

## The British Empire: A Very Short Introduction

By Ashley Jackson

### Questions for Thought and Discussion

- Can you think of examples of recent media coverage of the British Empire and its legacies?
- What was the British Empire?
- Where was the British Empire?
- What were the main defining features of the British Empire (beyond its territorial extent)?
- Is there any point debating whether the British Empire was 'good' or bad'?
- What were the major causes of British imperial expansion?
- How did the character of the British Empire change across the centuries?
- What role did migration play in the history of the British Empire?
- Who benefitted from the British Empire?
- How was the British Empire run?
- In what ways did empire affect Britain and the British people?
- What were the main causes of the British Empire's demise?
- How have people written about the British Empire?
- What are the major legacies of the British Empire?
- How does one explain widely differing interpretations of the role of the British Empire?
- What is imperialism? Does it still exist?
- What is Britain's role in the world today?
- Is America an imperial power?

### Other books by Ashley Jackson

Ashley Jackson and David Tomkins, *Illustrating Empire: A Visual History of British Imperialism* (The Bodleian Library, 2011)

Ashley Jackson, *Buildings of Empire* (forthcoming – Oxford University Press, 2013)

### Further Reading

John Darwin, *The Empire Project: The Rise and Fall of the British World-System, 1830-1970* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Piers Brendon, *The Decline and Fall of the British Empire* (Vintage, 2008)

Jan Morris, *Pax Britannica: The Climax of an Empire* (Faber and Faber, 2003)

William Roger Louis (ed.), *The Oxford History of the British Empire* (Oxford University Press, 1998)