

Geography : The United Kingdom in globalisation

Britain as an imperial power laid the basis for an early form of globalization of economy and politics and, to some extent, culture. Britain had a global empire that spread across the Americas, Asia, Australasia, and Africa (and Europe too when you include Ireland). In the 1920s and 1930s it encompassed one fifth of the world's population and one quarter of the world's landmass [...]

In terms of the spread of economic and political relations, and the technological bases for global communications and transportation, the British empire was as close as it was possible to get to globalization in its period. It established global relations in seeking out raw materials and new products, production and markets [...].

The expansion of the empire was not primarily culturally driven. This does not mean that there were not deliberate attempts to spread British or European culture through, for instance, missionaries promoting Christianity, the establishment of imperial education networks or attempts to socialize local elites. [...]

Contemporary globalization is shaped by history. Immigration from former colonies has changed the cultural shape and political agenda in Britain. Britain continues to aspire to a global role in politics, and has a more problematical relationship with a regional European political role in a way which may be linked to the global role of the nation's imperial past. [...]

Luke Martell, « Britain and globalization », in Globalizations, september 2008

- 1/ Introduce the document (Nature, author, general idea, date)
- 2/ Give a title to the text.
- 3/ Identify the different topics of the text (don't forget to quote the text)
- 4/ What is the interest of the text.