

Contents

<i>List of Illustrative Material</i>	viii
<i>Preface and Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xiii
Introduction	1
1 Historical Context	7
The Emergence of Britain	8
Industrialization and Empire	13
Postwar Adjustment, 1945–79	16
The Thatcher Revolution, 1979–90	23
From Blair to Brexit	25
Further Reading	30
2 Land and People	31
The Geography of Britain	32
Natural Resources	35
The Environment	39
The People of Britain	42
Nationalism and Regionalism	47
Immigration and Race	52
Further Reading	56
3 Social System	57
Social Class	58
The Changing Family	64
Social Services and Health Care	66
Education	72
Law and Order	77
Further Reading	81

4	Government	82
	Principles of Government	83
	The Constitution	86
	The Monarchy	88
	Prime Minister and Cabinet	91
	Parliament	96
	The Judiciary	101
	The Bureaucracy	103
	Local Government	104
	Further Reading	106
5	Politics and Civil Society	108
	Political Culture	109
	Elections and Referendums	115
	Political Parties	122
	Interest Groups	128
	The Media	129
	Further Reading	133
6	The Economy	134
	Structure of the Economy	135
	From Hands-off to Hands-on, and Back Again	140
	Britain in the Global Economy	150
	The Economic Implications of Europe	154
	Further Reading	159
7	Culture and Lifestyle	161
	Culture	162
	The Changing Identity of Britain	166
	The Arts	170
	Sports and Leisure	175
	Religion	181
	Further Reading	184
8	Britain and the World	185
	The Changing British Global Role	186
	The Commonwealth	189
	The Atlantic Alliance	192
	Britain and Europe	195

The Changing Role of the British Military	204
Further Reading	209
Conclusions	210
<i>Britain Online</i>	214
<i>Bibliography</i>	217
<i>Index</i>	224

Introduction

Britain is one of those few countries that has quite literally changed the world. Out of a small cluster of islands off the north-west coast of the European continent came three developments with global impact: the industrial revolution, the parliamentary system of government and the English language. It is impossible to talk of economic change without referring back to the inventions that spawned the industrial revolution, and the impact of the writings of Adam Smith on our ideas about capitalism. It is impossible to talk of political change without referring back to the origins of the British democratic model, and the impact of the writings of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, John Stuart Mill and others. And it would be difficult for the citizens of different countries to exchange their views without the help of English, the international language of business, communications, diplomacy and – increasingly – everyday conversation.

For these reasons alone, Britain is an important subject of study. But there are other motives as well: life is all about change, and few societies have seen such dramatic changes in the last 200 years as Britain. It has one of the oldest continuously functioning political systems in the world, yet the character of that system has been altered in response to philosophical and popular pressures. It once had the world's biggest economy, yet has found itself having to adapt to a post-imperial economic environment coloured by competition from the United States, Japan and its bigger European neighbours. It has a long history of relative social stability, yet British society has undergone a fundamental reordering in the last two generations.

Two recent events have underlined the place of change in Britain. On 23 June 2016, British voters took part in a referendum on the continued membership of their country in the European Union and changed the course of British history by opting to leave. Few predicted such an outcome, which sent shockwaves through Britain, the rest of the European Union and around the world. The government of the day resigned, markets fell before recovering, the value of the British pound fell, critics of the EU crowed at their victory, supporters of the EU were stunned and saddened by the outcome and the so-called Brexit vote threw the short-term future of Britain into confusion. Even its

2 *Contemporary Britain*

long-term future became uncertain, as calls were renewed for independence for Scotland (which had voted to remain in the EU), troubling questions were raised over what might happen in Northern Ireland (which had also voted to remain), uncertainties hung over the heads of EU residents of the UK and Britons living or working in other parts of the EU, and speculation grew about the reaction of business and the potential effects on London as a global financial centre. Overnight, a country that had built its political and economic structures on engagement with the rest of the world seemed to have turned in on itself.

As though this did not create enough uncertainties, the new government of Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May decided to capitalize on a 20-point lead in opinion polls by calling an early ‘snap’ general election. The next election had not been due until 2020, but the May administration argued that it needed to be in a strong position in order to negotiate the best possible Brexit deal with the other 27 EU member states, so a vote was pushed through Parliament arranging for the snap election on 8 June 2017. The Conservatives ran a poor election campaign, the troubled Labour party ran a surprisingly strong campaign, and the result was a hung Parliament; the Conservatives lost 13 seats and fell eight short of the 325 needed for an absolute majority, forcing them into an uncomfortable alliance with the socially conservative Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland. Questions now hung over not just the likely path of the Brexit negotiations, but also over the future of the government.

The broader signs of change in Britain continue to be found everywhere:

- In the growing racial, religious, national and cultural diversity of British society.
- In the redefinition of the class system that for so long determined how Britons related to each another, but which has been diluted by improved education, the rise of the middle class, the growth of the consumer society and by new levels of affluence and social mobility.
- In demographic shifts as the British live longer, as the idea of the family is redefined and as Britons move away from the old assumptions of the welfare state towards a stakeholder society in which benefits are determined by the extent to which individuals have played by the rules.
- In the altered balance of power among government institutions as the executive becomes more powerful and Britain now prepares for the legal changes that will result from its decision to leave the EU.
- In the new attitudes of voters towards government, in the questions raised about the nature of the electoral system and the balance among the major political parties, and in the rise of alternative channels through which citizens can express their views on politics.

- In dramatic developments in communications technology, with satellite, cable and digital options changing the character of television, and the internet revolutionizing the way that people communicate.
- In shifts in the direction of economic policy, from the interventionist approaches of the postwar years to the free-market approaches introduced in the 1980s by the Thatcher government and perpetuated by her successors, who have recently faced the additional problems of having to respond to the global financial crisis, the troubles in the eurozone, and now the post-EU adjustments.
- In the redefinition of Britain's place in the world as it has moved from being a global and imperial power to a regional and European one and must wonder how its changing relationship with the EU will change its global role.

In the chapters that follow, the causes and effects of these changes will be examined and an attempt made to understand the effects on contemporary Britain. Along the way, the book explores three key themes. First, it asks whether or not claims of the decline of Britain hold up. Since the 1960s and 1970s, there has been a bandwagon effect among academics, journalists and political leaders, who often bemoan the loss of Britain's pre-eminent economic position in the world, complain that the British political system has failed to meet the needs of the citizens of a modern democracy and find evidence of decline in everything from lowered educational standards to inefficient public services, challenges to law and order, threats to the environment and even the failure of British sports teams to win international competitions. Studies of postwar Britain are littered with words such as *angst*, *melancholy* and *discontent*, and the concerns have been both renewed and deepened as a result of recent political, economic and social developments.

The second key theme is how Britain will change in the wake of Brexit. Britain was slow to appreciate the possibilities of European integration, was late joining what was then the European Economic Community, and developed a reputation – not always deserved – as a reluctant European. The sentimental British attachment to its global past has not gone away, a phenomenon well described by Hugo Young (1999) when he noted that Britain had struggled for two generations 'to reconcile the past she could not forget with the future she could not avoid'. Whatever happens to its relationship with the rest of Europe, Britain will continue to remain torn indefinitely between its European interests, its remaining ties with its former colonies and dominions, and its 'special relationship' with the United States.

The third theme explored in the book is the meaning of Britain and the dynamics of the relationship between its parts. It has long been unusual in the sense of being a union of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern

4 *Contemporary Britain*

Ireland. That union has not always been a happy or a stable one, the relationship among the parts having been shaken in recent decades by the rebirth of Scottish, Welsh, Irish and even English nationalism, which has redefined the meaning of ‘Britain’ and ‘Britishness’. The different results of the Brexit referendum in the four parts added new stresses, as did the increasingly uncomfortable place of London – one of the world’s leading global cities – within the context of the relative introspection of small-town and rural England (Table 0.1).

Table 0.1 Quick facts about Britain

Official name:	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Capital:	London
Area:	244,103 sq. km (94,249 square miles)
Population:	64.6 million
Population density:	265 per sq. km (690 per square mile)
Population growth rate:	0.6%
Languages:	Overwhelmingly English, with some regional languages (Welsh, Gaelic)
Religions:	Predominantly Christian (mainly Anglican, Catholic and Presbyterian), with growing Muslim and Hindu minorities
GDP (2015):	\$2,900 billion (€2,520 billion, £2,400 billion)
Per capita GNP:	\$43,900 (€38,200, £36,600)
Distribution of GNP:	70% services, 29% industry, 1% agriculture
Urban population:	89%
Literacy:	99%
Infant mortality:	5 per 1,000 live births
Life expectancy:	81 years
Government type:	Parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy
Administration:	Unitary
Head of state:	Hereditary monarch
Executive:	Prime Minister and Cabinet
Legislature:	Bicameral Houses of Parliament; appointed/hereditary House of Lords and elected House of Commons (650 members). MPs are elected for renewable terms of a maximum of five years
Party structure:	Multi party, with two dominant parties (Labour and Conservative) and several smaller parties
Judiciary:	Supreme Court



Map 0.1 The United Kingdom

6 *Contemporary Britain*

These and other themes are explored in the chapters that follow:

- *Chapter 1* provides the historical background. Beginning with the early invasions from the continent, it surveys the rise and fall of feudalism, the rise of the United Kingdom, political and economic changes and the rise and fall of the Empire. It focuses in particular on postwar history, looking at key political, economic, social and cultural developments, notably the impact of Thatcherism, of membership of the EU, of the changes brought by the Blair administration, and the implications of Brexit.
- *Chapter 2* assesses the geography and resources of Britain – both natural and human. The first half discusses the geography, natural resources and environment of Britain and the second half looks at the people of Britain, focusing on recent demographic changes, and on the impact of immigration, nationalism, regionalism and race.
- *Chapter 3* looks at the British social system, beginning with a discussion about the evolution of the class system, then looking at the changing structure of the family. It examines the welfare system, the structure and state of British education, and ends with a review of the performance of the criminal justice system in maintaining law and order.
- *Chapter 4* examines the British system of government and its major institutions: the monarchy, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Parliament, the judiciary, the bureaucracy and local government. It explains how they relate to each other, assesses their relative influence over the political process and offers a critical review of the nature of British democracy.
- *Chapter 5* looks at politics and civil society in Britain, beginning with a discussion of the main features of British political culture, then looking at how Britons engage in politics through elections, political parties, interest groups and the media.
- *Chapter 6* turns to the structure and performance of the British economy. It begins with an overview of the structure of the economy, then assesses economic developments since 1945, examining the changes wrought by Thatcherism, assessing the renewed economic successes of the 1990s and speculating on the potential economic effects of Brexit.
- *Chapter 7* provides a survey of British culture, beginning with a general outline and an analysis of the meaning of ‘Britishness’. It then examines the state of the arts in Britain, with an emphasis on theatre, film, television and popular music. It looks at how the British spend their spare time and ends with an examination of the role of sports and religion in national life.
- *Chapter 8* looks at Britain’s changing place in the world. It examines key relationships, including those with the Commonwealth, within the Atlantic Alliance and with the European Union, and argues that the first is weak, the second is troubled and the third is undergoing change. It finishes with an assessment of the changing status of the British military.

Index

- accent and class 60
 Acheson, Dean 166, 187
 actors and acting 98, 170, 172–3, 174
 affluence in Britain 62
 Afghanistan 27, 28, 112, 194, 207, 208
 Agincourt, Battle of 10, 204
 agriculture 13, 31, 37–8, 137
 air transport 156–7
 anti-social behavior 80
 Archbishop of Canterbury 99, 183
 architects 161
 artists 47, 161
 arts 170–5
 asylum-seekers 44, 55, 168, 212
 Atlantic Alliance 185, 186, 192–5, 209
 Attlee, Clement 18, 67

 BBC 60, 130, 174
 BSE *see* mad cow disease
 Bagehot, Walter 87, 89, 90
 balanced government 84
 Bank of England 18, 26, 51, 148
 Beatles, The 22, 161, 164, 175
 Beveridge, William 18, 67
 Bill of Rights 11, 88
 Blair, Tony 25–7, 58, 92, 93, 126, 182
 and Europe 158
 and George W. Bush 193, 209
 foreign policy 193, 194, 202, 203,
 205, 207
 policies 25–6, 27, 38, 64, 72, 76, 106,
 125, 126, 137, 148, 149, 172
 style of government 27, 83, 84,
 94, 96
 Bond, James 22, 164, 174

 Branson, Sir Richard 146–7
 Brexit 29, 49, 69, 95, 128, 210ff.
 campaign 131, 132, 166, 198
 economic implications 157
 effects of 51, 52, 55, 76, 135, 139,
 140, 166, 196
 motives behind 32, 58, 62,
 121, 162
 referendum 1, 12, 29, 51, 69, 95, 96,
 119, 124, 128, 131, 159, 210
 Britain, Battle of 16
 Britain, name of 12
 British Broadcasting Corporation *see*
 BBC
 British disease 22, 23, 134, 143
 British Empire 8, 15, 21, 152, 185,
 187, 191
 Britishness 4, 7, 113, 162, 166, 167, 168,
 210, 212
 Brown, Gordon 27, 93, 94–5, 96, 124,
 126, 158
 budget 23, 67, 137
 bureaucracy 85, 103–4
 business in Britain 13, 20, 139, 145,
 146–7, 150

 cabinet 24, 84, 85, 87, 91–2, 94–5, 100
 Cameron, David 28–9, 56, 58, 78, 83,
 92, 93, 96, 112, 123, 124
 style of government 95
 Catholic Church 10, 182, 183–4
 celebrity chefs 181
 Celts 8, 9, 50
 Channel Islands 12
 Channel Tunnel 24, 156

- Charles, Prince 26, 40, 90
 chavs 61, 63
 Church of England 10, 91, 20, 99,
 181, 182–4
 Churchill, Winston 16, 18, 123, 164,
 193
 and three circles of influence 185,
 186, 209
 cinema 161, 164–5, 172–4
 civil society 108, 109
 City, The *see* London: City of London
 Civil War 11
 civility 80, 108
 class system 2, 18, 20, 22, 48, 52,
 57, 58–64, 111, 145, 165, 173,
 176–7, 211
 Clegg, Nick 127
 climate 34–5
 climate change 31, 35, 41
 closed society 113–4
 coalition government 28, 83, 89, 96,
 116, 118, 124, 125, 127
 collective responsibility 82, 85, 87, 94
 colonies 14, 15, 19, 187, 188, 189, 199
 Commons, House of 10, 14, 49, 87, 89,
 97, 99, 100–1, 124
 elections to 116–18
 Commonwealth 21, 44, 52, 53, 57, 168,
 185, 188, 189–92, 195
 Confederation of British Industry 129
 Conservative Party 2, 24, 28, 29, 49, 64,
 117, 119, 123–5, 129
 and Europe 96, 109
 constitution 49, 86–8, 101
 constitutional monarchy 85, 88
 Corbyn, Jeremy 126
 Corn Law of 1816 142
 cost of living 45, 62, 140, 147
 Coulson, Andy 28, 112
 Crécy, Battle of 10, 204
 cricket 176–7, 178
 crime 25, 71, 79–80, 125, 143
 cuisine 162, 165, 180
 culture 12, 22, 50, 51, 53, 56, 161,
 162–6, 168, 174, 175, 188
 political 109–15
 decline of Britain 3, 80, 83, 110, 211, 212
 economic 143–4
 de Gaulle, Charles 20–1, 154, 201
 devolution 23, 25, 48–9, 127
 Diana, Princess 26
 divorce rate 65
 Dowler, Milly 28, 112
 Drake, Sir Francis 10, 204
 drugs 71
 economy 134ff.
 change 1, 18, 20, 25, 90
 global 150–4
 implications of Europe 154–9,
 188, 203
 performance indicators 135–6, 140
 structure 135–40
 Eden, Anthony 19, 20
 education 2, 20, 57, 65, 72–6, 77, 149,
 163–4
 Edward III 10, 204
 El Alamein 16, 204
 elections 108–9, 115–21, 124
 European 26, 117, 118–19, 120,
 128, 196
 general 2, 23, 28, 49, 94–5, 100,
 116–18, 124, 125, 126, 158, 210
 local 105, 106, 121
 regional 26, 49, 105, 127
 turnout at 85, 119–20
 Elizabeth I 10, 170, 186
 Elizabeth II 26, 88–9, 90
 emigration 46, 52, 110
 energy resources 31, 35–6
 England 8, 9, 10, 12–13, 43, 47
 nationalism in 113
 regionalism in 50
 English language 1, 48, 161, 162, 163,
 170, 186, 189, 201

- environment 31, 32, 39–42, 110, 129
- ethnic minorities 44, 51, 53–4, 113, 162, 165, 184
- euro 28, 158–9, 195
- eurozone crisis 159, 203
- eurozone crisis 28, 95, 134, 159, 203
- European Central Bank 155, 159
- European Commission 97, 155
- European Convention on Human Rights 79, 103
- European Court of Human Rights 103
- European Court of Justice 79, 102, 156
- European Economic Community (EEC) 3, 20, 96, 121, 154, 191, 196
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) 20
- European Parliament 202
- elections to 26, 117, 118–19, 120, 128, 196
- European Union 8, 96, 195–204
- see also* Brexit, European Economic Community
- euro-scepticism 196–202
- exports 143, 151–3
- Falkland Islands 21, 191, 192, 205
- family structure 64–6, 78
- federalism 105
- feudalism 9, 10, 57, 58, 59
- fisheries 36–7
- flag of Britain 113, 166, 167
- foot-and-mouth disease 37, 38
- football hooliganism 77, 80
- foreign investment 145, 151, 157
- Formula One 178–9
- fox-hunting 38
- freedom of information 114
- Gaelic 48
- geographical features 32–5, 201
- Gibraltar 191–2
- global financial crisis 8, 27–8, 62, 110, 129, 135, 140, 150, 151, 159, 203
- globalization 25, 125, 135, 150, 153–4, 156, 159
- golf 178
- Good Friday Agreement 26, 52
- government, principles of 83–6
- Great Exhibition 1851 15
- Great Reform Act 14
- Grenfell Tower 64
- gross domestic product 37, 48, 51, 135–6, 137, 140, 143, 145
- Group of 7 140, 151, 188
- health care 68–72, 45, 47, 57, 137, 149–50
- private 69–70
- public *see* National Health Service
- Henry III 9
- Henry VIII 10, 182
- higher education 72, 73, 74–7, 163
- home ownership 63,
- household income 62, 147
- household size 66
- immigration 14, 21, 32, 44, 52–6, 57, 113, 128, 155, 156, 168, 184, 211
- industrial revolution 1, 13, 31, 35, 45, 59, 146, 185
- inventions of 13
- inflation 20, 23, 140, 144
- interest groups 109, 111, 128–9, 143
- internet 3, 114, 132, 162
- Iraq, war in 27, 126, 193, 194, 202, 204, 207, 209
- Ireland 10, 15, 16, 32, 33, 45, 47, 50, 52, 128
- Irish Republican Army (IRA) 50
- Isle of Man 12, 33
- James I 10, 167
- James II 11
- judiciary 101–3
- Keynes, John Maynard 18, 142

- labour movement 129
- Labour Party 18–19, 23, 25, 27, 49, 74, 98, 109, 125–6, 148, 158
 - and class 64
 - and Europe 96
- law and order 77–81
- Lawrence, Stephen 54
- legal system 79
- Liberal Democratic Party 28, 118, 120, 124, 126–7
- life expectancy 66, 67, 70
- Livingstone, Ken 106
- local government 104–6
- London 41, 45, 50, 54, 60, 62, 147, 169, 172
 - city government 26, 105, 106
 - City of London 51, 129
 - dominating role in Britain 51, 85
 - global role 2, 137, 139, 157
 - terrorist attacks 27, 56, 207–8
- Lord Chancellor 101
- Lords, House of 14, 25, 27, 97, 98–9, 101, 183

- mad cow disease 37
- Magna Carta 9, 10, 88
- Major, Sir John 24, 93
 - style of government 94
- Marlborough, Duke of 13, 204
- May, Theresa 2, 29, 93, 96, 116, 123, 125
 - style of government 95
- media 112, 129–33, 200
- Middleton, Catherine 61
- Miliband, Ed 126, 147
- military 186, 187, 188, 194, 202, 204–9
- monarch/monrarchy 9, 10–11, 14, 26, 85, 88–91, 97, 98, 116, 167, 182
- Mugabe, Robert 191
- multiculturalism 32, 56, 162, 212
- multi-level governance 105
- Murdoch, Rupert 112

- musicians 22, 161, 162
- Muslims in Britain 56, 184, 208

- National Health Service 18, 25, 27, 52, 58, 67, 68–9, 70, 85, 125, 148, 149
- national identity 47–52, 109, 112–13, 162, 166–8
- national parks *see* protected areas
- nationalism 4, 12, 23, 32, 47–52, 113, 162, 166, 167, 212
- nationalization 18, 139
- natural resources 32, 35–8
- News International scandal 28, 111, 112
- newspapers 131
- Nobel prizes 75–6
- Normans 8, 9, 10
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) 125, 187, 192, 194, 202, 204, 206
- Northern Ireland 2, 12, 50, 73–4, 167
 - conflict in 22, 26, 32, 50–1
 - peace agreement 52, 212
 - political parties 122, 127–8
 - regional assembly 26–7, 52, 105–6
- nuclear power 36, 90
- nuclear weapons 21, 186, 204–5

- obesity 71
- Olympic Games 180
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) 188

- Parliament 7, 14, 25, 82, 83, 86, 92, 96–101, 113, 128, 210–11
 - and monarchy 9–10, 11, 14, 88, 89
 - elections to 2, 23, 28, 49, 94–5, 100, 116–18, 124, 125, 126, 158, 210
 - principles underlying 84–5
- parliamentary sovereignty 84, 97
- Peel, Sir Robert 79

- Petersberg tasks 202
 Pitt (the Younger), William 14
 Plaid Cymru 23, 48, 127
 playwrights 170–1, 172
 police 28, 53, 54, 78, 79, 80, 112, 149
 political participation 109, 111, 115–22,
 128–9
 political scandals 111, 112
 political culture 109–15
 political parties 122–8
 see also under names of individual
 parties
 political system, faith in 46, 110–11,
 115, 119
 pollution 31, 41
 population 13, 21, 31, 40, 42–7, 53–4,
 63, 65–6
 poverty 18, 24, 59, 62, 66, 78
 Powell, Enoch 53
 Prime Minister 14, 82–3, 84, 85, 87, 89,
 91–6, 97, 100, 101, 116, 210
 see also under names of holders of the
 office
 privatization 69, 139, 144, 156
 proportional representation 26, 108,
 109, 116, 120
 protected areas 40
 public services 3, 27, 137, 140,
 148–50
 public spending 23, 67, 137

 race issues/trends 32, 52–6, 165
 Received Pronunciation 60
 referendums 83, 84, 88, 121–2
 Brexit 1, 12, 29, 51, 69, 95, 96, 119,
 124, 128, 131, 159, 210
 devolution 23, 25, 49, 105
 electoral system 118
 Scottish independence 12, 49,
 121, 127
 regional assemblies 7, 25, 83, 87,
 115, 121
 Northern Ireland 26–7, 52, 105–6
 Scotland 49, 105, 121, 127
 Wales 49, 84, 105, 121, 127
 regionalism 47–52
 religion 181–4
 responsible government 82, 85, 104
 rock music 21, 161, 171, 174–5
 Romans 8–9
 rugby 177

 same-sex marriage 66, 115
 Saxons 9, 13
 scandals, political *see* political scandals
 Schengen Agreement 155, 196
 school system 72–4
 Scotland 10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 43, 47, 48,
 49, 73, 79, 130, 182
 independence referendum 2, 7, 12,
 121, 212
 nationalism in 12, 23, 47
 regional assembly 49, 105, 121, 127
 regionalism in 49–50
 Scottish National Party 23, 48, 49, 127
 Shakespeare, William 10, 161, 170, 172
 single member plurality 116, 121, 127
 Sinn Fein 50, 52, 127–8
 Smith, Adam 1, 142
 social class *see* class system
 social liberalism 115
 social media 109, 115, 130, 132
 social services 66–8
 society 1, 2, 18, 24, 25, 53, 57–8,
 72, 108, 113, 132, 166,
 185, 210
 sports 3, 12, 47, 51, 54, 176–81
 stakeholder society 2, 24, 72
 Straw, Jack 56, 88
 Suez crisis 19, 20, 164, 187, 192,
 204, 212
 Supreme Court 101

 tax rates 22, 134, 137, 145
 television 130–1, 165, 171, 174, 176
 tennis 179

- terrorism 27, 30, 87, 168, 202–3,
207, 208–9
attacks of 2005 27, 56, 207–8
attacks of 2017 30, 208
Northern Ireland 22, 26, 50
- Thatcher, Margaret 23–5, 26, 83, 92,
93
style of government 94, 123
- Thatcherism 3, 23–4, 25, 57–8, 63, 96,
104, 134, 135, 139, 144, 145,
148, 205
- theatre 170–2
- tourism 38, 50, 147, 156, 168–9, 171,
176
- Trades Union Congress 129
- transport 14, 39, 40, 41, 148, 156–7, 175
- Trump, Donald 195, 209
- United Kingdom *see* Britain, name of
- UK Independence Party 28, 29, 120,
128
- unemployment 16, 18, 20, 23, 55, 67,
140, 142,
- United Nations 19, 187
- United States 19, 21, 27, 71, 95, 115,
146, 172, 174, 175, 192–5, 204, 207
and global financial crisis 150
and Iraq war 202–3
British special relationship with 3,
185, 193, 199, 209, 212
- universities 74–7, 163
- value added tax (VAT) 137, 155
- Victoria, Queen 15,
- Vikings 8, 9
- voting patterns 64, 119, 120, 121, 122,
125, 128
age gap 119
turnout 109, 119, 126, 198
- Wales/Welsh 10, 47, 50, 113, 167
nationalism in 4, 23, 48
Plaid Cymru 23, 48, 127
regional assembly 49, 84, 105,
121, 127
regionalism in 23, 25, 48
- Walpole, Robert 14
- weather 34–5
- welfare state 2, 18, 66–8, 115, 125
- Wellington, Duke of 123, 204
- West Lothian question 49
- Westminster model 82, 84
key principles 82, 84–6
- Whitehall 1013, 104
- William, Prince 61, 90
- Williams, Rowan 183
- Wilson, Harold 23, 125
- winter of discontent 23, 134
- World Cup (football) 22, 54, 113,
177–8
- World Trade Organization 151, 194
- Zimbabwe 21, 55, 191