

History – Britain

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945, World War 2 came to an end after 6 years of fighting. Many lives had been lost; both soldiers and civilians paid a high price to fight for people's freedom. It was certainly a day to celebrate. However, the impact of the war would be something that was felt long after the fighting stopped. In this history topic, we are going to find out about 3 major events that took place following the end of WWII.

The Welfare State

The Welfare State was an idea which came from Attlee's labour government, in 1945.

People would pay taxes, which would help people who could not afford housing and health care. Tax money would also be spent helping people who could not get a job, could not work or who had retired from working. Additionally, it would be spent on education for all children in the country.

In 1945, the Labour party promised to expand and grow the Welfare State by getting rid of the slums (poor, crowded, low-quality housing in the cities), building affordable new homes, improving the State Pension for people who retired, and creating a new National Health Service



The Empire Windrush

It was 22 June 1948 when the Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex.

This was the first time so many Caribbean people had come to live in Britain. Many more arrived in the following years.

When the passengers landed they didn't always get the friendly welcome they had hoped for.

Many of them experienced racism and discrimination and often found it hard to get proper home to live in and to make friends with British people.

It wasn't always easy for the new arrivals to get jobs. Some companies said they didn't want black people to work for them.

Later, many of their children were bullied at school because of the colour of their skins.

Some of them suffered racial attacks and in later years there were riots in cities across Britain.



### The NHS

On the 5th July 1948 an historic moment occurred in British history, the NHS was born.

The National Health Service, was launched by the then Minister of Health in Attlee's post-war government, Aneurin Bevan, at the Park Hospital in Manchester. The aim was to provide a good, strong and reliable healthcare to all.

In the early years of the NHS, not long after its launch, expenditure was high and the government considered charging people for prescriptions to meet the rising costs. By the 1960s things improved and it was considered to be a strong period of growth for the NHS. By the time of the 1980s and the Thatcher government, modern methods of management were introduced.

The NHS has in some ways exceeded expectations and at the same time there is always more that can be done. The idea of a National Health Service once upon a time would have been unheard of, yet today we cannot imagine life without it. The creation of the NHS marks a significant chapter in British social history.

### Timeline of events

