

KEY MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY

1795

Second Maroon War In Jamaica; Fedon's Rebellion In Grenada

The Second Maroon War broke out in 1795. The public flogging of two Maroons convicted of stealing pigs from a white planter was the *casus belli* that caused the Maroons simmering hostility towards the colonial government to boil over into armed confrontation.

1833

Slavery Abolition Act

Slavery Abolition Act is passed in Parliament, taking effect in 1834. This act gives all enslaved people in the Caribbean their freedom although some other British territories have to wait longer. However, ex-slaves in the Caribbean are forced to undertake a period of 'apprenticeship' (working for former masters for a low wage) meaning slavery is not fully abolished until 1838.

1854

Mary Seacole

Mary Seacole travelled to England, and approached the War Office, asking to be sent as an army nurse to the Crimean War (1853-1856) where there was known to be poor medical facilities for wounded soldiers. Seacole's reputation after the war rivalled Florence Nightingale's. She died in 1881.



1914

World War I

They travelled to the 'Mother Country' from the Caribbean at their own expense to take part in the fight against the Germans. Their support was needed, and they gave it. Soldiers also from Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Gambia and other African colonies were recruited.

1917

Walter Tull dies

Walter Tull died aged 29 in 1918 while leading an attack on the Western front during the Second Battle of the Somme in March. The Commanding Officer of the 23rd Battalion recommended him for a Military Cross for bravery.

1939-1945

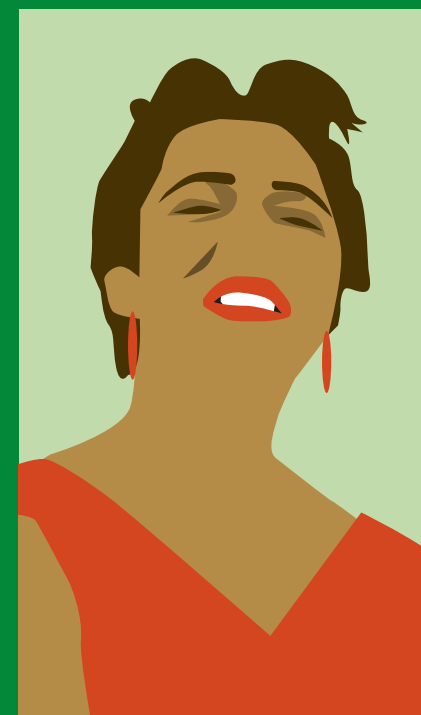
World War II

Out of a population of 14 million in the Caribbean colonies of the British Commonwealth, about 16,000 West Indians and more than a million African soldiers volunteered for service alongside the British during the Second World War.

1948

SS Empire Windrush Arrives

The Empire Windrush arrives in Tilbury Dock, more than half of the 1,027 listed passengers on board (539) gave their last country of residence as Jamaica, while 139 said Bermuda. Many of them were ex-servicemen, who had served in England during the war.



1958

First Black Newspaper

Claudia Jones (born in Trinidad) founded the first major black post-war newspaper 'The West Indian Gazette'. Claudia was also a political activist and community leader. The Gazette was crucial in her fight for equal opportunities.

1963

The Bristol Bus Boycott

Led by youth worker Paul Stephenson the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963 arose from the refusal of the Bristol Omnibus Company to employ black or Asian bus crews in the city of Bristol.

1964

Dr Martin Luther King Visits London

Dr Martin Luther King Jr. visited London on his way to accept a Nobel Peace Prize in Norway. While in the UK, he brought together C.A.R.D. (the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination) and preached at St. Paul's Cathedral.



1964

Malcolm X debates Oxford University Union

Malcolm X ended a tour of Africa, where he had passed through a dozen different states travelled first to Paris and then the UK. There he took part in a debate at the Oxford Union Society in one of his final public appearances before his murder the following February.



1965

Race Relations Act Passed

Protections against discrimination were extended in 1968, and further in 1976. This legislation resulted in the right to take discrimination complaints to civil courts or industrial tribunals and set up the Commission for Racial Equality.



1966

Caribbean Artists Movement

Caribbean Artists Movement The Caribbean Artists Movement (CAM), founded in London in 1966, was the first organised collaboration of artists from the Caribbean with the aim of celebrating a new sense of shared Caribbean 'nationhood', exchanging ideas and attempting to forge a new Caribbean aesthetic in the arts.



1968

First Black Headteacher

Dr. Beryl Gilroy became London's first black headteacher at Beckford Primary in West Hampstead. She later became a successful novelist, writing stories for and about her students, believing in literature that could 'heal'.

1970

The Mangrove Nine Trial

The Mangrove Nine were a group of British black activists tried for inciting a riot at a 1970 protest against the police targeting of The Mangrove, a Caribbean restaurant in Notting Hill, London. The power of the British state went up against black power and lost.

1971

New Immigration Bill

Britain's home secretary Reginald Maudling announces that Commonwealth citizens lose their automatic right to remain in the UK under the government's new Immigration Bill.

1973

First Black News Reporter

First black news reporter Trevor McDonald joins ITN as a reporter from the BBC World Service and becomes Britain's first black TV news reporter. Trevor rose through the ranks and joined the News at Ten. He received an OBE in 1992 and a knighthood in 1999.

1975

Lenny Henry's TV Debut

Lenny Henry makes his television debut winning the New Faces talent competition by doing stand-up comedy and impersonations. Lenny is now one of Britain's best-known comedians.

1978

Viv Anderson Plays For England

Viv Anderson became the first black British footballer to play for England in an international tournament against Czechoslovakia.

1981

The Brixton Uprising

The Brixton Uprising occurs as tensions between the black British community and the police in the area culminated in three days of rioting against police brutality and discriminatory policies. The uprisings spread across the UK (most notably in Toxteth, Liverpool).

1982

The Voice Newspaper Launched

Val McCalla started the weekly newspaper The Voice. The newspaper went on to become the voice for the British African-Caribbean community. He has since been honoured as a pioneering publisher for the black community.



1984

Thompson Wins Olympic Gold

Daley Thompson became only the second competitor in history to win the decathlon at two Olympic Games, winning gold medals in 1980 and 1984. He was awarded the MBE in 1982, CBE in 2000 and BBC Sports Personality of 1982.

1987

First Black Parliamentarians

Diane Abbott, Paul Boateng, Bernie Grant, and Keith Vaz all won seats for Labour in the '87 General Election. Grant made his mark by wearing a Ghanaian robe.

Paul Gilroy

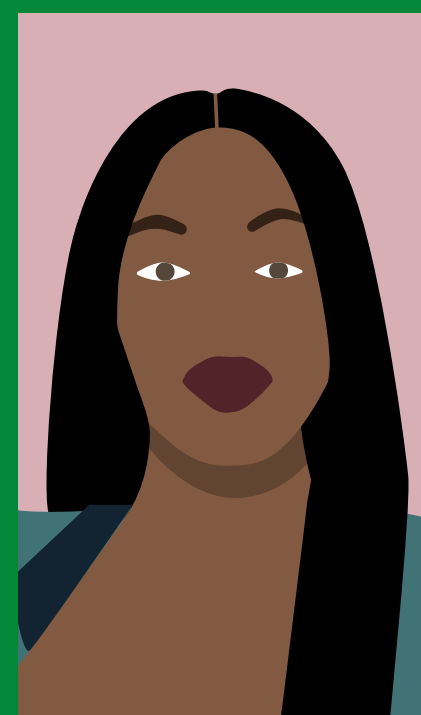
Releases book *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack*. The book looks at racial politics in England and accuses British politicians of refusing to take race seriously.



1988

Naomi Campbell

At age 18 Naomi Campbell became the first black female to grace the cover of French Vogue. It helped catapult her to supermodel status.



1991

Bill Morris

Bill Morris is elected the first black leader of a British trade union; Morris takes up the post of General Secretary of the transport & General Workers' Union.

1992

Linford Christie Olympic Gold

Linford wins the sought after 100m gold medal at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. He is the only British man to have won gold medals at all four major competitions open to British athletes: the Olympic Games, the World Championships, the European Championships and the Commonwealth Games.



1993

Stephen Lawrence

The A-Level student is murdered by a group of white men while waiting for a bus in Eltham, South-East London. Failure to capture his killers provoked his parents to begin a campaign to shame the authorities. No-one has been convicted.

First Black England Captain

Paul Ince becomes the first black England football team captain.

1999

Lawrence Report

After a long campaign by Doreen & Neville Lawrence, a report by Sir William Macpherson is published. It looks at the police handling of Stephen's murder and contains a withering attack on racist attitudes within the Metropolitan Police force.

2005

Private Beharry

Johnson Beharry (born in Grenada) is awarded the Victoria Cross, the most prestigious award for a soldier, serving in Iraq when his unit were ambushed twice. He risked injury to rescue others. He needed brain surgery for head injuries.

2008

Lewis Hamilton

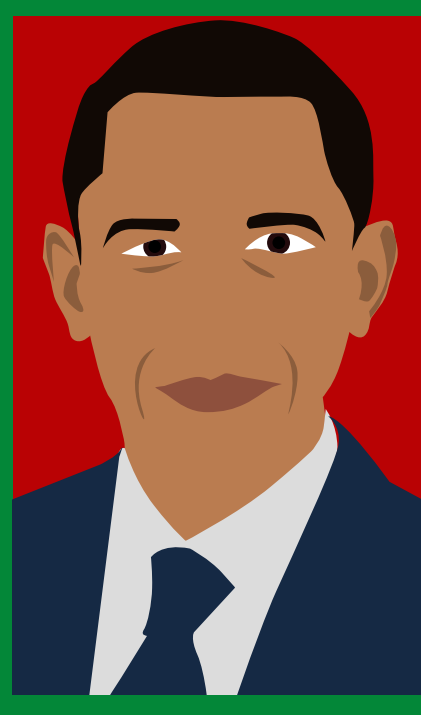
Lewis Hamilton wins his first Formula World Championship title with McLaren in 2008 before moving to Mercedes, he is a joint-record seven World Drivers' Championship titles and is considered the best Driver of all time; he was knighted in the 2021 New Year Honours.



2009

Barack Obama Becomes 44th US President

On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States; he is the first African American to hold that office.



2013

Doreen Lawrence

British Jamaican campaigner and the mother of Stephen Lawrence, who was murdered in a racist attack in South East London in 1993, created a Life Peer in 2013. She launched the first national Stephen Lawrence Day on 22 April 2019.



2016

Colin Kaepernick

Colin Kaepernick began his peaceful protests during the national anthem. Before Colin Kaepernick knelt, he sat. And this quiet action of protest was largely unnoticed until August 26, 2016.



2018

The Windrush Scandal

British political scandal concerning people who were wrongly detained, denied legal rights, threatened with deportation and in at least 83 cases wrongly deported from the UK.

2020

George Floyd Killed

George Floyd was an African-American man who was murdered. After his death, protests against police brutality, especially towards black people, quickly spread across the United States, the UK, and globally.

2021

First Black US Vice President

Kamala Harris becomes the first Black US Vice President in January 2021. Harris became the first woman and first woman of colour to become vice president of the United States.