

CONTENTS

Foreword	11
1. Introduction	17
1.1 Communities, Nations and Their Narratives	17
1.2 Culture in Context: <i>What Is It Like to Be a Brit?</i>	18
Your Study Guide	22
Suggested Reading	22
2. Geography, Politics and Contemporary Circumstances	23
2.1 The British Isles	23
2.2 The Constitutional (Parliamentary) Monarchy	23
2.3 The Houses of Parliament	25
House of Commons: The Lower Chamber	26
House of Lords: The Upper Chamber	26
2.4 A Brief Historical Overview of British Political Parties	27
2.5 The Union Jack	29
2.6 The Troubles	30
2.7 Brexit	33
2.8 Contemporary Circumstances	36
Your Study Guide	38
Suggested Reading	38
3. For the Love of Monarchy	41
3.1 Chez Nous	43
Your Study Guide	44
Megxit	44
Suggested Reading	48
4. The First Mixers on the Isles	49
4.1 Neolithic Tribes	50
4.2 Paganism	52
4.3 The Celts	57
4.4 The Myth Pool	59
Meanwhile in the Balkans	61
Your Study Guide	62
Suggested Reading	62
5. The Romans	65
5.1 Christianity Meets Paganism	68
Meanwhile on the British Isles	68

5.2 Insular Christianity.....	68
Meanwhile in the Balkans.....	70
Your Study Guide	71
Suggested Reading	71
 6. Early Medieval Britain: Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms and the Vikings	73
6.1 The Anglo-Saxons	73
Early Medieval Kingdoms	74
6.2 The Viking Invasions	75
Alfred the Great and the Restoration	76
Witenagemot	77
The Beginning of the End of Anglo-Saxon Rule	78
Impetus for the Norman Conquest	80
6.3 The Earliest Literacy Project on the Isles	80
Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum	80
The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle	81
Meanwhile in the Balkans....	82
Your Study Guide	82
The Legends of King Arthur	83
Suggested Reading	84
 7. The Norman Conquest of Britain	85
The Doomsday Book	86
Norman Feudalism	86
7.1 The Legendary and Not so Legendary Anjou (1154-1216)	87
Band of Brothers and Their Hunting Accidents	87
7.3 The Problem of Heredity, Even If You Are a Man	88
Boys Will Be Boys	89
7.4 Anarchy, Misrule and Pacification	90
When You Marry Her for Her Norman Lands	90
Momma's Boys (Ou t'es papa?)	90
7.5 The Becket Controversy	91
Old Friend – New Archbishop, New Problems	92
7.6 The Grass Is Always Greener – In the Holy Land	93
Janus, Judas or John?	94
7.6 The Magna Carta Libertatum	95
When Going to University Was Pretty Cool – For the First Time	96
7.7 The Crusades	97
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	98
Your Study Guide	99
The Legend of Robin Hood	99
Suggested Reading	101
 8. The Plantagenet Line and Their Many Discontents	103
8.1 The Plantagenet Kings	103
A Cautionary Tale about Faith and Friendship	103

8.2 Long Live Longshanks!	105
Prince of Wales (Welsh) No More	106
Scotland: No, Thank You, England!	107
8.3 A Cautionary Tale about Romance and Marriage	108
8.4 The Successful Medieval Manager and Black Death	110
Boy King No More	110
8.5 Power to the People: The Peasants' Revolt of 1381	111
Lancaster in the House	112
Dropouts and Reforms	113
8.6 The Hundred Years' War	114
Swords and Roses	115
8.7 English-Speaking Kings – The Lancaster Line	115
8.8 Paper Crown Will Not Do - The York Rulers	118
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	121
Your Study Guide	124
Suggested Reading	124
 9. The (In)Famous Tudors (1485-1603)	125
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	130
Your Study Guide	131
Headless Mary – Queen of Scots	132
Suggested Reading	134
 10. We'd Rather Have a King, If You Don't Mind	135
10.1 The House of Stuart (1603-1714)	135
King Charming	135
Grandma, can you hear me?	137
10.2 The Interregnum (1649-1660)	141
10.3 Restoration of Monarchy	142
Burning Desire	142
Love Me like the Stuarts Love Catholicism	143
10.4 The Bloodless Revolution	143
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	145
Your Study Guide	145
Suggested Reading	146
 11. Germans All over the Royal Halls	147
11.1 Second-Cousin Rule	147
Sprechen Sie Englisch?	148
I Will Always Love You, Crown	148
11.2 The Land of the Free and Home of the Brave, and George III	150
11.3 Abolitionist George – The Regent	152
No Time to Die	152
11.4 The Victorian Age	153
Empress of India, but an Introvert above All	153
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	154

Your Study Guide	155
Suggested Reading	155
12. Colonial History of the British	157
Let's Talk about the Empire	157
12.1 Animal Farm	158
Just Exploring, Thank You!	159
For the Queen and British Purse	160
You Will Have Plenty of Tea!	161
12.2 The Pinnacle of Colonial Success	163
Will They or Will They Not – Abolish?	164
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	164
Your Study Guide	165
Suggested Reading	165
13. The British Empire and the World Wars	167
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	167
13.1 The First World War	168
13.2 The Saxe-Coburg Gotha	170
Wir Sprechen Englisch! Genug!	170
Britain, Über Alles	171
The Windsor House	171
13.3 The Second World War	172
Emperor Nevermore	173
Winston Churchill	174
Recollections May Vary	175
Meanwhile in the Balkans...	176
Your Study Guide	178
Suggested Reading	178
14. Notable Brits	179
The British Blast from the Past	179
The Lost Generation People Born Between 1883 and 1900	180
The Greatest Generation People Born Between 1901 and 1927	181
The Silent Generation People Born Between 1928 and 1945	181
Baby Boomers People Born Between 1946 and 1964	182
Generation X People Born Between 1965 and 1980	182
Millennials People Born Between 1981 and 1996	183
Generation Z People Born Between 1997 and 2012	183
Your Study Guide	183
15. National Monuments of the United Kingdom	185
Bibliography	189