

CONTENTS

Author's Note	vii
Britain	viii
1 ANCIENT BRITAIN	1
Prehistory	1
Roman Britain	5
2 EARLY MEDIEVAL BRITAIN	10
Dark Age Britain	10
Christianity and the age of saints	15
Newsflash! Vikings murder defenceless monks	20
Why London is the capital of Britain	25
How the Normans shaped world history	29
3 LATER MEDIEVAL BRITAIN	34
Brits invent parliamentary democracy	34
How Scotland was born	38
Whatever happened to Wales?	43
Why France isn't part of Britain	45
When death walked the land	51
A violent royal soap opera	54
4 THE TUDORS	60
The victor of Bosworth	60
Losing our religion	63
Dawn of Empire	69
5 THE STUARTS	75
The Stuarts and the Republic	75
Restoration and Glorious Revolution	83
When Britain got a German king	89
6 GEORGIAN (or HANOVERIAN) BRITAIN	92
The last battle	92
British expansion	100
Why they don't play cricket (much) in the USA	105
Britain's industrial revolution	110
"The greatest happiness of the greatest number"	117
Revolting Britain	120
How Britain got the vote	124

7	VICTORIAN BRITAIN	127
	Wasn't the Victorian era great?	127
	Poor Britain	133
	The Empire on which the sun never set	136
8	EDWARDIAN BRITAIN	140
	Fog in Channel – Europe cut off	140
	How did the First World War happen?	145
9	MODERN BRITAIN	156
	Britain & the First World War	156
	The legacy of 1914-18	161
	What happened in the 1920s & 1930s?	166
	Could Britain have avoided war in 1939?	170
	Britain and the Second World War	173
	Britain after 1945	182
	TIMELINES	189
	I - Prehistoric Timeline	190
	II - Roman Timeline	192
	III - Early Medieval Timeline	195
	IV – Later Medieval Timeline	201
	V – Tudor Timeline	208
	VI – Stuart Timeline	215
	VII – Georgian, or Hanoverian, Timeline	222
	VIII – Victorian Timeline	231
	IX – Edwardian Timeline	240
	X – Modern Timeline 1914-1945	244
	XI – Modern Timeline – 1945 - 2000	252
	Note on sources and further reading	265
	About the author	266