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1- الدكتور: مراد بواوي من جامعة المسيلة

2- الدكتور بوازيد الطيب من جامعة المسيلة

رئيس المجلس العلمي



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**PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF**



**FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGE
DEPARTEMENT OF ENGLISH**

**A COURSE OF AMERICAN AND BRITISH CIVILIZATIONS
DESIGNED FOR SECOND YEAR LMD STUDENTS**

BY DR. BENNAA YUCEF

2021-2022

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Preface

This module offers the students of the English Language at the University of Msila an overview of the British and American experiences from cultural and historical perspectives. It deals with a variety of different topics like the Magna Carta and the US Bill of rights, the geography of both countries, and the most noteworthy people in their histories. The learning outcomes of this module will help students to develop the confidence necessary in debating major themes in American and British civilizations such as the “exceptionalism” of both “Empires,” by critically analyzing their experiences and identifying faulty assumptions about them. The module will also reinforce the study skills, such as writing and oral presentations.

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British & American Civilization

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2021-2022

Course Description:

This course follows British and American civilizations. It focuses on the historicity of the most important social, cultural, political and economic developments in Britain and the United States of America. This course also focuses on the geography of both countries.

Course Goals and Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Know key events and dates in British and American history.
- Know the evolution of the geography of Britain and the US.
- Discuss long-standing issues and problems in British history.
- Report on careers and contributions of noteworthy persons in British history.
- Analyze similarities and differences between past and current events in the history of Britain.

This Course reinforces the Following General Education Skills objectives:

- **Students will read different genres.**
- **Students will write paragraphs, essays and a paper in each semester.**
- **Students will do one oral presentation per semester.**

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1-Readings: The following books are the required reading material for this course, I will make sure to provide you with the PDF versions of these books.

- Oakland, John. 2002. *British Civilization: an Introduction*. London: London University Publication Office.
- McDowall, David. 2008. *An Illustrated History of Britain*. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.
- Oakland, John. Mauk, David. 2002. *American Civilization: an Introduction*. London: London University Publication Office.

- O'callaghan, Bryn. 2008. *An Illustrated History of the U.S.A.* New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

2-Participation and Attendance: Attendance and participation* are absolutely necessary for the course to be successful. Participation will help you, dear students, to better process and understand the material we cover. You **SHOULD** come to class ready and prepared to ask questions, generate ideas, and discuss the topic of that particular session.

The policy regarding the absences is to be determined according to the English department guidelines.

Class and home Assignments: Of course, you'll be assigned some in-class and home-bound activities and assignments that will make up a portion of your final grade.

Paper and Presentation: This is, of course, the culmination of our experience in this course, along with the final Exam. Some of you will be required to write a research paper (of no more than 10 pages, including a bibliography) on a topic of your choosing (After my confirmation) in the lessons we cover in British Civilization or British Culture in general. The other group will have to present a work to your colleagues and me, using PowerPoint in a 15 minutes presentation.

Course 01: The Celts, the Romans and the Geography of Britain

Objectives

- Students are going to have an insight into the first inhabitants of Great Britain.
- Students are going to be familiarized with the cultures and lifestyles of the Romans and the Celts.
- This course also explains the complex political geography of the British and Irish Isles.

Presentation

Britain had been historically inhabited by several groups of people coming from different parts of continental Europe. After the ice age had ended and after the melting of the ice that eventually created the English Channel, one of the most important ancestors of British people today came to the newly formed Island.

The Celts

The Celts started arriving to the British Isles around 700 BC, according to various sources (Oakland, 2002; Mcdowall, 2008). The origins of the Celtic people are heavily debated. However, historical consensus believes that they came from central Europe and southern Russia (Oakland, 2002). The years that came after the 700 BC were within what is known now as the Iron Age. During this age the technologies that enabled people to tame iron started to be widespread, and the Celtic people were one of the earlier masters of these technologies. Forging weapons and ploughs out of this strong metal enabled the Celts to dominate earlier inhabitants of Britain who still relied on Bronze, and they were even able to drive them out of fertile lands (Mcdowall, 2008). After establishing a strong footprint in the island more Celtic tribes started arriving in wave after wave bringing with them their rich

cultures and different languages. Some of the Celtic languages are still in use to this very day, including Welsh and Breton, which is the only Celtic language still in circulation in the continent of Europe, precisely in France (Roberts, 2015).

Celtic Society and Lifestyle

Much of what we know about Celtic society and Celtic lifestyle is taken not from the Celts but rather from the Romans. This due mainly to the fact that the Romans were really prolific when it came to documenting events and the Celts were basically illiterate and relied on oral traditions (Roberts, 2015). The physical description of the Celts gathered from archeological evidence stated that they were tall with red hair and blue eyes, and surprisingly clean regardless of social status (Mcdowall, 2008).

Figure 01: Celtic Costumes



Source: Silar. (2015). *Celtic Costumes* [Illustration]. Celtic Costumes.

Celtic society was understandably not very sophisticated in terms of structure and organization. The top hierarchy of Celtic society is made up of two different groups: Druids, which are the religious pagan priests, and the Warriors (Mcdowall, 2008). Druids had a very important place in Celtic societies because they were the keepers of records, laws, medicine and history of the Celts, and they were able to transfer this knowledge orally to the next Druids.

Figure 02: A druid during ritual



Source: *Druid / Description, History, & Facts.* (2021). Encyclopedia Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Druid>

The Romans

The state of peace and stability that the Celts witnessed for centuries in Britain was about to change dramatically, due to a rising force in Southern Europe. The Roman Empire had just invaded France and the resistance they saw in that country was aided and supported by the Celts in Britain due to the blood ties they shared with the Celts of France. This was the declared reasons for why the Romans decided to invade, however, there were other ulterior motives behind the Roman invasion, mainly economic ones. Britain was becoming under Celtic rule a very fertile and prosperous farm land, making it a very strategic source of food for the Romans (Mcdowall, 2008). The Romans first came to Britain in 55 BC under the leadership of the famous Julius Caesar, and with their prolific tactics as occupiers managed to control and organize the local Celtic populations for a very long time (Oakland, 2002).

Figure 03: The Royal Court



Source: Aldrete, G. (2020, May 31). *Romans* [Illustration].

<https://d3idks24kkd2lv.cloudfront.net/burial-practices-in-ancient-rome/>

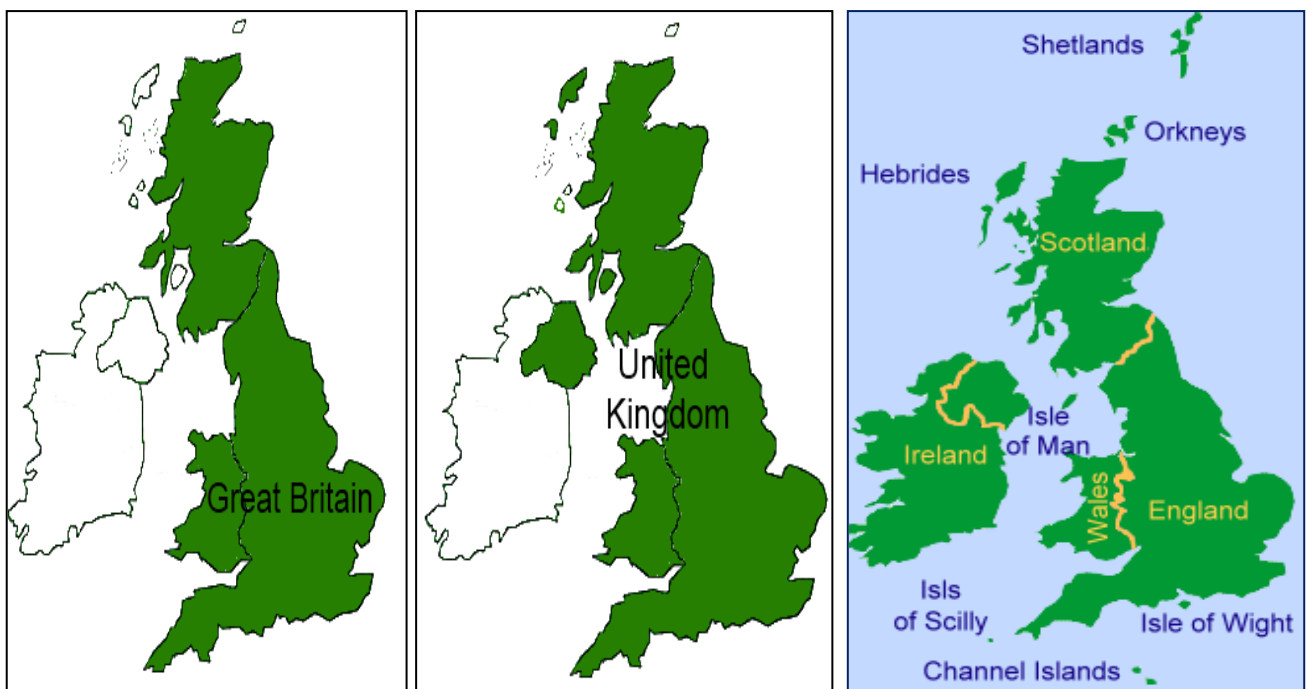
Roman Society and Lifestyle

One of the reasons why the Romans were effective conquerors outside of their strong army and large navy was their soft power: the written word. The Romans started luring the

sons of Celtic warriors and Druids with Latin and Greek and arts keeping the majority of the population illiterate, thus maintaining control without keeping a large army there (Mcdowall, 2008). This strategy enabled the Romans to conquer the entire Island with ease, except for little skirmishes, and establish a Romano-British culture. This culture remains very influential to the present day

The Geography of Britain

The nomenclature of the British and the Irish Isles can cause a bit of confusion for non-British observers. The following maps will alleviate that confusion and illustrate the exact names of each particular entity.



Great Britain

The UK

British and Irish Isles

Source: *United Kingdom Schede*. (2020). Calameo.Com.

<https://fr.calameo.com/books/0046631836b58ba9ca7ab>

Practice

1- Explain briefly the following key terms: Pretani, Gauls, the timeline of AD & BC.

- 2- Write a paragraph (That includes topic, supporting, and concluding sentence(s) describing the difference between Great Britain and the U.K, in geographical and political terms.

Production

Pair work: In a short essay explain the reason that led to the Roman invasion of Great Britain.

References

Aldrete, G. (2020, May 31). *Romans* [Illustration].

<https://d3idks24kkd2lv.cloudfront.net/burial-practices-in-ancient-rome/>

Alice Roberts, *The Celts* (Heron Books 2015) pdf

Mcdowall, David. 2008. *An Illustrated History of Britain*. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Oakland, John. 2002. *British Civilization: an Introduction*. London: London University Publication Office.

Silar. (2015). *Celtic Costumes* [Illustration]. Celtic Costumes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celts#/media/File:0910_Tracht_der_Kelten_in_S%C3%BCdpolen_im_3._Jh._v._Chr.JPG

Course 02: The Saxon Invasion

The Vikings and the relationship between the Church and the State

Objectives

- Students are going to have an insight into the nature of the Saxon and Viking invasions and the development that ensued that changed the political and demographic scenery of Britain for centuries to come.
- The course also deals with and clarifies the different economic and political systems established by the Saxons and the Vikings

Presentation

The Invaders and the Heptarchy

The mild climate and the abundance of farmed land made Britain the center of attention for the greedy. This time around the threat of invasion came from Germanic tribes. Many historians take their accounts of what happened during the Anglo-Saxon invasion from an ancient source called *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, the stories in this document were written by a monk called Bede (Mcdowall, 2008). During the 400s AD the invaders started to arrive to Britain and instead of the usual raiding and pillaging they started to think about settling in. The Germanic tribes that Bede describes in his *Ecclesiastical* were the Angles, from which the name England is taken from, the Saxons, and the Jutes.

The Germanic tribes were not unified under one Kingdom when they reached Britain. In fact they had divided it into seven Kingdoms, hence the name Heptarchy (*Heptarchy / Definition & Maps*, 2020).

Figure 01: The Heptarchy



Source: *Heptarchy / Definition & Maps.* (2020). Encyclopedia Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Heptarchy>

Government and Society

When these tribes established their kingdoms, the next logical step was to devise a sustainable political model to help the kings run them. Therefore they established the Witan, or the King's Council. According to records:

The Witan probably grew out of informal groups of senior warriors and churchmen to whom kings, like Offa had turned for advice or support on difficult matters. By the tenth century the Witan was a

formal body, issuing laws and charters. It was not at all democratic, and the king could decide to ignore the Witan's advice. But he knew that it might be dangerous to do so. For the Witan's authority was based on its right to choose kings, and to agree the use of the king's laws. (Mcdowall, p. 12)

After the establishment of the Witan, which remains relevant to this very day, the Anglo-Saxons divided those kingdoms into more governable units. The new administrative units were called “shires” which means county in the Anglo-Saxon language. (Mcdowall, 2008) Then they appointed an administrator or a governor in every one of these shires. Those people were called Shire Reeves, hence the word Sheriff, which was later used to indicate an officer of the law (Mcdowall, 2008). The Anglo-Saxons brought new technologies especially in farming when they introduced the much heavier plough than the Celts used.

Figure 02: The Anglo-Saxons



Source: Humphries, W. (2019, December 2). *Scholars defend Anglo-Saxon name*. News | The Times. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scholars-defend-anglo-saxon-name-t6gzxtj3h>

Christianity: The Partnership of Church and State

Christianity's precise date of arrival to Britain remains a topic of great debate among historians. However the consensus is that by the fourth century Christianity was well established in the Island. The newly established religion had a major role to play in the politics of the country, according to Mcdowall:

Saxon kings helped the Church to grow, but the Church also increased the power of kings. Bishops gave kings their support, which made it harder for royal power to be questioned. Kings had "God's approval." It was good political propaganda, because it suggested that kings were chosen not only by people but also by God (2008, p. 14).

The way the church helped in increasing the power of the Kings was through establishing monasteries and training ministers who can read and write, which enabled the church and consequently the king to maintain order through spreading education and the word of God.

The Vikings

The other group that was tempted by the riches of the British and Irish Isles was notoriously known for its pillaging, raiding and murdering of villages and people. The Viking, which roughly translates to "people of the sea inlets" or simply "pirates," come from what is now known as the Scandinavian countries, that include Denmark, Norway, and Sweden among other (Mcdowall, 2008). In 865 AD the Vikings knowing fully that the scattered tribes and kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxons are no match for their might, decided to reverse centuries of lifestyle and finally settle down and inhabit Britain. Adopting Christianity helped the Viking assimilate with the local populations. (Mcdowall, 2008) The Vikings also were quick to establish their own system to rule over the territories they occupied. The rules and laws that

were established were called Danelaw, and the currency in circulation was called Danegeld or “Danish Money.” (Mcdowall, 2008)

Figure 03: The Vikings



Source: Linden, E. (2004, December 1). *The Vikings: A Memorable Visit to America*.

Smithsonian Magazine. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-vikings-a-memorable-visit-to-america-98090935/>

Practice

1-Explain briefly the following terms:

Heptarchy - Wessex - Witan- Danelaw-Danegeld

2-Write a short paragraph in which; you compare the Anglo-Saxon rule with the Vikings’.

Production

Pair Work: In a short and well structured essay describe the evolution of the relationship between the Church and the Kings in England.

Course 03: The Celtic Kingdoms: Wales, Ireland and Scotland

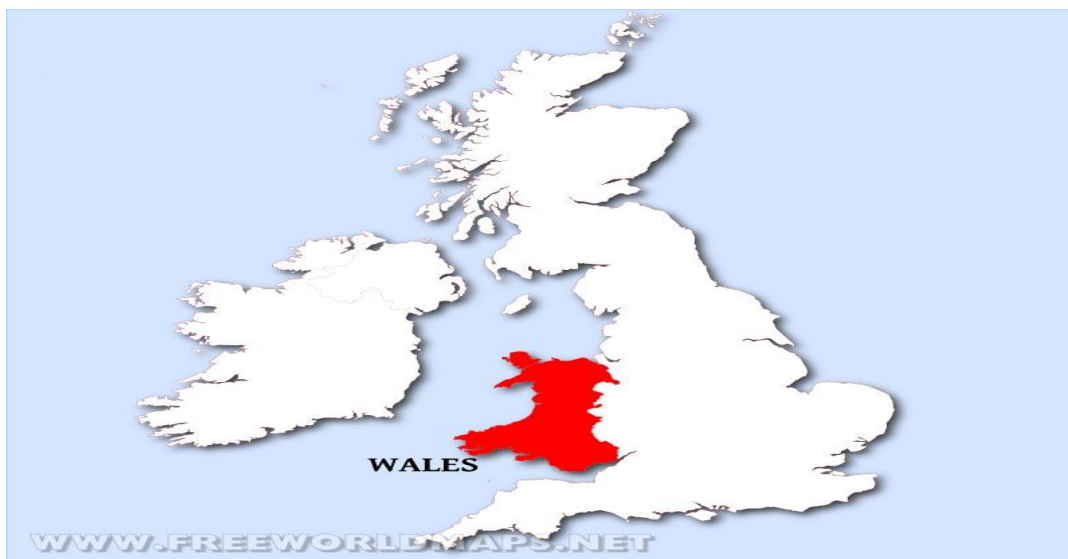
Objectives

- Students are going to have a better understanding of the Celtic kingdoms with insight into their different cultures and experiences.
- The course will also describe the different backgrounds and ethnicities of the inhabitants of these kingdoms.

Presentation

WALES

Figure 01: Wales Map



Source: *Wales Maps* - by *Freeworldmaps.net*. (2020). The Map of Wales.
<https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/wales/>

One of the least talked about countries within the British and Irish Isles is Wales. This is probably due to several reasons. Wales is a very small country in terms of size and population (8.2 millions) (*New South Wales Population*, 2021). The origins and the traditions of the inhabitants of Wales are the subject of rigorous debate. Many historians believe that the Celts

that were pushed into the Welsh peninsula by the Anglo-Saxons were eventually called Welsh by The Germanic tribes and they called themselves “Cymry”, and the rough translation of that word is “fellow countrymen.” (Mcdowall, 2008) The geography and the mountainous terrain made the life of the Welsh people very difficult. According to Mcdowall:

Because Wales is a mountainous country, the *cymry* could only live in the crowded valleys. The rest of the land was rocky and too poor for anything except keeping animals. For this reason the population remained small. It only grew to over half a million in the eighteenth century. Life was hard and so was the behaviour of the people. Slavery was common, as it had been all through Celtic Britain. (2008, p. 18)

Figure 02: The Flag of Wales



Source: *Wales Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net.* (2020). The Map of Wales. <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/wales/>

SCOTLAND

Figure 03: Map of Scotland (in dark blue)



Source: *Scotland Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net. (2020). The Map of Scotland.* <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/Scotland/>

The geography of Scotland is not much different than that of Wales. However the southern part of it, unlike the Welsh lands, is very hospitable in terms of fertile farmland. Despite this fact the Scottish population is smaller than Wales. According to the latest estimates the number of Scots is a meagre 5.46 million (Parenting across Scotland, 2021).

There are four main groups that inhabited Scotland. They are respectively in terms of size and dominance: The Picts, the Scots, the Bretons, and last but not least the Angles. (Mcdowall, 2008) Outside the Angles the other three Celtic tribes merged and assimilated very quickly due to the many commonalities, chief among them are the common Celtic language, the same farming and animal raising lifestyle, and a Celtic version of Christianity (Mcdowall, 2008).

Figure 04: The Flag of Scotland



Source: *Scotland Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net. (2020). The Map of Scotland.* <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/Scotland/>

IRELAND

Figure 05: The Flag of Northern Ireland



Source: *Northern Ireland Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net. (2020). The Map of Northern Ireland.* <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/NorthernIreland/>

Figure 06: The flag of the Republic of Ireland

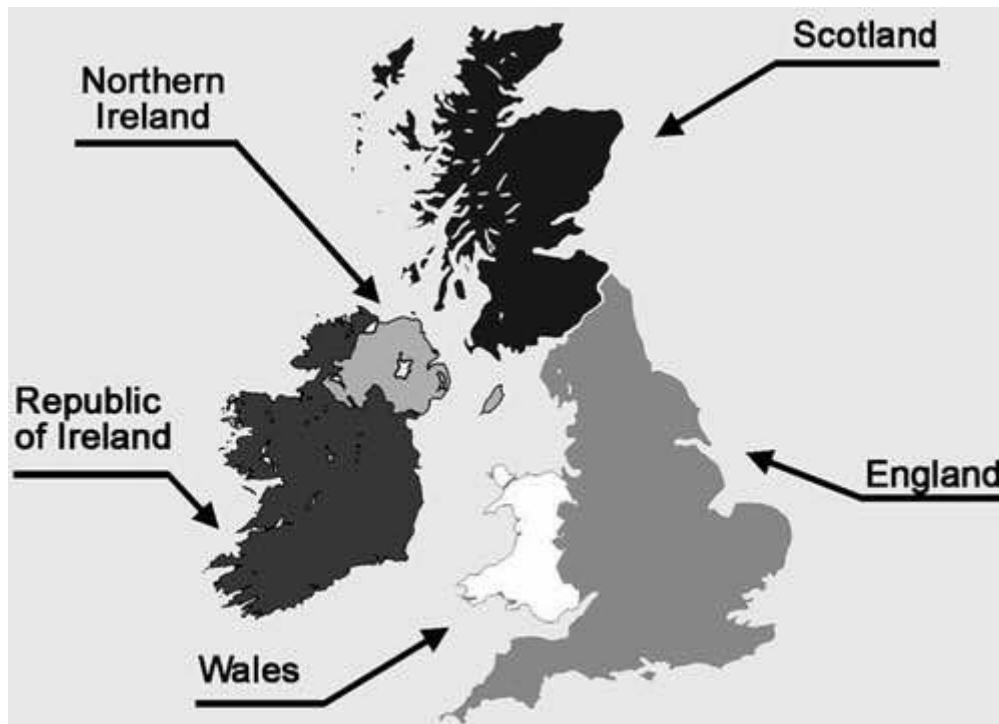


Source: *Republic of Ireland Maps* - by *Freeworldmaps.net*. (2020). The Map of *Republic of Ireland*. [https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/ Republic of Ireland/](https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/Republic%20of%20Ireland/)

The reason why there are currently two flags representing Ireland is simple, because there are two Irelands within the geography of the Irish Isles. Historically however this was not the case. Ireland unlike the rest of what is known now as the United Kingdom was never invaded by the Anglo-Saxons or the Romans, and the raids that they suffered under the hands of the Vikings actually led them to be more united as a people. (Mcdowall, 2008) The population of Both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is roughly 07 millions, with the overwhelming majority going to the Republic of Ireland with 5.01 million (*Central Statistics Office*, 2021). There are many reasons why the population of Ireland remained small despite being very habitable and fertile. The main reason however was due to a infamous Potato famine that decimated the local populations for decades.

Christianity came to Ireland in the 400s AD via a British slave called Patrick, the name from which the famous holiday of Saint Patrick's Day is derived from (Mcdowall, 2008).

Figure 07: Map of the UK (Students will focus on Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland)



Source: *United Kingdom Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net.* (2020). The Map of United Kingdom. <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/> *United Kingdom /*

Practice

- 1-Explain briefly the following terms: Peninsula - Dyke - *Cymry* - Picts
- 2-Briefly, describe the people who inhabited Celtic Scotland in one or two paragraph/s.

Production

Pair Work: In a short essay students will describe the geography and people of Scotland, highlighting the differences and similarities between its inhabitants.

References

Mcdowall, David. 2008. *An Illustrated History of Britain*. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Northern Ireland Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net. (2020). The Map of *Northern Ireland*. [https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/ Northern Ireland/](https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/Northern%20Ireland/)

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[https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/ Republic of Ireland/](https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/Republic%20of%20Ireland/)

Population: current and projected | Info for practitioners | Parenting across Scotland. (2021).
Parenting across Scotland. <https://www.parentingacrossscotland.org/info-for-practitioners/facts-about-families/population-current-and-projected/>

Press Statement Population and Migration Estimates April 2021 - CSO - Central Statistics Office. (2021, August 31). Central Statistics Office.
<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/pressreleases/2021pressreleases/pressstatementpopulationandmigrationestimatesapril2021/>

Scotland Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net. (2020). The Map of *Scotland*.
[https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/ Scotland/](https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/Scotland/)

United Kingdom Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net. (2020). The Map of *United Kingdom*.
[https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/ United Kingdom /](https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/United%20Kingdom/)

Wales Maps - by Freeworldmaps.net. (2020). The Map of *Wales*.
<https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/united-kingdom/wales/>

Course 04: The Norman Conquest and Feudalism

Objectives

- Students are going to have an insight into the nature of the Norman Conquest of Britain, its origins, causes, and consequences.
- The course also deals with the system that the Normans brought, which was Feudalism.
- Students will be able to identify the structure and the hierarchy of the Feudal system.

Presentation

The Norman Conquest

In 1066 AD another conquest of Britain took place, this time it was from the Normans. This conquest proved to be the last major successful invasion of Britain. No other force succeeded in waging a military invasion of the Island since then. The conquest also proved to be a major turning point in British history, because it basically ended the Scandinavian presence in the Royal Court (Mcdowall, 2008). The Normans get their name from a small province in Northern France called Normandy, famous for the major military landing in the Second World War 1939-1945.

William I or William the Conqueror as he liked to be addressed was the first Norman King of England. When he won the military battles against the Anglo-Saxons, he faced a lot of rebellions from the remnants of those tribes who did not accept his rule. William was brutal in extinguishing those revolts, but brute force is not the only means he used to keep the kingdom quiet and under a firm grip.

Figure 01: The Normans



Source: *Anglo-Saxon and Norman England: 3.1 The feudal system and the Church / Teaching Resources.* (2021). Wwww.Tes.Com. <https://www.tes.com/en-us/teaching-resource/anglo-saxon-and-norman-england-3-1-the-feudal-system-and-the-church-11837578>

Feudalism

The Normans upon their arrival established an economic and political system that would put the lives of the local population and even the Normans who were of low birth class in absolute misery. This system was called Feudalism. The word Feudalism is derived from the ancient word “feu” which translates roughly into “land” (Mcdowall, 2008). Land was not just in the semantics of this system but the epicenter of its doctrine.

The way this system worked was through the distribution of land according to rank and closeness to the King. The motto of this system was that every man had a lord and every lord had land, and the King had all the land, which made him the lord of everyone in this system. William the Conqueror gave land to his Norman Nobles upon taking England in exchange for their loyalty in an act of homage. These Noble had to pledge allegiance to the king and provide him with soldiers and part of the crop of those lands. The Nobles also had to give some of the lands they received to the Knights in exchange for their services and loyalty. The people in low class of this system are called serfs or peasants; they are not technically

slaves since they get paid for their efforts, but they are not able to own lands. These serfs work on the lands operated by the Knights and owned by the Nobles who are in the service of the King. Therefore this system guaranteed that every person is connected to the king through a chain of people (see figure 02).

Figure 02: The Feudal system



Source: *Feudalism And The Norman Conquest Of England 1066*. (2020, August 7). Medieval Chronicles. <https://www.medievalchronicles.com/medieval-history/medieval-history-periods/the-normans/norman-conquest-of-england-and-the-feudal-system/>

Being the suspicious man that he is, William I decided one day to account for the lands and the people who owned them under his reign. So he decided to create a book where all

these information is written down. This book caused a lot of fear and anxiety among the population. According to Mcdowall:

... The King sent a team of people all through England to make a complete economic survey. His men asked all kinds of questions at each settlement: How much land was there? Who owned it? How much was it worth? How many families, ploughs and sheep were there? And so on. This survey was the only one of its kind in Europe. Not surprisingly, it was most unpopular with the people, because they felt they could not escape from its findings. It so reminded them of the paintings of the Day of Judgment, or 'doom', on the walls of their churches that they called it the 'Doomsday' Book. (2008, p.25)

Practice

- 1-Explain briefly the following terms: Doomsday book- Serf - Homage
- 2- In a short paragraph explain the purpose and the motives behind the Doomsday Book.

Production

Pair Work: In short essay explain the system of feudalism and how it was used to control the people under William I the Conqueror.

References:

- Feudalism And The Norman Conquest Of England 1066. (2020, August 7). Medieval Chronicles. <https://www.medievalchronicles.com/medieval-history/medieval-history-periods/the-normans/norman-conquest-of-england-and-the-feudal-system/>
- Mcdowall, David. 2008. An Illustrated History of Britain. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Course 04: The Celtic Kingdoms: Wales, Ireland and Scotland

Table 01

Place	Inhabitants	Society & Lifestyle Features	Ruling System	Invasions	Union	Christianity
Wales	Welsh <i>Cymry</i>	Family groupings - tribal Keeping animals - slavery	Tribal, kingship	The Romans, The Vikings	(1039 - 1063)	Ca. AD 200
Ireland	Irish	Family groupings - tribal Keeping animals - farming	Tribal, kingship	The Vikings	(1002 - 1014)	Ca. AD 430
Scotland	Picts, Scots (Highlands) Britons, Angles (Lowlands)	Family groupings - tribal Keeping animals - farming	Tribal, kingship But later on, it shifted into non-tribal system (the Angles - the English influence)	The Anglo-Saxons The Vikings	Achieved after the Viking invasion in AD 839.	In AD 563.

- A table describing the Celtic kingdoms (Wales, Ireland and Scotland) and their inhabitants

Table 02: The Inhabitants of Scotland

Inhabitants	Where did they come from?	Where did they settle?	Culture	Society & Lifestyle Features
Picts	The original inhabitants/came from Scandinavia	Northeast Highlands	Celtic	Family groupings - tribal Keeping animals - farming
Scots	From Ireland	Northwest Highlands	Celtic	Family groupings - clannish - tribal Keeping animals
Britons	From Roman England	Southwest Lowlands	Romanized Celts (Celtic origins)	Tribal Keeping animals - farming (growing crops)
Angles	From Anglo-Saxon England	Southeast Lowlands	Anglo-Saxon	Non-tribal (English influence) Agricultural (Farming - keeping animals)

Course 05: Magna Carta and the Decline of Feudalism

Objectives

- Students are expected to have an insight into the origins of the Magna Carta and how it helped in ending the brutal system of Feudalism.
- The course also highlights the historical importance of the Magna Carta and how it shaped British and Western thought.

Presentation

The Origins of Magna Carta

The absolute power that King William I garnered after invading and conquering England and establishing Feudalism did not pass to his immediate heirs. His successors needed to make a lot of concessions to the rising powers of the Church and the Barons in the shape of reforms. These reforms were manifested in the Charter of Liberties that King Henry I introduced to please the clergy and the nobles (Mcdowall, 2008). Henry II also made similar promises during his tenure as King. He issued very remarkable progressive statements regarding the treatment of the people. He established courts and regulated the taxing systems (Mcdowall, 2008). However, the relationship between the Barons and the King was not well defined in terms of the money they should pay and the land they should keep. These issues came to the forefront of the political discourse when Richard I known as the lion heart was captured and then ransomed using taxation money, in addition to his crusades and battles with the French which emptied the treasury and the pockets of the barons. Richard I then died and his successor John was the one who left facing the wrath of the religious and business establishment. King John to add insult to injury challenged the authority of the Pope to appoint the Archbishop of Canterbury, the most important church in England; losing one of

the very few allies he's got (Mcdowall, 2008). With this weakened position, John had no choice but to succumb to the pressure to the pope and to the barons and concede even more. In June 15, 1215 John signed what would prove to be the most important document in British history, known first as the Articles of the Barons then it became known as the Magna Carta or the Great Charter (Macdowall, 2008).

Magna Carta and the decline of feudalism

Many historians believed that the signing of the Magna Carta by King John ushered in a new era, and marked the collapse of the feudal system. This belief is based on the fact that the Magna Carta destroyed a key principle of feudalism which is that the relationship between the King and the nobles is that of a lord and vassals. And when the barons were forcing the hands of John to sign the charter, that relationship changed to a class challenging the king, and succeeding (Mcdowall, 2008)



Source: Olsen, J. (2018, June 24). *Proposal by Churchill To Gift Magna Carta*. International Churchill Society. <https://winstonchurchill.org/publications/finest-hour-extras/churchill-to-gift-magna-carta/>

Historical Significance of the Magna Carta

The impact of the Magna Carta reverberated through history and influenced not only British law but Western thought as well. Though its exact wording faded through time, the concepts that it introduced still can be seen in most Western constitutions. The United States' Constitution is a living proof of the enduring principle of the Magna Carta. According to Mcdowall:

In the 17th century, when England's North American colonies were shaping their own fundamental laws, the words of the Magna Carta were worked into them. The basic rights embodied in the Constitution of the United States of America (1789) and the Bill of Rights (1791) echo the charter, and the Fourteenth Amendment (1868) can trace its ancestry to the Magna Carta as well. (2008, p. 27)

Practice

- 1-Explain briefly the following terms: Ecclesiastics - Charter - Angevin
- 2-In a short paragraph explain the reasons that lead to the establishment of the Magna Carta.

Production

Pair Work: In a short essay, discuss how the Magna Carta helped in ending Feudalism.

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Course 07: The American Context

Objectives

- Students are expected to have a better understanding of the American experiment; its history and culture and driving motives.
- The course also clarifies and identifies the evolution of the different economic, ethnic, political, and legal cultures of the United States.

Presentation

Every country in the world claims to be unique in its own sense. However, American claims to uniqueness and exceptionalism imply a superior kind. The American experience is indeed unique in its own merits, and the special place that they occupy in the modern world is without a doubt an unprecedented place in terms of its connectedness to the world militarily, economically, politically and even culturally. The historical evolution of the American cultural experiment brought forward four rich distinct cultures which are Ethnic, Political/legal, economic/consumer, and Religious cultures.

Ethnic Culture

The United States of America has a rich ethnic culture due to the simple fact that it is a country of immigrants. The first wave of immigration to the continent of America came predominantly from Europe, which established the fundamental dominant group, and subsequently dominant culture. The shape and nature of this culture were summarized in the acronym W.A.S.P which stands for: White Anglo-Saxon Protestant. When these people arrived they found rich and diverse Native American cultures, however, systemically and gradually these cultures were eliminated and marginalized. The brutality of the European settlers continued with other groups that came to America, this time unwillingly. Slaves from

Africa and Asia despite their enduring pain managed to create their own rich cultures that are still celebrated today. The American society today is multi-ethnic and diverse where many people believe it's like a melting pot of ethnicities; however, historically this celebrated diversity manifested itself sometimes as a feeling of Nativism, where instead of belonging to a unified society, groups who share an ethnicity start discriminating against other groups especially those in the minority (Mcdowall, 2008). So instead of a melting pot many observers describe the US as a Salad Bowl.

Political-Legal Culture:

The central element to this culture is the American constitution. The historical importance of this legal document is that unlike most constitutions around the world, the American constitution remained relatively unchanged in almost 250 years since it was first written in 1789 (Mcdowall, 2008). It provided the American people with concepts such as checks and balances and the division of powers in the government. It also created vivid political scenery dominated by two major political parties, the Democratic Party and The Republican Party. The majority of Americans are divided between these two parties with a significant minority who identify as independents.

Economic Culture:

The Economic consumer culture is probably the most dominant culture in the everyday life of Americans since it is concerned with their livelihood, and the essential driver of the American society; free market capitalism. The United States' economy is the largest in the world by far. It made up 50% of the entire world GDP (Gross Domestic Product) after the Second World War. Even though it's only 20% of the global GDP now (2020 estimates) it is still the largest in the world (Bhutada, 2021). The economic machine of the US was very effective in creating the richest people in the world; however it also created millions of people in the country who rely on government assistance for food and other necessities. In a study conducted in 2008

found that 28 million people were involved in food stamps programs and 48 million people living without health care (Mauk et al., 2021). So despite these discrepancies and disparities, many Americans still prefer free market capitalism over what they perceive as socialist interventions of the government.

Religious Culture:

Even though the United States' government is officially a secular country, meaning that it does not have an official religion of the state, there is a rich religious culture in the American society. This rich tradition of religiosity was brought by the first pilgrims who escaped the sectarian persecution in Europe to worship freely in the newly established colonies. According to Tønnessen (2021):

Although religion is a private matter and constitutionally separate from the state, it informs aspects of social, economic and political life beyond the purely denominational. The precise influence of religion on many areas of American life, such as education, politics and ethics, continues to be hotly debated. Despite a desire to keep religion out of politics, some critics question whether it is realistic to deny religion a full and active part in public life. (p.28)

Practice

- 1-Explain briefly the following terms: Salad Bowl-Melting Pot- Multiculturalism
- 2- In a short paragraph explain the importance of the US constitution to the American people.

Production

Pair Work: In a short essay discuss the quote mentioned in the course by Tønnessen.

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Course 08: The Country

Objectives

- Students are expected to have a deeper insight into the political geography of the United States
- The course also clarifies and identifies the differences between the different subdivisions of America.

Presentation

The Political Geography of the United States:

The United States of America is one of the largest countries in the world; in fact it is the fourth largest in the world after Russia, Canada and China with a whopping surface of 9,363,123 square kilometers in addition to some islands in the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. The United States lies between two oceans, the Atlantic in the east and the Pacific from the west. And it is bordered by Canada in the North and Mexico in the South. Its political geography is somewhat unique, and it resembles that of empires rather than modern states. There are three different categories of political divisions in the American geography: States, Territories and American Indian Reservations.

States

States are the primary subdivisions of the United States, and possess a number of powers and rights under the United States Constitution, such as regulating intrastate commerce, running elections, creating local governments, and ratifying constitutional amendments. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.58)

There are currently 50 US States with 48 contiguous states, physically and geographically connected in addition to Alaska and Hawaii. Each state has its own constitution with its own governor, and its own congress. Each state is represented at the Federal Congress with two Senators and a number of Representatives depending on the number of its population (Mauk et al., 2021). States also have the ability to ratify or reject amendment and changes to the US Constitution.

Territories:

There are other subdivisions of the American geography which have basically no political rights, at least not as much as States. These territories were either gained through warfare or they were annexed through choice. According to Mauk:

The United States has sovereignty over 14 territories. Five of them (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) have a permanent, nonmilitary population, while nine of them do not. With the exception of Navassa Island, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, which are located in the Caribbean, all territories are located in the Pacific Ocean. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.59)

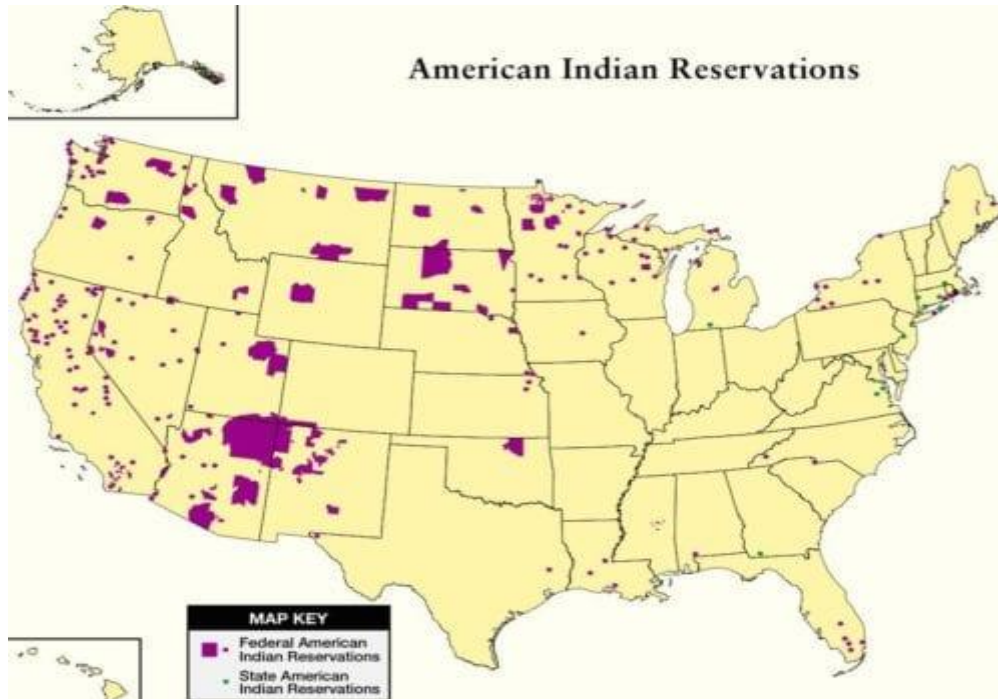
American-“Indian” Reservations:

Last but not least there is the category of the American Indian Reservation. This unique arrangement within the geography of America allows for the existence of semi-sovereign entities that have separate laws than the rest of the US. According to Mauk again:

An Indian reservation is a legal designation for an area of land managed by a federally recognized Native American tribe. The collective geographical area of all reservations is 227,000 km², approximately the size of Idaho, and larger than England. While most reservations are small compared to U.S. states, there are 12 Indian reservations larger than the state

of Rhode Island. The largest reservation, the **Navajo Nation Reservation**, is similar in size to West Virginia. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.59)

Figure 01 : American Indian Reservations



Source: E. (2019, October 8). *National Congress of American Indians and Google Partner to Map Tribal Lands*. Earthzine. <https://earthzine.org/national-congress-of-american-indians-and-google-partner-to-map-tribal-lands/>

Practice

- 1-Explain the following terms briefly: Sovereignty- Census- Reservations
- 2- In a short paragraph explain the difference between a territory and a reservation.

Production

Pair Work: Recently there are several US territories wanting to apply for statehood, like Washington DC and Puerto Rico. In a short essay state which of these territories deserve to be a state and why.

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Course 09: The People: Settlement and Immigration

Objectives

- Students are expected to have a deeper insight into the different waves of immigration and the settlement patterns of those who arrived to America.
- The course clarifies and identifies the different ethnicities and religious backgrounds of those who immigrated to the US and how they interacted with each other.

Presentation

Early Encounters of Europeans and Native Americans:

The early encounters between the European settlers and the native inhabitants of the American continent were combinations of good and bad stories. The Native American tribes were very welcoming of the newly arrived Europeans, providing them with food and shelter and some farming techniques to help them adjust to the new environment. Many Europeans at first helped and lived with the indigenous groups; however as soon as they felt stable enough they started one of the most atrocious systemic evictions of all time and arguably a genocidal campaign that led to the death of tens of millions of Native Americans, according to many estimates (Mauk et al., 2021).

The English and Spanish settlers were the most prominent ones. They started arriving in the late 1500s and early 1600s and they were able to sustain themselves with the trade of tobacco. These early people are called **founders**. Therefore it is not accurate to call them or label them as immigrants since they are the ones who actually created and founded settlements, and its laws and customs so that other immigrants could come to live and prosper.

The first wave: colonial immigration, 1680-1776

After the establishment of the first settlements several waves of immigrants with different motives started to head to the “new world.” Driven out of Europe by religious persecution and in hope of finding freedom and economic prosperity, British and mostly North Western European immigrants started coming in waves to the already established colonies of Jamestown and Virginia. According St. Jean de Crèvecoeur, this first wave was made up of ‘individuals of all nations... melted into a new race of man’. (Mauk et al., 2021). Of course the ‘one race of man’ Mr Crèvecoeur was referring to was white people.

The Second Wave of Immigrations: “The Old” Immigrants. 1820-1890

After the first wave of immigration slowed after 1777, the word of the abundance of land and resources stimulated another wave to come to the newly Americanized continent. This new wave was only new by name because most of the people in it were from the same countries and as the first wave. The ethnicities of the people however expanded a little bit to include German Jews, Dutch and even some Chinese. These people had push and pull factors driving them to come to America, pushing them away from persecution and pulling them towards opportunity.

The Third Wave of Immigration: The “New” Immigrants. 1890-1930

After the settlement of the old immigrants, a new type of immigrants started coming to the United States. According to Mauk:

Between 1890 and 1914, the volume of immigration also soared, topping a million annually several times and equaling the 15.5 million of the old immigration in just twenty-four years. In numerical order, the largest ‘new’ groups were Italians, Jews, Poles and Hungarians, but many Mexicans, Russians, Czechs, Greeks, Portuguese, Syrians, Japanese, Filipinos and others also immigrated. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.73)

The diversity of the new immigrants created a lot of problems with the dominant white majority. Issues like discrimination, racism, and Nativism.

The Fourth Wave of Immigration: 1965 to the Present

The fourth wave was probably the most diverse in terms of ethnicity and nation of origins. According to the historian Mauk:

The wave has included hundreds of thousands of immediate relatives of people already living in the U.S. and refugees outside. It has also contained millions of illegal aliens, who cross borders without (or with false) papers or arrive at airports on student or tourist visas and then overstay. Between 1960 and 2007 nearly 39 million people settled legally in America. Countries with most immigrants in 2007 for example, are Canada, The Philippines, China, India, and Vietnam. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.74)

Practice

- 1-Explain the following terms: Immigrants- huddled masses -The Founders
- 2-In a short paragraph explain the difference between the “old” and the “new” immigrants referred to in the course.

Production

Pair Work: In a short essay discuss **the nature** of the early encounters between Native Americans and the first Europeans.

References:

Mauk, D., Tønnessen, A. T., & Oakland, J. (2021). *American Civilization: An Introduction* (8th ed.). Routledge.

Course 10: The People: Women and Minorities

Objectives

- Students are expected to have an insight into the different minorities in the United States, and better understand their history.
- The course clarifies and indentifies the different economic, ethnic and political

Presentation

The previous four waves of immigration to the United States of America created one of the strongest and most diverse countries in the history of the world. However, they also created numerous social problems related to cohesiveness, coexistence and most importantly discrimination towards ethnic and other types of minorities.

Women in America

Women in almost every “normal” society make up half of the population with the exception of China and Russia for unnatural circumstances related to social engineering and the Second World War respectively. Women in the US are not a minority when it comes to numbers however many women organization and movements believed that they are subject to minority-like treatment. Issues like the gender pay gap, equal representation and equal treatment under the law among others are at the forefront of the debate about the status of women in America. Historically women only got the right to vote relatively recently in 1920 and since then their status in society continued to improve but there are many glass ceilings yet to be broken, for example electing a female President of the United States. Social issues like child birth rights, custody, and divorce are some of the issues that women made tremendous strides, to the detriment of family unity as some expert had suggested.

Native Americans

The Native American story is probably one of the saddest and darkest chapters in American history. Unlike Black American and American women the “Indian” story does not seem to be improving in terms of prospect. Despite several attempts to rectify the mistakes and the horrors of the past by successive US governments Native Americans still live in dire conditions. According to historian John Oakland:

By the 1930s studies had repeatedly blamed allotment for the extremely poor health, poverty and low educational levels of Native Americans. Franklin D. Roosevelt's ‘Indian New Deal’ attempted to correct the mistakes of the past. The relief and employment programs available for other Americans suffering from the depression were extended to Native Americans. New better-staffed hospitals for Native Americans were built. Most boarding schools were replaced with local schools offering religious freedom, bilingual education and programs to nurture native culture. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.91)

African Americans

African Americans are the second largest minority in the United States just after the Latino community. African Americans have different backgrounds and different stories some are more painful than others, but all share grievances of mistreatment whether in the past or in the present. Many of the current population are the descendants of slaves who were brought against their will from West Africa and were subjected to horrifying treatment for almost 400 years. Even after they were emancipated under President Lincoln and given certain right in the Reconstruction Era, they were quickly returned to being marginalized under Jim Crow Laws of segregation. Not all African American today are the descendant of slaves many immigrated willingly from all parts of Africa and from the Caribbean states like Jamaica.

Practice

1-Explain briefly the following terms: Gender Roles-Gender Pay Gap-Discrimination

2-In a short paragraph explain why many minorities still face discrimination to the present day.

Production

Pair Work: Even though women are not numerically a minority, yet many claim that women receive discrimination similar to that of marginalized groups. In a short essay discuss this statement.

References:

Mauk, D., Tønnessen, A. T., & Oakland, J. (2021). *American Civilization: An Introduction* (8th ed.). Routledge.

Course 11: Political Institutions: The Federal Government

Objectives

- Students are expected to have a deeper insight into the composition of the US federal government.
- The course also clarifies the role and the structure of each branch of government.

Presentation

I-The Constitutional Framework

The United States' constitution is one of the shortest and most enduring legal documents in recent history. Unlike many of the constitutions written since then its original text remains relatively unchanged. There four enduring principles within this constitution that provide the political and legal framework for the country: Republicanism, Federalism, the Separation of Powers and the System of Checks and Balances. (Mauk et al., 2021)

1-The Constitution

The original constitutional text is only seven articles long that contain a detailed description of the previously mentioned four principles. According to Oakland:

Its first three articles embody the doctrine of the separation of powers, whereby the federal government is divided into three branches: the legislative, consisting of the bicameral Congress (Article One); the executive consisting of the President (Article Two); and the judicial, consisting of the Supreme Court and other federal courts (Article Three). Articles Four, Five and Six embody concepts of federalism, describing the rights and responsibilities of state governments, the states in relationship to the federal government, and the shared process of constitutional amendment. Article Seven establishes the procedure subsequently used by

the thirteen States to ratify it. It is regarded as the oldest written and codified national constitution in force. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.115)

The Twenty-Seven Amendments to the Constitution

The constitution in its body remained relatively intact however, there were many additions to it. These additions are called amendments. To amend in its literal meaning suggests change or modification. Indeed these amendments either changed certain laws or added others to the original body of the constitution. According to Mauk:

Thirty-three amendments to the United States Constitution have been proposed by the United States Congress and sent to the states for ratification since the Constitution was put into operation on March 4, 1789. Twenty-seven of these, having been ratified by the requisite number of states, are part of the Constitution. The first ten amendments were adopted and ratified simultaneously and are known collectively as the Bill of Rights. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.116)

Examples of Amendments

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.116)

The Second Amendment

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.116)

The Political Parties

The establishment of political parties in the original thinking of the founding fathers and the authors of the constitution was a necessary evil. The authors realized the division that would ensue from partisanship but felt that in order to fulfil the potential of democracy, regulating political discourse through political parties was inevitable. According to historian Oakland:

The first two-party system consisted of the Federalist Party, who supported the ratification of the Constitution, and the Anti-Administration party (Anti-Federalists), who opposed the powerful central government, among others, that the Constitution established when it took effect in 1789. The modern two-party system consists of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Several third parties also operate in the U.S., and from time to time elect someone to local office. The largest third party since the 1980s is the Libertarian Party. (Mauk et al., 2021, p.117)

Branches of Government

The US government is divided into three different branches. Each branch has its own authorities and jurisdictions, respecting the enduring principles enshrined in the constitution in particular the principle of separation of powers and the principle of checks and balances.

The Executive Branch

The role of the Executive branch is to execute and enforce the laws of the United States. The Executive branch is composed of elected and unelected officials. It is headed by the President and the Vice-President who are both elected by the people to a maximum of 8 years divided into two four year terms. The election is done through a unique electoral system. In addition there are cabinet ministers who are usually chosen and nominated by the

President and confirmed by the Congress. The branch also includes executive agencies and departments.

The Legislative Branch

It is the branch responsible for making laws. It has other responsibilities like confirming the nominees of the President, and holding the President responsible for crimes and misdemeanours. The top body of the Legislative branch is Congress. Congress is divided into two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is made up of 100 senators, two per state. They are elected to unlimited six year terms. The House of Representatives is made up of 435 Representatives and the number per state depends on the number of population. California is the largest states in terms of population so it has the largest number of Representatives.

The Judicial Branch

Last but not least is the judicial branch or the Judiciary. The Judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court of the United States and other federal Courts. The Supreme Court is composed of 09 Justices who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. They serve for life. The role of the judiciary is to interpret the laws and determine whether legislation is constitutional or not.

Practice:

- 1-Explain briefly the following terms: Militia-Justices-Two Party System
- 2-In a short paragraph explain how Justices of the Supreme Court are appointed.

Production

Pair Work: In a short essay discuss the concepts of checks and balances and the separation of powers.

References:

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UNIVERSITY OF MSILA
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Names:

Instructor: Dr. Bennaâ Youcef

1. –

American Civilization

2. –

3. –

4. -

Email:

Group:

Title (Written Assignment Template)

Introduction

Title 01

Title 02

Title 03

(1) For Further reading about the theory consult the link below:

<https://www.beyondintractability.org/bksum/huntington-clash>

Instructions

- Follow the writing guidelines of this template (or the one found in Moodle *the same one as the first semester) **any deviation from it will cost you (the students) in the final assessment.**
- **Deadlines should be respected; again it's on the eve of the exam.**

- The structure of the paper should be as follows:
- **Introduction:** Provide brief background info about the topic at hand.
 - **First title:** Expand on the topic.
 - **Second title:** Create the two opposing arguments, providing examples for each argument. (Add subtitles here if necessary)
 - **Third title:** State the findings and share your own opinion, citing some examples.
 - **Conclusion:** Summarize your finding and discussions making some predictions.

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