

Norman Conquest

1066-1070s

William of Normandy conquered England and parts of Wales. The Conquest increased William's power, wealth and fame. He said he invaded England because he had been promised the crown.

Crusades

1095 - 1400s

Crusades were wars of religion.
Crusades took place in Scandinavia
and eastern Europe to convert
people to Christianity.

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The most famous Crusades were
fought by Christian armies against
Muslims to control Jerusalem

English wars in Wales & Scotland

1276 - 1500s

Edward I wanted to unite the whole of Britain under English rule to increase his power. His war to conquer Wales was successful but English kings never conquered Scotland.

100 Years War

1337 - 1500s

Wars between England and France began when Edward III claimed he was king of France as well as England. The wars made Edward and, later, Henry V famous and helped win the support of their nobles.

Henry VIII's wars with Scotland and France 1511-1513, 1520s, 1542 - 1547

Henry VIII was keen to be seen as
a great soldier and wanted to be as
famous as Edward III and Henry V.
He failed.

The Spanish Armada and Spanish wars 1580s-1603

The Armada was sent to invade England and turn England back into a Catholic country but the King of Spain also wanted to stop English ships trading with America and raiding his treasure fleets carrying silver back from America.

Elizabethan wars in Ireland

1594 - 1603

The English were afraid that Ireland would be used as a base by Spain to invade England. They tried to take control of Ireland but never completely succeeded.

Anglo-Dutch Wars

1652 -1654, 1665-1667
1672-1674, 1680-1684

Naval wars between English and Dutch to control trade in Europe and their colonies
The Dutch sailed up the River Medway and destroyed an English fleet in 1667 but in the end the war was a draw.

Anglo-Dutch Wars

1652 -1654, 1665-1667
1672-1674, 1680-1684

Naval wars between English and Dutch to control trade in Europe and their colonies. Some of the fighting was in North America and the Caribbean where Britain won control of Jamaica and the Dutch town of New Amsterdam which became British New York.

Marlborough's Wars 1702 - 1713

The French king, Louis XIV, was trying to dominate Europe, hoping to conquer Holland, Germany and Spain. He also wanted to replace the English king, William III, who was Protestant with a Catholic. The British general, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, fought 10 campaigns and never lost a battle. Britain gained a lot of trading benefits from his successes.

War of Jenkins's Ear 1739-1743

A war between Britain and Spain
fought mainly at sea in the
Caribbean over trade.

Seven Years War 1756 - 1763

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Much of the fighting was in Europe but the main cause was the quarrel between Britain and France over trade.

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War of American Independence 1775-1782

The 13 British colonies in north
America fought for their
independence from Britain - and won.

French Revolutionary Wars 1793-1802

Britain was part of an alliance of countries, trying to stop France taking over nearby countries and spreading ideas of revolution which frightened the wealthy kings and other rulers of Europe.

Napoleonic Wars 1803-1815

Britain was part of an alliance of countries, trying to stop France, led by Napoleon Bonaparte, taking control of the whole of Europe. Battles were fought all over Europe until Napoleon was finally beaten by Britain and Prussia at the Battle of Waterloo.

Napoleonic Wars 1803-1815

Britain was part of an alliance of countries, trying to stop France, led by Napoleon Bonaparte, taking control of the whole of Europe and threatening Britain's empire. Battles were fought all over Europe and worldwide, including Egypt where Nelson won the Battle of the Nile.

Opium Wars

1839-42, 1856-60

British battleships easily defeated Chinese forces and force China to trade with British merchants. The main product British merchants wanted to sell in China was opium.

Crimean War

1853-1856

Britain believed Russia wanted to win control of India, the richest part of the British Empire. When Russia tried to move her forces south towards the Mediterranean Britain and France invaded Russia to stop Russia threatening British control of India.

Sikh Wars

1845-1846, 1848 - 1849

Fought in India between Sikhs and British East India Company. As a result the British took over control of Punjab and Kashmir, increasing Britain's power and wealth through trade.

Afghan Wars

1839 - 1842, 1878 -1880

Britain believed Russia wanted to win control of India, the richest part of the British Empire. Russia could attack India through Afghanistan so Britain tried to conquer Afghanistan to stop Russia.

Zulu War 1879

Britain attempted to take over the Zulu kingdom in eastern South Africa to increase Britain's control of southern Africa.

Boer War 1889 - 1902

The war was fought in South Africa between the British and Boers (settlers of Dutch origin). They each wanted to control the region which included rich gold mines but was also an important trading link between Britain and other parts of her Empire.