SNP and the NEO were allied, more that they had a common enemy, and both factions used this to their advantage.

In other ways, Scotland has suffered greatly as a result of this war. Unemployment in Scotland was at an all time high, even before the war had started. Lack of industry and a high dependence on tourism and subsidies led to a massive rise in the amount of below-poverty-line living. There was little sympathy from the Scots for either side in the war, although the Northern Coalition forces used the country as a route for trafficking in cheap weapons and supplies from Scandinavia and Northern Russia. This was frowned on by the Scottish Parliament, but the war was the only growth industry. Being involved in it in this capacity put food on the tables of many Scottish families.

Many Scottish and English politicians used analogies like 'highland clearance' and 'Jacobite rebellion' to describe the situation that the Scots were in. Most Scots related to these analogies a great deal and looked upon this time as comparative to that era. Many groups of Scots, calling themselves freedom fighters took up arms against British contingents, stealing and killing for whatever they could get. The media, again, used a historic analogy to describe these bandits and the Border Reivers were born again. Who says history doesn't repeat itself.

Northern Ireland



The situation in Northern Ireland was forgotten about. SEAN had enough problems fighting a war on a domestic front without worrying about the logistics of a continuing conflict in Northern Ireland. At the end of 2012, all British forces – those that had not already deserted to fight for the NEO - were withdrawn from Northern Ireland and put to work on the campaign in the Midlands leaving the Ulster Defence Force and the Police to clean up the mess. Sinn Fein were voted into power in the quickly organised election of 2013 and have been there ever since. The in-fighting between Protestant and Catholic continues.

Eire



During the uproar of the civil war in England, Southern Ireland had to deal with a massive influx of refugees. Many were Irish ex-patriots returning to the homeland, thousands of others though, were simply fleeing with their families, carrying everything they possessed. The desperately undermanned and ill-equipped Garda did their best to prevent this influx, but, on the whole, failed.

Camps were set up on the east coast around Dublin, the main one being built at the junction of the R116 and R117 south of Dublin. Designed to temporarily house up to two hundred thousand people, this camp stood for fifteen years and was estimated, at one point to have contained nearly quarter of a million English refugees. The Red Cross and the domestic Irish health service battled with disease throughout this time. Thousands of people are said to have died in the squalid conditions in the Enniskerry camp. This is probably a massive underestimation.

The people of the internment camps were not the only ones to suffer. Irelands resources were spread as thin as those of the people on mainland Britain. Despite not having a war to face, there were widespread protests against the accommodation of the British immigrants. This protesting turned into rioting, which, in turn, became looting and fighting in the streets.

*Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)
"Anthem for a Doomed Youth"*

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

*Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.*

*No mockeries for them from prayers or bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,-
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.*

*What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of silent minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.*

A LITTLE PIECE OF ENGLAND

After the carnage that occurred through most of the cities of the British Midlands. Among the carnage that had been left behind by the warring factions, people had further problems to face. Great Britain was practically a post-apocalyptic state. Resources were non-existent, food negligible and disease a major concern. In addition to this, many cities, missing the essential police forces, fell into the hands of criminals and gangs. Nottingham was one of these cities.

When the Southerners destroyed Nottingham in 2011, one unit of Northern troops survived in the caves beneath the Castle. All the entrances and exits were buried or melted shut in the assault, trapping them down there. Fortunately, they had enough supplies for several years and the caves had access to the water table. Isolated from the rest of the world, the unit of troops soon formed their own miniature community and before the end of the year the first child was born.

Digging with hand tools, the only implements available to them, the underground community took several years to break through to the surface. By the time they accomplished this, in 2020, refugees and scavengers had begun to filter back into the gutted city. Violence immediately broke out as all factions competed for the massively limited resources.

The Northerners from under the castle soon became a force to be reckoned with; much of their military-grade equipment survived with them in the tunnels and that gave them a distinct edge in the bloody close quarter fighting amongst the ruins. Totally cut off from the outside world, they defaced their unit markings and disavowed their allegiance to the North to concentrate on their own survival. Soon, other survivors flocked to join them. They become a gang, and soon acquired the name the Fallen Angels.

There was only one other force in the ruins capable of standing up to them: another gang who called themselves the Legion. It became known that they too were ex-military; a group of deserters from the South.

Soon, what little was left of Nottingham was in a state of constant low-key warfare. Despite this, when word of the peace conference at the Houses of Parliament filtered through, the Fallen Angels recognised that it would mean Nottingham returning to the hands of the South. Unwilling to allow what would effectively be a total victory for the Legion, virtually the entire gang mobilised and took steps to prevent this. The Fallen Angels were the "Northern Terrorists" who bombed the peace conference in 2024, thereby ensuring the continuation of the war.

Upon the Fallen Angels' return to Nottingham, they found that the Legion hadn't been idle while they were away. Open combat breaks out, and a fortnight later the status quo was restored. Both gangs suffered heavy casualties, but the Fallen Angels reclaimed the territory lost in the raid on London. Nottingham was in a state of stalemate; neither gang could gain the upper hand. Something had to happen to break the deadlock and it occurred in 2030.

Lucifer Thompson, leader of the Fallen Angels, had been growing more and more erratic for several years now. He finally snapped, and ordered a full frontal assault on the Legion's HQ. Despite the protestations of his second in command the attack went ahead, only to prove a total disaster. The Fallen Angels suffered massive casualties and fell back to their own territory with the Legion pursuing them all the way. It is still not entirely clear what occurred during the rout; at some point, Thompson was separated from the main body of the gang and killed, while the Legion wiped out the rest of Fallen Angels.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that this mystery will ever be resolved, as soon after this the Legion gradually ceased activity, as if its members dropped out of sight, one by one. Nottingham now stands silent once again, a testament to the horrific futility of war.

This is just an example of what went on in the devastated inner cities of, predominantly, the Midlands. Other cities suffered substantial damage and loss of life and what transpired as a result was a typical survivalist mentality with clans, gangs and enclaves forming to protect those immediately around group leaders with enough charisma and individual power to make it happen. Inner cities became warzones outside of the war, smaller towns and villages walled themselves off, becoming largely self sufficient and feuds between extended family groups grew rapidly out of hand. Much of what occurred was compared to a post-apocalyptic environment. Although post-apocalyptic typically refers to the aftermath of nuclear holocaust, this was no less of a holocaust despite there never being any use of tactical or strategic nuclear weapons. People reverted, in many cases to almost dark-age life. The basics such as food and medical supplies became the most valuable of commodities and the use of actual currency like the pound and the euro became obsolete in all but the cases of those dealing in black market commodities both domestically and abroad.

Piracy also became a big issue. Most of the major motorways and A-roads became deserted as fuel supplies dried up, meaning that anyone travelling on these roads became a target for the road gangs. People compared the M1, M6, M42 and other motorways of the Midlands to those featured in films like the 20th century classic 'Mad Max' trilogy, as in this movie, people died just for what petrol was left in their tank, the food they were carrying or any ammunition and weapons they had. To travel in small numbers on these roads was tantamount to insanity.

BRITISH INDUSTRY AND INSTITUTIONS

Oxford Universities Incorporated

Despite its position, geographically, in the British Isles, Oxford remained relatively unscathed during the course of the war. Oxford Universities Incorporated remains one of the great centres for learning in the world. As a result of the money invested in Oxford and its educational facilities by some of the worlds richest families, OUI was able to provide its students and faculty with one of the most formidable private military forces ever seen, whilst maintaining the reputation for research, development and breakthroughs in all fields of study. Both sides involved in the war recognised the strategic adversity and overwhelming firepower that would be encountered should their engagements encroach on the city of Oxford, and both saw fit to circumvent the city. The CEO and Dean of OUI, Professor Sir Michael Chamberlain, recognised the potential threat of civil war before the conflict started and was prepared. One of the students at Oxford in 2010 was Kose Oryoku, grand-nephew of the Emperor of Japan. Following a meeting with the young man, and a call to the Japanese Royal Family, arrangements were made with the Arakudo Corporation to supply a comprehensive defence plan to be deployed in the event of a declaration or decree of war. Arakudo came to Oxford and were in place at the end of April 2012. They have had a show of force there ever since, protecting perhaps the greatest seat of education in the world.

Lloyds of London

Very few corporations in the UK survived the carnage and economic disaster that was the war. Fortunately, transport infrastructure insurance is, and is always likely to be, a growth industry.

Lloyds of London have been insurers of aircraft, ships and industrial plants and other premises worldwide for many years. The organisation was started in Edward Lloyd's Thames-side coffee house in Tower Street in the City of London in the years before 1688, providing premises, reliable shipping news and a variety of services to enable his clientele of ships' captains, merchants and rich men to carry on their business of insuring ships and their cargoes.

As a result of global market dominance in this area in the years up to the start of the war, Lloyds weathered the hard time with little change to their daily routines or profit margins. The worlds shipping and transportation needed insuring, as did the premises of every major organisation the world over. Lloyds was there to underwrite this need.

Imperial Aerospace

Building transport, combat and light aircraft for the worlds market is the business of Imperial Aerospace Incorporated. More recently, IAe has become involved in the LEO (Low Earth Orbit) aircraft market. Their first production model in this area, the IAe Comet is a commercial airliner that travels via a steep climb and descent trajectory interspersed in extreme high altitude flight. The purpose behind this is short flight times over long distances and short, intense fuel burns putting the plane in orbit cheaply and quickly, followed by a controlled glide descent into the destination. IAe, in association with German corporation, Fokker and the Japanese Mitsushiro organisation are the current market leaders in this field. During the war, IAe were firmly on the side of the Royal Air Force, and by default, the SEAN leadership.

British Broadcasting and Communications Corporation (BBCC)

During the entire civil war, not to mention anything else that happened worldwide over the last thirty years, the BBCC were there to report it and broadcast it to the civilised world. Operating from London and their European Berlin headquarters, the BBCC retained their reputation for credible and impartial journalism. This showed during the war when the BBCC were publicly criticized for televising atrocities committed by both sides. This stubborn impartiality lead to a complete lockdown of their London "Broadcasting House" HQ by the SEAN intelligence community, forcing them to move all operations to the Berlin offices, from where they are based to this day.

When Britain first at Heav'n's command
Arose from out the azure main;
This was the charter of the land,
And guardian angels sang this strain;

The nations not so blest as thee,
Shall in their turns to tyrants fall;
While thou shalt flourish great and free,
The dread and envy of them all.

Still more majestic shalt thou rise,
More dreadful from each foreign stroke;
As the loud blast that tears the skies,
Serves but to root thy native oak.

These haughty tyrants ne'er shall tame,
All their attempts to bend thee down
Will but arouse thy generous flame;
But work their woe, and thy renown.

To thee belongs the rural reign;
They cities shall with commerce shine;
All thine shall be the subject main,
And every shore it circles thine.

The Muses, still with freedom found,
Shall to thy happy coast repair;
Blest Isle! With matchless beauty crowned,
And manly hearts to judge the fair.

Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves:
Britons never will be slaves.

Thomas Augustine Arne, 1740



OOO Credits:

Original concept and timeline for the British Civil War – Alastair McLaughlin
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