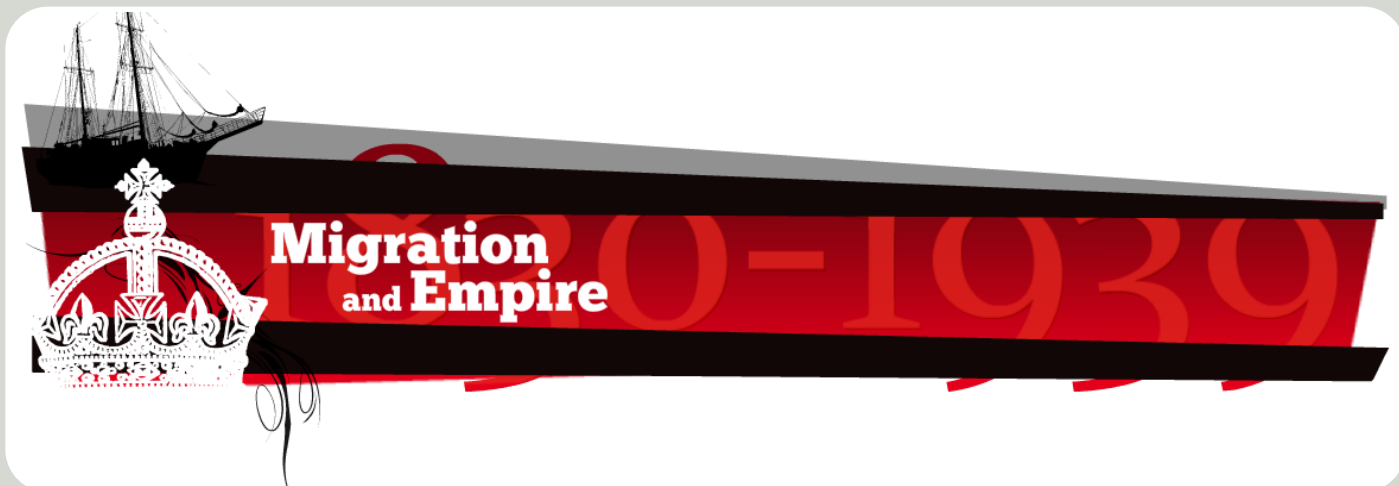


HIGHER HISTORY

Perspective
(Conclusion)

The Gordon Schools Huntly.

MR DAVIDSON



MIGRATION & EMPIRE 1830-1939

Perspective (Conclusion).

Has the Empire had a lasting Effect on Scotland?

For many Scots, the 1707 Act of Union was yet another source of embarrassment and a further dent in their national pride and self esteem. Yet **few benefited from the spoils of the British Empire more than the Scots, both as merchant adventurers and colonisers.**

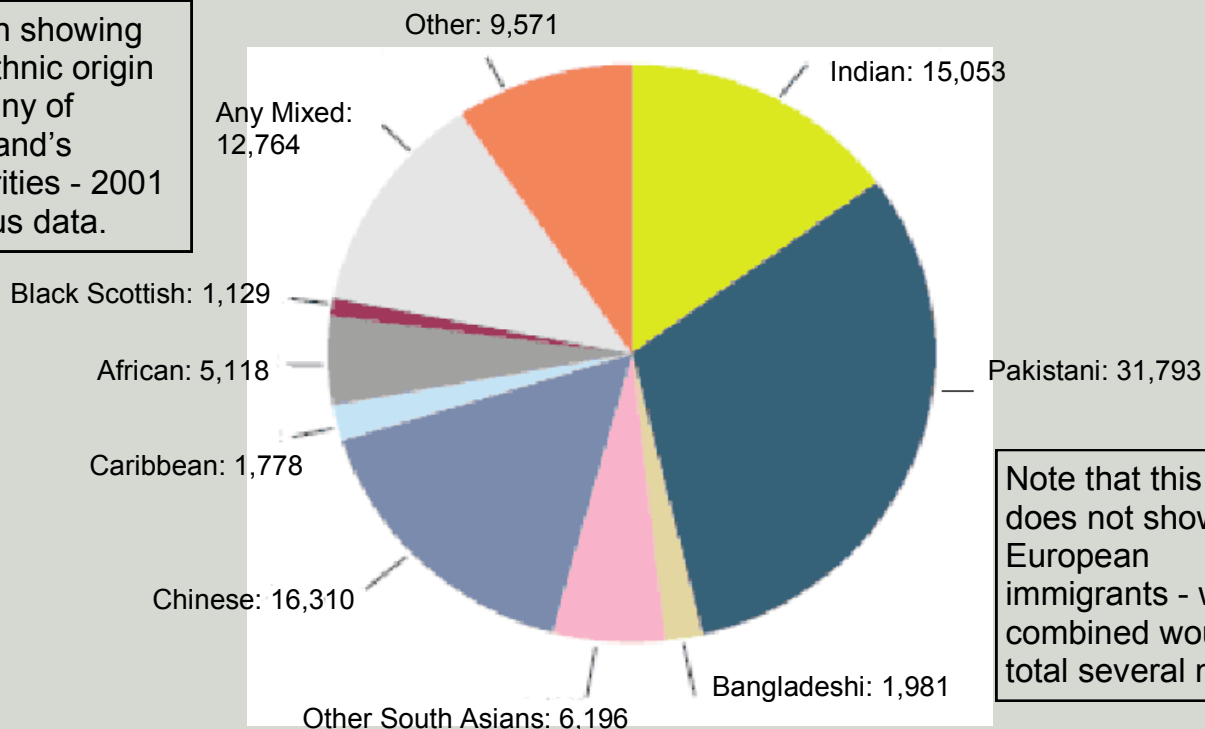
More controversially, however, it was the large-scale forced depopulation of the Scottish Highlands throughout the late 18th and 19th centuries that was to have the greatest impact on the New World.

Since the 19th century, Scotland has opened its doors to Lithuanians, Italians, Jews, English, Africans, Asians, Pakistanis and Chinese (to name but a few). They pay taxes, their children are enrolled in local schools, and they contribute significantly towards the complex composition of the nation. Some have risen to the top of their trades. Their ethnic origins may be diverse, but the adoption process has been successful. They are Scots. According to one platform in recent debate, Scotland should be seen as an all-embracing country, a refuge for asylum seekers and all comers.



Just one of many ways in which the Empire benefitted Scotland

Graph showing the ethnic origin of many of Scotland's minorities - 2001 census data.



Note that this graph does not show European immigrants - which combined would total several million.

National Identity After the Empire

The collapse of the Empire after 1945 has not only forced Scotland to undertake a painful transition from an economy based on heavy industry to one reliant on services and electronics, it has also led to a redrawing of the political map as the Unionist vote has evaporated - and the Nationalist vote has increased in recent years through the Scottish National Party (SNP). The Union is now the focus of political debate as national identity has become less British and more pronouncedly Scottish.

But what of those ethnic groups who made the reverse journey? Their experience in Scotland has been little different from that of other immigrants in other countries. Discrimination and hostility gradually gave way after a protracted struggle to assimilation. Apart from the skirmishes between Irish Catholics and native Protestants, the process was accomplished in a relatively peaceful manner. High-level violence played little part in the immigrant experience in Scotland.

People have been Scotland's greatest export. Why they left, and why they failed to return in any numbers, is a complicated story that does not easily unravel in a simple, one-sided explanation. But they made their mark wherever they settled as farmers, merchants, soldiers, scholars and administrators. The existence of a vibrant Scottish culture in these faraway lands is a testimony to the continuing influence of a dispersion that can be traced as far back as the wanderlust of Scots in medieval times.



Tartan week in New York - an example of how Scotland's culture is still celebrated around the world today as a result of Migration and Empire.

The Scots are a restless people keen to better themselves, but also more tolerant than the English in the 19th century in their acceptance of other peoples and their cultures. The religious egalitarian (the belief in equality) beliefs encouraged Scots missionaries to fight for the rights of native peoples, and for education for women.

However, there is now little left of the Empire, apart from some street names, the odd statue, a growing Asian population and the existence of curry houses. The collective memory of the days when the sun never set on the British Empire has faded into oblivion.

Who's Scottish?

But what exactly does it mean to be a Scot nowadays? Tartan Army football supporters at Hampden with Saltire "Braveheart" faces; red cheeked lassies howling Gaelic laments; weekend hikers asserting rights to roam with midge repellent; suited bankers, lawyers, accountants and secretaries downing whisky on hi-tech bar stools; farmers complaining over subsidies and taxes; The owners of the local ice cream parlour, Italian, Indian or Chinese takeaway or those in a pipe band? In a population of less than 5 million, the diversity, if nothing else, is noticeable. Yet the clichés remain: the kilts, the shortbread tins, the golf clubs, grouse moors, haggis suppers,

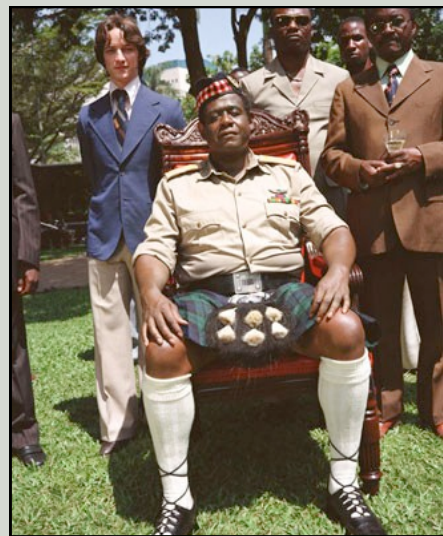
whisky and castles.



The Tartan Army



An Indian Pipe Band



The Ugandan Leader Idi Amin - "Last King of Scotland"

Summary Task:

Write a mini essay or do a summary diagram which tackles this issue:

'The Empire has had very few long lasting effects on Scotland.'