Scotland

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This essay focuses on the political, economic, and cultural history of ancient, medieval, industrial, and contemporary Scotland from the 8th millennium BCE to 2016. It is based on four lectures written for the participants in Stanford Travel/Study's Scottish Highlands by Rail, April 30-May 9, 2012.

I begin by looking at the settlement of ancient Scotland – how its Mesolithic and Neolithic peoples subsisted, how the Britons, Picts, and Scots conquered and settled Scotland, and how Viking raids and settlement influenced Scotland. I then examine why the year 1560 was a turning point in Scottish history, how medieval Scotland's economy changed, and why Scotland and England united in 1707. I next analyze imperial Scotland (1707-1914) – how Scotland became a heavy industrial power, why Scotland had clearances and enclosures, and why 2.6 million Scots emigrated. Lastly, I turn to modern Scotland (1914-present) – its economic transformation from industry to services, the parties that dominated Scottish governments, and the role of the Scottish Parliament since devolution in 1998. A time line, a bibliography, and a description of the sites that I visited in Scotland are appended.

Peoples of Scotland (8th millennium BCE-12th century CE)

Mesolithic and Neolithic Settlers (8th millennium BCE-500 BCE). The earliest known inhabitants of Scotland were nomadic hunter-gatherer peoples of the Mesolithic Era (Old Stone Age, 8th-4th millennia BCE). Their diet consisted primarily of fish and shellfish along with berries, nuts, and vegetables. Hunting for deer played a secondary role. Seabirds were a further source of meat, as were stranded whales that also provided oil and whalebones. For transportation Mesolithic peoples relied on coracles, round boats made of skins stretched over a light wooden frame. Those craft permitted mobility along Scotland's jagged coasts where land travel was difficult.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coracle_boat.jpg>

Mesolithic-style Coracle Boat

Peoples of the Neolithic Era (New Stone Age, 3500-500 BCE) migrated from Asia to the Hebrides, the west coast of Scotland, and the islands of northern Scotland probably via Spain and Ireland. They brought superior tools, compared to the flint and bone implements used by Mesolithic peoples, and food production systems based on growing crops (barley and wheat) and raising livestock (cattle, pigs, and sheep). They cleared woodland areas for cultivation and grazing and established permanent settlements (such as that at Skara Brae in the Orkneys).

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skara_Brae_12.jpg>

Skara Brae, Orkney, Scotland, c. 3100 BCE

Initially, the agricultural surplus was devoted to constructing peaceful monuments such as cairns (tombs) and henges (ceremonial circles). Copper came into use in northern Scotland by about 2000 BCE, and bronze followed soon thereafter. Between about 900 BCE and 500 BCE, new techniques for making agricultural tools and weapons prompted an expansion of the bronze industry. As a result, archeological findings from that period begin to include fortified settlements and exotic goods imported from Europe, indicating increases in both militarism and wealth.

Henge, Ring of Brodgar, Orkney, Scotland – c. 2500 BCE

Celtic Migrations (6ᵗʰ-1ˢᵗ c. BCE). In the late 3ʳᵈ millennium BCE, the Celts, red-haired Indo-Europeans, began migrating westward from Central Asia to Austria and then to France. By 500 BCE, the Belgicae Celts arrived in Scotland and introduced iron plows and weapons, pottery wheels, and gold minting. They maintained trading links with Europe. The warlike Celts built fortified settlements with sophisticated weaponry. Celtic social hierarchies included an upper class of nobility, druids (priests), and bards, a second tier of farmers and craftsmen, and a lower level of slaves.
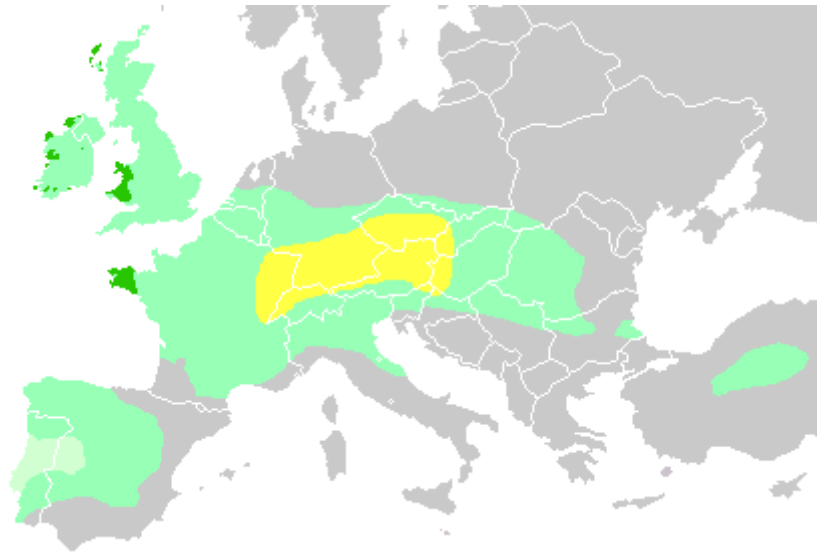
Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Celtic_expansion_in_Europe.png>

Celtic Settlements in Europe –
Hallstatt Core (Yellow), Maximum Spread, c. 275 BCE (Light Green),
Celtic Languages Spoken Today (Dark Green)

Three Celtic peoples with similar social organizations and languages – the Picts, Scots, and Britons – inhabited Scotland in the 1st millennium CE. The Picts lived north of the Forth-Clyde Valley between the 3rd and 9th centuries CE and established the Fortriu Kingdom.

*Eassie Stone, Pictish Christian Symbols –
Eassie, Angus, Scotland, mid-8th century*

The Picts subsisted on agriculture and livestock, supplemented by hunting and gathering. The main grains grown were wheat (emmer and spelt) and barley. Cattle were an important source of food and a symbol of wealth. Bee-keeping provided honey and wax. The culture was based on a strong clan system and featured finery, feasting, drinking, gift exchange, and combat. The tattooed and painted Pictish warriors fueled their fierce battle frenzy with hallucinogenic liquor.

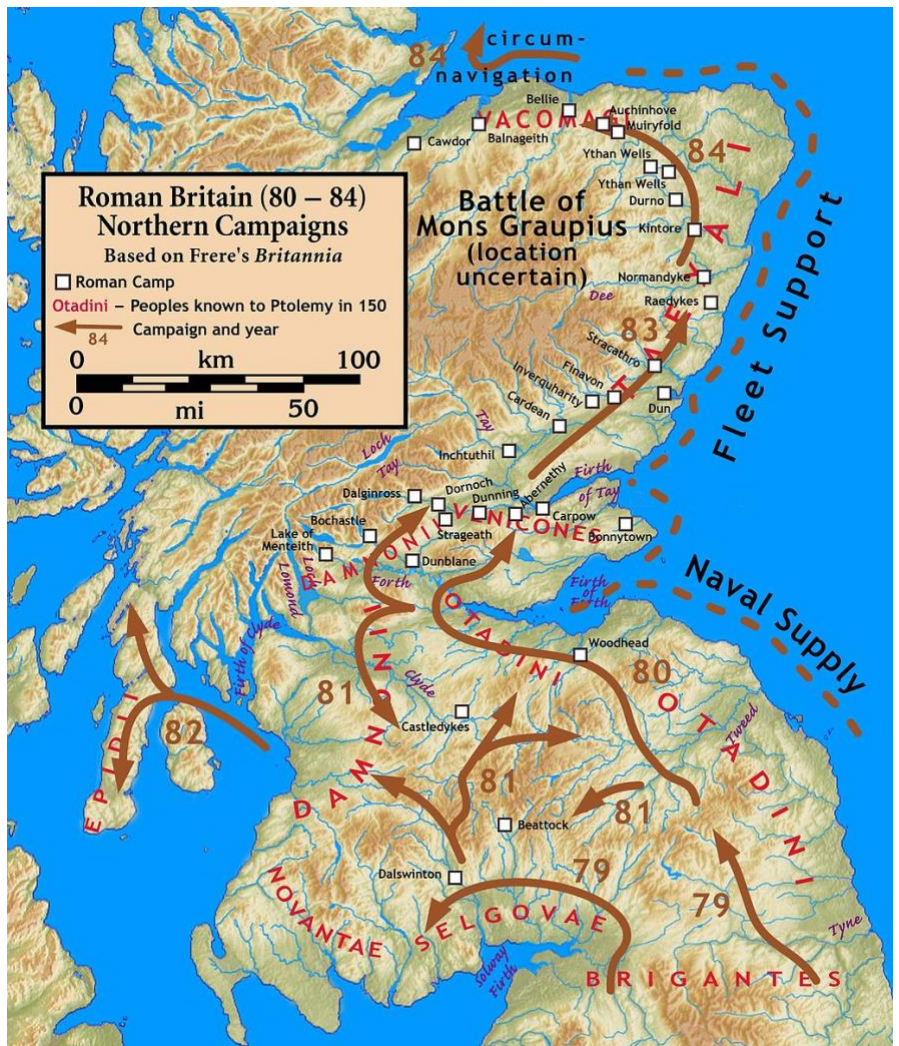

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scotland_Dunadd.jpg>

Dunadd Hill Fort, Argyll, Scotland – 7th-century Capital of Dal Riata

The Gaelic-speaking Scots emigrated into Scotland from northern Ireland in the 3rd and 4th centuries CE, extending the Irish Kingdom of Dal Riata into west-central Scotland (Argyll). Like all of the Celts in Scotland, the Scots lived in small homesteads, practiced crop and animal agriculture, and formed clan-based, tribal kingdoms. The Britons, the Celtic settlers of southern Britain, formed the Strathclyde Kingdom in southwest Scotland. They, too, formed aggressive, tribal kingdoms.

Roman Incursions and Anglo-Saxon Migrations (1st-6th centuries CE). Rome initiated an expedition against the Celtic Britons in Britain in the 1st century CE, because they had supported Celtic resistance to Roman conquest in Gaul (France). Under Emperor Claudius, the Romans conquered Britain in 43, although their campaigns were unsuccessful beyond the Forth-Clyde line (where they built the Antonine Wall in 142).

In 80, Gnaeus Julius Agricola, Roman Governor of Britain, renewed efforts to conquer Scotland, and he dealt a decisive defeat to Celtic tribes at the Battle of Mons Graupius in northeast Scotland in 84. But Agricola could not establish a lasting presence. Despite further

expeditions, the Romans never established a permanent occupation of northern Scotland. The Roman occupiers relied on Celtic agricultural settlements in southern Scotland to provision their legions, and the interaction between their occupation forces and the indigenous peoples led to a transfer of ideas.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at

The Roman Invasion of Scotland, 80-84 CE

From the Romans, the Celts learned building skills, traditions of dressing stones, knowledge of horsemanship and horse-breeding, and further fighting and battle skills. The Romans also provided the names for two Celtic peoples – the Picts ("painted warriors") and the Scots ("bandits").

Roman Cavalrymen Conquering the Picts, Bo'ness, 142 CE –
National Museum of Scotland

Following the Britons' expulsion of the Romans from Britain in 410, Anglo-Saxons (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes from northern Germany

and Denmark) invaded, and they overran and settled much of southern Britain by the end of the 5th century. In southeastern Scotland and northeastern England, the Angles established a strong kingdom, Northumbria, which ruled for over two centuries. As a result, Scotland then was inhabited by four groups of peoples – three Celtic (the Picts, Scots, and Britons) and one Anglo-Saxon (the Angles).

Viking Incursions and Unification of Scotland (9th-12th centuries). Norwegian Vikings could reach the northern Scottish islands in 24 hours and enjoy easy access to England, Wales, and Ireland. The islands served first as bases for raiding the mainland of Britain and later as venues for settlement. The Viking raiders focused their attacks on monasteries, because they were rich sources of gold, communion wines, priestly garments, and food stores. The islands and coasts of Scotland proved an ideal choice for Viking settlement, because the warmer climate allowed winter pasturing of livestock.

Skudelev II, Large Viking Warship Built in Dublin, c. 1042 –
Recovered and Displayed in Skudelev, Near Roskilde, Denmark

From the mid-9th century, Norwegians conquered the Shetland,

Orkney, and Hebrides Islands and the northwestern coastal regions of

Highland Scotland. They ruled the Hebrides and coasts until 1266 and

the Orkneys and Shetlands until 1469. Viking control isolated the

Highlands and Islands from the rest of Scotland.
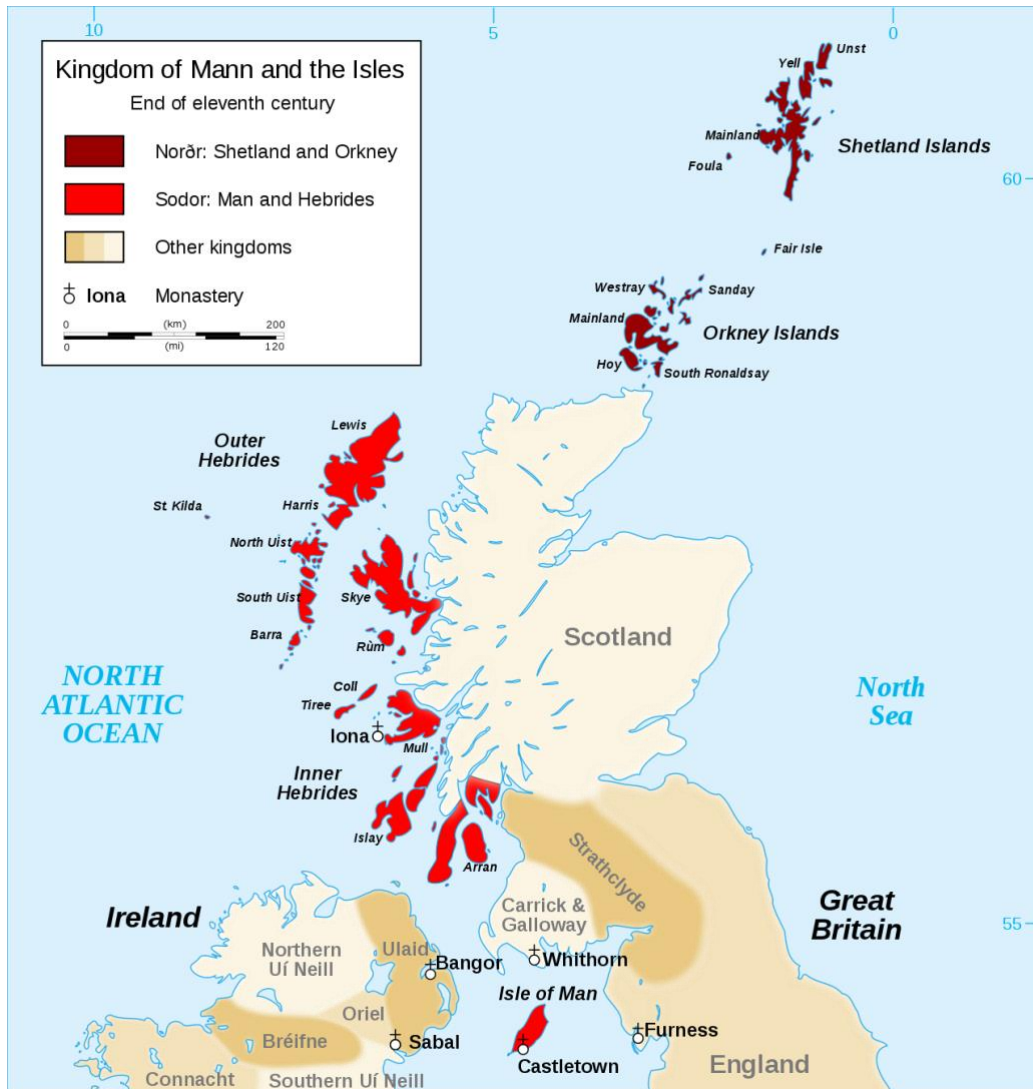
Viking Kingdom of Mann and the Isles (Purple and Red Areas),
Late 11th century

Viking raids also weakened the Picts and thus aided the conquest

by Kenneth MacAlpin, the Scots King of Dal Riata (r. 840-858), of

Pictland in 843. Thereafter, the Picts disappeared from Scottish history.

MacAlpin claimed the Pictish throne, shifted his capital to Forteviot, and

created a new kingdom called Alba (later Scotland). The new kingdom expanded to the south to include Lothian in 973 and Strathclyde in 1018.

Scotland was consolidated under the pivotal reign of David I (r. 1124-1153). In the early 12th century, the small kingdom had about 250,000 residents. David, who was educated in England, introduced Anglo-Norman feudalism into the Scottish Lowlands, ensconced numerous Norman lords, and created 18 new towns (burghs), mostly led by Norman immigrants. Under David's rule, Scotland gained new wealth by exporting wool, hides, and fish to the Low Countries.

*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:David_I_and_Malcolm_IV.jpg>*

*King David I and His Grandson, Malcolm IV –
Letter of Charter to the Abbey of Kelso, 1159*

Medieval Scotland (13th century-1707)

    Struggle for Independence. By taxing its nobles lightly and maintaining their military support, Scotland stayed free and prospered. During the 13th century, the estimated population of Scotland increased from 400,000 to 600,000. But the Scottish Kingdom was under grave threat during the late 13th and early 14th centuries, when English kings invaded.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Replica_of_the_Stone_of_Scone,_Scone_Palace,_Scotland_(8924541883).jpg>

Edward I of England Stole Scotland's Stone of Destiny in 1296 – England Returned It in 1996

Scotland's Wars of Independence began in 1296. William Wallace became Scotland's first national hero. After killing a sheriff (to avenge the death of his wife), Wallace became an outlaw and guerrilla commander. In an iconic battle, he defeated a much larger English force, led by Edward I, at Stirling Bridge in 1297 and was proclaimed the "Guardian" of Scotland. But in 1298, at Falkirk he chose to fight a standard battle against the English army and was badly beaten. In 1305, the English captured Wallace, took him to London, and killed him.
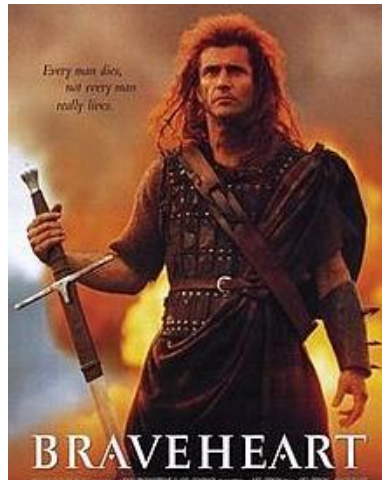
"Braveheart" Mel Gibson –
William Wallace Would Have Been Mystified

The achievements of Scotland's second medieval hero, Robert I (the Bruce, ruled 1306-1329), were more significant. Bruce was an

Anglo-Norman noble with early ties to England. In 1309, he signed a

secret treaty to gain the support of France, and a year later he received

the support of the Church of Scotland (despite being an ex-

communicant). Edward II of England invaded Scotland in 1310. Bruce

gradually drove the English out of Scotland. In 1314, at the epic battle

of Bannockburn, Bruce led his 8,000 Scottish troops to victory over
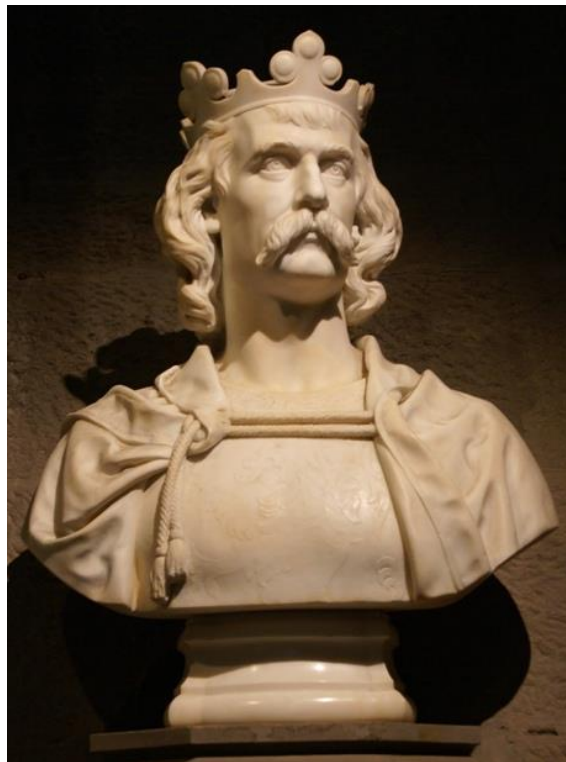
Edward II's 24,000 English soldiers.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wallace_Monument_20080505_Bust_Robert_the_Bruce.jpg>

Robert I (the Bruce, ruled 1306-1329) –
Wallace Monument, Stirling, Scotland

Four years later, Bruce drove the English out of Berwick and earned Scotland's freedom. In 1326, in the Treaty of Corbeuil he gained the support of France, and in 1328, Scotland and England concluded a Peace Treaty. A well-deserved national hero, Bruce died a natural death in 1329, possibly of leprosy.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1334_Treaty_of_Newcastle.svg>

Independent Scotland (Blue Area), 1334 –
The Orkneys and Shetlands (Tan Areas) Remained Part of Norway

Stuart Dynasty (1371-1689). In the 14th and 15th centuries, the Auld Alliance between Scotland and France promised mutual military aid in conflicts. The Stuart dynasty faced periodic opposition from powerful noble families. James IV (r. 1488-1513) was the most popular of the early Stuart kings. His marriage to Margaret Tudor of England (the Union of Hearts) brought peace, and he introduced social reforms.

The most controversial Stuart ruler was Mary Queen of Scots (r. 1542-1567). Mary was crowned Queen at the age of one week. Her French-born mother, Mary de Guise, served as regent. Both were Catholics. Henry VIII of England tried to arrange a marriage between infant Mary and his son. But Mary de Guise sent her daughter to France at age 6 and arranged her marriage to the Dauphin of France in 1557.

The year 1560 was a turning point in Scottish history. Following Mary de Guise's death, Scotland negotiated the Treaty of Edinburgh with England, pledging peace and troop removals and paving the way for the Protestant Reformation in Scotland. The Dauphin also died in 1560, so the widowed Mary was no longer Queen of France.

Mary Queen of Scots and of France, c. 1558-1560 – Portrait by François Clouet

In 1561, Mary returned to Scotland to rule. She married her unstable cousin, Lord Darnley, in 1565. Two years later, he was murdered. After Mary married the prime suspect, the Earl of Bothwell, she was forced to abdicate. She fled to England in 1568, where her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, put her in detention. Mary had a strong claim to the English throne. Elizabeth had Mary beheaded in 1587.

Mary's son, James VI (r. 1567-1625) was seeking the English throne. After Elizabeth died in 1603, he ruled as James I of England (1603-1625). Scotland was under military rule during the Cromwell Commonwealth (1649-1660).

James VI of Scotland (ruled 1567-1625) and James I of England (ruled 1603-1625) – Portrait by John de Critz, c. 1600

Medieval Scottish Economy. Estimated changes in population provide a good proxy for changes in the medieval Scottish economy

(1200-1700). Scotland's population is estimated to have increased by 50 percent (from 400,000 to 600,000) in the prosperous 13th century, but suffered a decline (back to 500,000) in the plague-afflicted 14th century. Scotland took two centuries (1400 to 1600) to recover to 600,000 people. But economic progress in the 17th century permitted a population increase to 1,000,000.

Little change occurred in Scottish agriculture between 1200 and 1600. The Lowlands specialized in crops (barley and wheat), whereas farmers in the Highlands raised animals (sheep and cattle). However, innovations – yield increases from applying lime, better crop rotations, new rural markets, and longer written leases – improved agriculture in the 17th century. The commodities and directions of foreign trade were largely unchanged during those five centuries. Scotland continued to export primarily wool (raw or coarse cloth), animal hides (cattle), and preserved fish (herring and salmon). Scotland's main imports were glass, metals, wine, spices, and other luxuries. Most Scottish trade was conducted with England and Flanders.

Unprocessed Sheep's Wool – Medieval Scotland's Primary Export

In 1380, a few Scottish merchants emigrated to Gdansk, Poland to participate in the growing export trade in wheat and rye. By the 16th century, other mercantile Scots had emigrated and settled up-river, and by the 17th century, there were 400 Scottish settlements in Poland or coastal Prussia. The entrepreneurial Scots owned riverboats, financed grain farmers, and earned as much as 30 percent profit on cargoes of grain exported from Poland and sold in western Europe. That

experience set a precedent for later Scottish emigration within the

British Empire.

. *Scottish Emigrant Merchants –*
Exported Rye (and Wheat) from Poland in the 17th century

Union with England (1707). James VII/II (r. 1685-1689), the last

Stuart king, alienated the nobles of both England and Scotland, who

opposed his Catholicism and close links with Louis XIV of France.

English leaders invited William of Orange and his wife, Mary (a

daughter of James), to accept the English crown in 1689. A Scottish

convention soon followed suit. William and Mary staunchly opposed

Louis XIV, Catholicism, and the return of James VII/II.

King William III and Queen Mary II of Orange (ruled Great Britain, 1689-1702) – Engraving by R. White, c. 1689-1703

At war with France, English leaders were anxious to avoid a future

Jacobite (Stuart) ruler in Scotland and reasoned that full union was the

only guarantee. Scotland's motivation for union was economic – its

merchants wanted access, free of customs duties, to markets in England

and its colonies, especially America, and its shippers wanted the protection of the English navy. Both countries' parliaments ratified the Act of Union in 1707 by large margins. England insisted on a joint Parliament with representation based on taxation and population. The new country was called Great Britain, had a single coinage, and accepted a Protestant Hanoverian ruler upon the death of Queen Anne. Scotland was granted free trade with England and its colonies and the protection of the Navigation Acts. Scottish nobles and burghs retained their royal privileges.
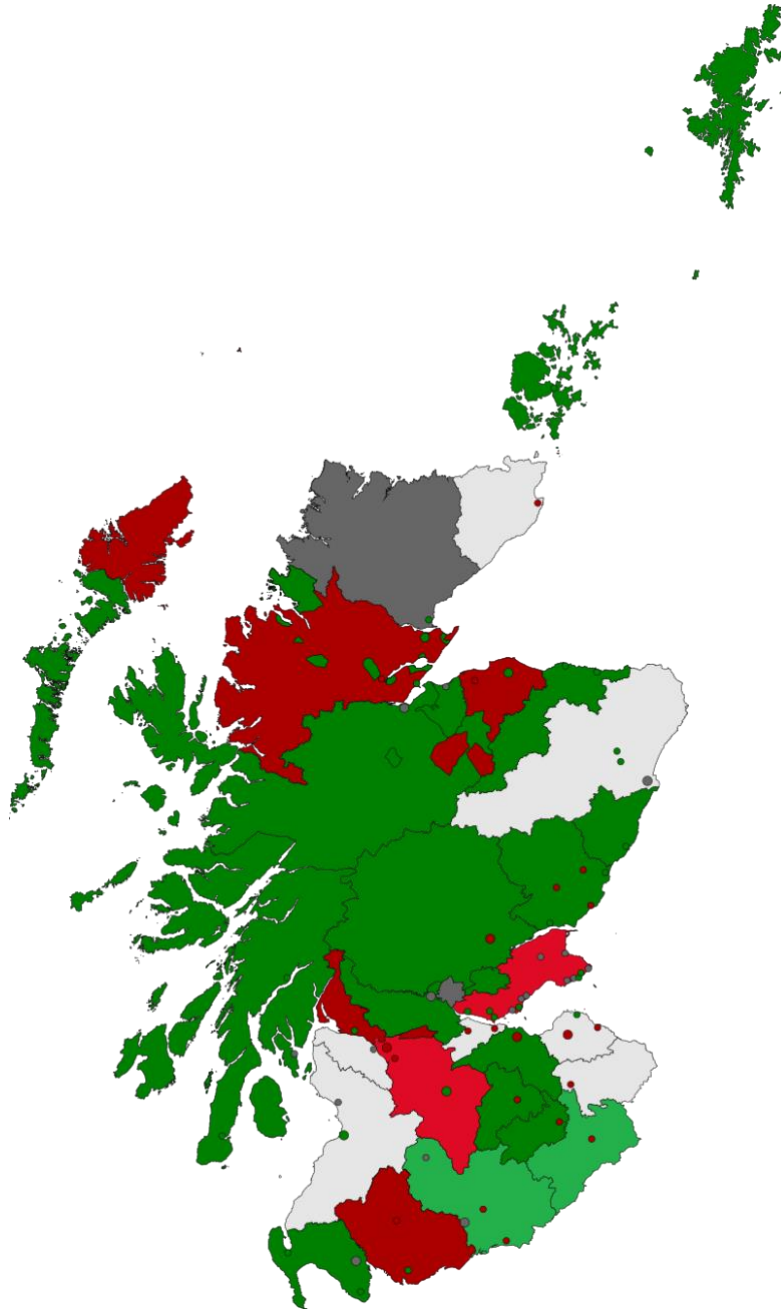
Union of Scotland and England within Great Britain, 1707 –
Scottish Parliament Approved Union, 116 to 83
(Green Areas Favored Union, Red Areas Opposed Union)

Two Jacobite Uprisings (attempts to restore Stuart rulers) occurred in Scotland after the union. Both were supported by France and manned largely by Highland troops. The Earl of Mar ("Bobbing John") led a revolt in 1715, but was defeated at Sherrifmuir by loyalist forces. Prince Charles Edward ("Bonnie Prince Charlie") came from France to lead an uprising in 1745. His forces were defeated at Culloden in 1746. After five months of hiding in the Islands, he escaped to France.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Battle_of_Culloden.jpg>

Battle of Culloden, 1746 –
British Loyalists (Lowlanders) Defeated Jacobites (Highlanders)

Imperial Scotland (1707-1914)

Scottish Trade and Enlightenment. By the 1740s, the

preferential trade provisions of the Act of Union (1707) with England

began to pay off handsomely for Scotland. Scotland's first global

enterprise was the tobacco trade. Scottish trading houses dominated

trade in tobacco produced in the American South. They supplied liberal

credit to American planters and provided them with a wide range of

imports (clothing, equipment, and luxuries). The Glasgow-based firms

re-exported the tobacco to Europe, notably France, and re-invested the

substantial profits in Scottish shipping and manufacturing enterprises.

John Campbell, Royal Bank of Scotland, c. 1749 –
Banker for the Scottish Virginia Tobacco Lords

Scotland's leading manufacture was linen, centered in the Dundee

region. Between 1740 and 1780, the production and export of linen

increased fourfold. Flax was grown locally or imported from the

Russian Baltic provinces. Union with England again was critical. From

1742, Scottish linen benefited from export subsidies and tariff

protection. Most linen was exported to British colonies in the Caribbean

or America to clothe slaves on sugar, cotton, and tobacco plantations.

Flax Yarn and Woven Linen Textiles –
Leading Scottish Export in the 18th century

In the mid-19th century, the Dundee region shifted to producing

jute, another coarse textile. The raw jute fiber was grown in Bengal in

British India and shipped to Scotland. The principal jute products – bags

(used to ship commodities and to make sand-bags in wartime) and

carpets – were exported globally, primarily to the United States and

Europe.

Economic growth in the 18th century was accompanied by the Scottish Enlightenment, a remarkable, university-based outpouring of intellectual creativity. Contributors included David Hume (philosophy), Adam Smith (economics), James Hutton (geology), William Robertson (history), William Adam (architecture), Joseph Black (carbon dioxide and latent heat), and James Watt (steam engine condenser).
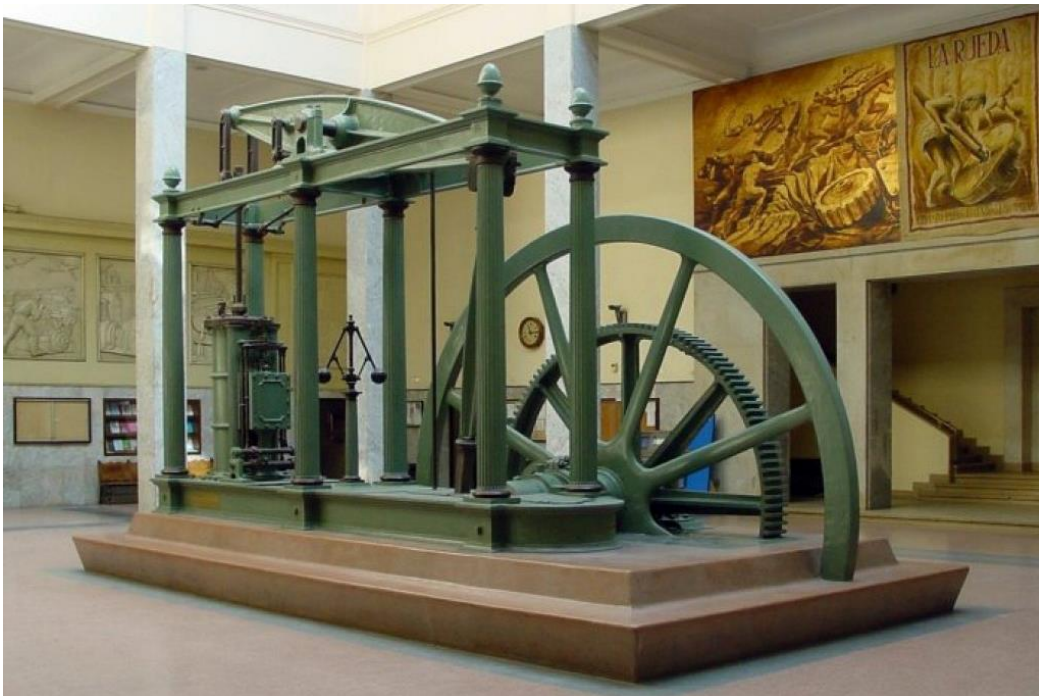
Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maquina_vapor_Watt_ETSIIM.jpg>

James Watt's Steam Engine, 1775 –
Propelled Britain's Industrial Revolution

Scottish Manufacturing. In the late 18th century, Britain initiated the Industrial Revolution. Recent history had endowed Scotland with

numerous advantages for industrialization – an elite committed to

economic change, experienced business entrepreneurs and merchants, a

skilled labor force, good roads and ports, a strong system of primary,

secondary, and university education, and a wide network of international

trading connections. Scotland's first industries produced textiles. As

described above, linen was first. The first cotton textile mill was opened

in 1778. Production spread rapidly after 1792, when raw cotton imports

from America began. Archibald Buchanan constructed the first

integrated cotton mill in 1807 – all processes were powered together.

Scotland's textile manufacturing was sited in urban centers in the

southeast.

*Cotton-Textile Mills, New Lanark, on the River Clyde –
Operated 1785-1968*

Integrated heavy industry – coal, iron, steel, shipbuilding, and

engineering – dominated Scottish industry between 1850 and 1914.

Based on steam power from coal, heavy industry was located near coal

deposits around Glasgow. Most of Scotland's ships, locomotives and

rail cars, marine engines, and steel was exported. In 1914, tiny Scotland

(4.5 million people) was a world leader in heavy industry and Glasgow

firms produced one-fifth of the world's ships.
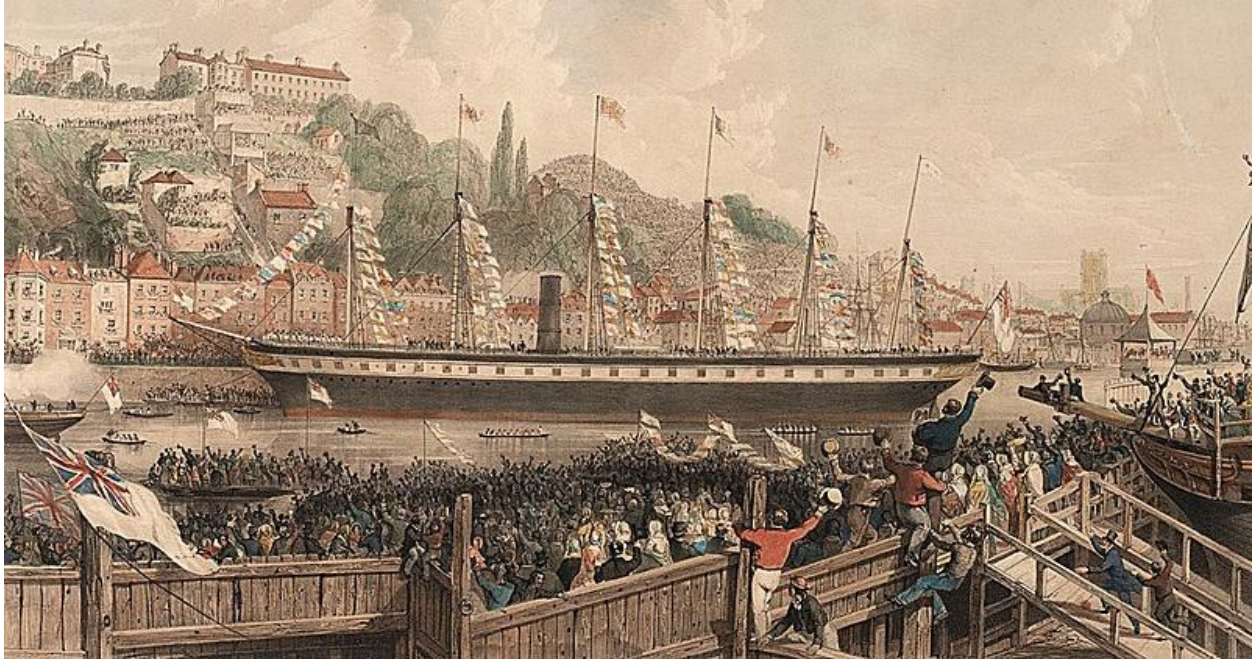
Launch of the Great Britain, 1843 –
World's First Iron-hulled, Steam-powered Ocean Liner

Scotland's heavy industrial prowess grew out of engineering

innovations in steam power, hydraulic equipment, and locomotive and

marine design. Between 1870 and 1914, Scottish industrialists and

middle-class savers invested heavily in the British Empire and the

Americas. By 1914, their foreign holdings were valued at L500 million,

one-eighth of the British total. About half was in railways, and the rest

was mostly in gold and silver mines, sheep and cattle ranches, and land

development.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Young_Group_Of_Australian_White_Ewe_Lambs.jpg>

Entrepreneurial Scots Invested in Australian Sheep Ranches

Scottish Agriculture and Clearances. Starting in the mid-18th

century, Scotland, like all of Britain, experienced an agricultural

revolution. Higher crop yields were achieved by systematic fallowing,

better rotations, applications of lime, and increased use of manure. The

improvement of pastures, through planting clovers, and the intensive

planting of turnips for animal feed permitted larger herds of animals.
More animals meant more manure and thus better pasture and higher
crop yields.

Britain's Agricultural Revolution –
Intensive Planting of Turnips Allowed Larger Herds of Animals

But those changes required the consolidation of farm land and the
removal of tenants. In the Highlands, clan control had evolved into a
system of crofters – small farmers with no land rights who provided the
landlords with ample labor during planting and harvest. Between 1760

and 1860, Highland landowners forcibly evicted their crofters to allow

large-scale ranching of sheep or cattle. They moved crofters to coastal

villages to produce kelp (alkaline ash used in soap), recruited crofter

men into the military, and assisted crofter emigration.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vuiamor2.jpg>

*Highland Land Clearances in Scotland – Ruined Croft Houses on
Fuaigh Mor in Loch Roag, Cleared of Its Inhabitants in 1841*

Land enclosures in the Lowlands were carried out less brutally.

Tenants (whose leases had expired) and cottars (sub-tenants with no land

rights) migrated to towns to work in factories. Between 1800 and 1850,

Lowland land-owners introduced intensive crop farming that led to

higher yields for oats, barley, and wheat, production of high-quality beef, and larger farm sizes. Improvements in drainage and transportation accelerated enclosure.

Lowland Enclosures Removed Tenants –
Rent Day in the Wilderness, by Sir Edwin Landseer, 1868

In the 1870s, Scottish land ownership was the most concentrated in Europe – 118 families owned half of Scotland. In response to Highland protests and reformers' pressure, the Crofters Act (1886) gave tenants security of land tenure and fair rents. That unprecedented legislation undercut the power of Highland landlords.

Land Enclosures in Scotland –
Brutal in the Highlands and Islands, Gradual in the Lowlands

Scottish Emigration. Between 1821 and 1915, 44 million people

emigrated from Europe, mostly to the Americas or Australasia. The

largest numbers departed from Italy (8 million), Germany (5 million),

and Spain and Portugal (4.5 million). With 2 million emigrants – 40

percent of Scotland's 1915 population of 4.5 million – Scotland had the

highest proportion of migrants of all European countries. Between 1700

and 1850, 40 percent of Scottish emigrants originated from the

Highlands in reflection of widespread poverty and the clearances.

Painful Scottish Emigration –
Lochaber No More, by John Watson Nichol, 1883

During the next 65 years (1850-1915), most Scottish emigrants came from the industrial Lowlands. Wage rates there were low relative to those in the Americas and Australasia (and 20 percent lower than those in England). Most Scottish workers emigrated during industrial depressions (late 1840s-early 1850s, mid-1880s, and 1906-1913).

Scottish emigrants were much better trained than most other European settlers. About half of Scottish emigrants were skilled artisans and another fifth were professionals (businessmen and doctors). More than 700,000 Scots emigrated to the United States. Many were engineers, shipbuilders, and construction specialists, and most settled in the American northeast or California. About one-sixth of Scotland's 2 million migrants went to Canada, moved to eastern cities or western prairies, and formed a third of the Canadian business elite.

James McGill (1744-1813) – Scottish-Canadian Businessman and Philanthropist and Benefactor of McGill University

The Protestant Ulster Scots (Scots Irish) had an interesting, three-part migration history. About 100,000 Scots moved from the Lowlands to Ulster (Northern Ireland) between 1650 and 1700. In the 18th century, many migrated from Ulster to the Americas (Davy Crockett was Scots-Irish). Following the potato blight in the 1840s, many others moved from Ulster to industrializing Scotland.
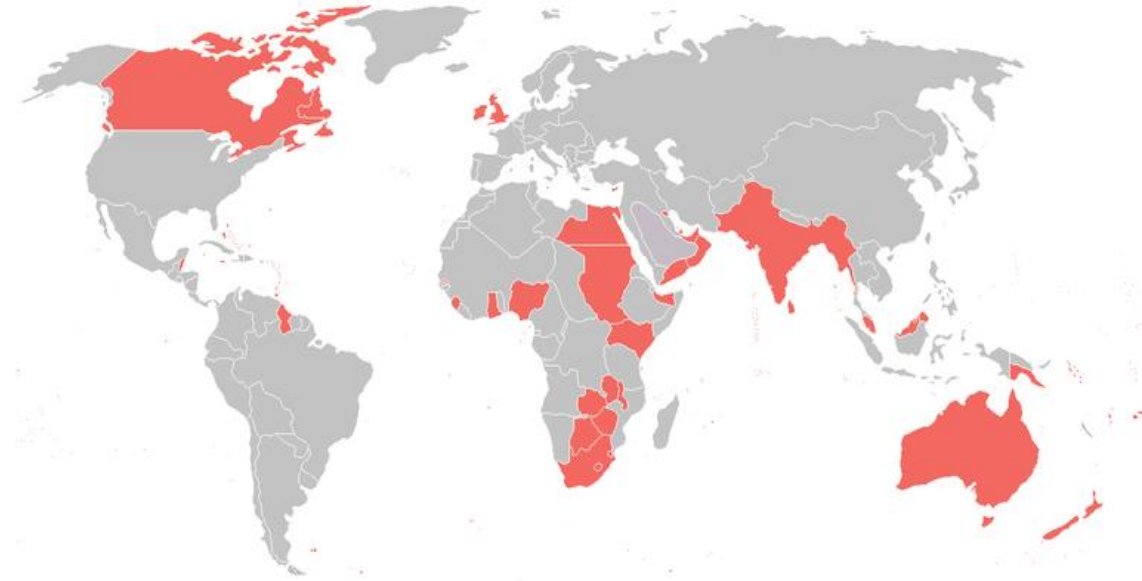
The British Empire in 1914, One-fourth of the World's Land Area and Population – Scots Emigrated to the Americas and Australasia

Modern Scotland (1914-present)

Economic Change (1914-1950s). During the First World War (1914-1918), Scotland continued its concentration on coal-powered, heavy industry – shipbuilding, engineering, steel, munitions, and machinery – and on jute bags. Britain's high demand for military equipment deepened that dependence. Scotland thus missed the consumer-oriented, second Industrial Revolution, based on electric power, motor vehicles, and synthetic materials.

Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1914_Star_20_hp_tourer_(31724765871).jpg>

Star Motor Car, 20.1 Horsepower, 1914 –
Scotland Missed the 2nd Industrial Revolution

Following the war, Scotland, along with many competitors, anticipated a rebuilding boom and expanded heavy industrial capacity. But the boom was short-lived. Disarmament (through the Washington naval treaties) undercut the expected demand for war-ships in the 1920s, and global economic depression brought massive unemployment in Scottish industry in the 1930s.

The outbreak of the Second World War (1939-1945) and the ensuing demand for armaments revived Scottish heavy industry. Within Britain, Scotland benefited from few of the war-related inventions – jet engines, electronics, antibiotics, and radar. Their production instead was sited mostly in England or Wales.

By 1945, Scotland's dependence on making steel, ships, and large machinery had returned with a vengeance. A quarter of the country's workforce was employed in heavy industry, mostly on the Clyde around Glasgow. That pattern continued into the post-war period. Scottish heavy industry helped fill a replacement demand for equipment destroyed in the war.

Glasgow Shipyard During Shipbuilding Boom, 1944

During the Korean War (1950-1953), Scotland's shipyards built

one-sixth of the world's new ships. The newly-elected Labor

government nationalized much of Britain's heavy industry – coal (1947),

railways (1948), steel (1949), and, later, shipbuilding (1977). But

Scotland's myopic dependence on heavy industry continued.

Ravenscraig Steel Complex, Motherwell (Near Glasgow) –
Nationalized in 1949, Closed in 1992

Economic Change (1960s-present). Starting in the 1960s,

Scotland's heavy industry collapsed. Local coal and iron deposits were

exhausted, and international competitors were more efficient. The

Ravenscraig strip steel mill in Motherwell (near Glasgow) closed in

1992, the final Dundee jute bags were produced in 1998, and the last

Scottish deep coal mine (at Longannet) was shut down in 2002.

Longannet Colliery, Scotland's Last Deep-Coal Mine –
After Its Closure in 2002

Manufacturing now provides only one-fifth of Scotland's income and employment, and little of that comes from heavy industry. In the past half-century, Scotland has experienced a remarkable economic restructuring – from heavy industry to science-based services and light manufacturing. Scottish per capita income, $39,000 (2019), was 92 percent of the average in the United Kingdom, three-fifths of that in the United States, and 12 percent higher than the EU average).

Two-thirds of Scotland's income and three-fourths of its jobs derive from a vast array of services. The two most prominent are financial- (banking, finance, insurance, and information technology) and petroleum-related services. Charlotte Square in Edinburgh is the center of Scotland's financial and business services, which employ 150,000. Ten of Scotland's twenty largest companies are financial firms.

Charlotte Square, Edinburgh – Center of Scotland's Financial Services

Petroleum and natural gas in the North Sea began production in 1976. The oil-services firms, centered in Aberdeen and mostly foreign-owned, employ about 100,000 well-paid specialists. Scotland's

electronics industry, Silicon Glen, spreads from Prestwick Airport to Dundee. American IT multinational firms began locating in Scotland in the 1950s, attracted by Scottish skilled laborers, engineers, tax incentives, and (after 1973) membership in the European Union and its predecessors. The 45,000 workers in Scotland's electronics industry specialize in making semiconductors, computers, components, and mobile phones for the European market. Another 40,000 high-skilled workers are employed in Scotland's growing software sector.
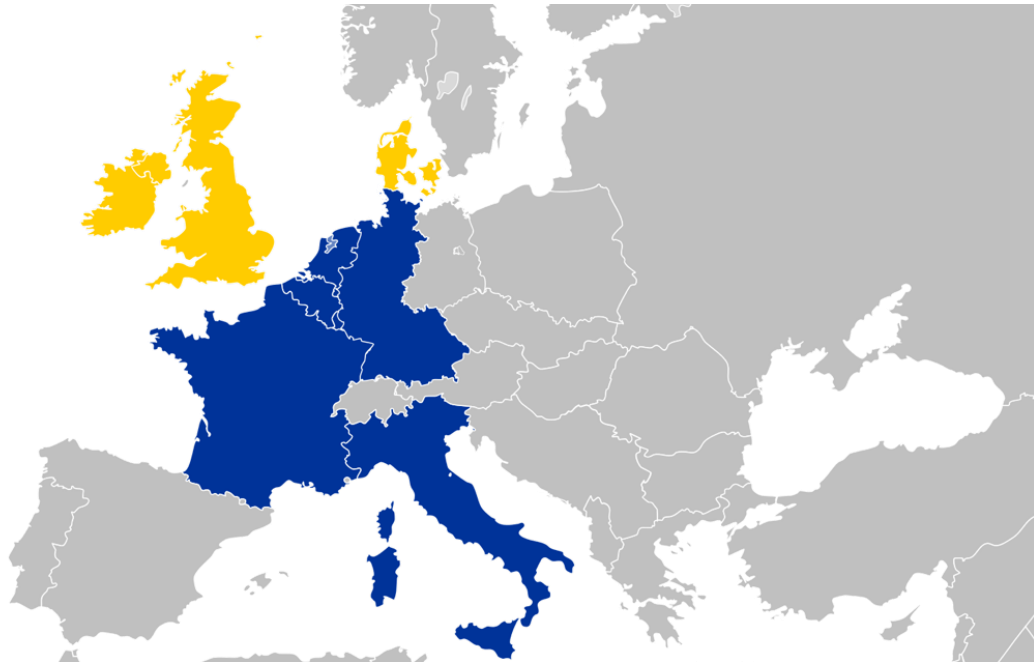
First Enlargement of the European Economic Community (1973) –
United Kingdom, Ireland, and Denmark

Political Transitions. Political transitions in Scotland hinged on reform acts that increased the size of the electorate. Following the Reform Act of 1832, the Liberal Party dominated Scottish politics. Most Scots supported their countryman, William Gladstone, when he led the Liberals in Britain during the second half of the 19th century. Working-class Scots appreciated Gladstone's legalization of trade unions. When the Reform Act of 1884 extended the franchise to male householders, many Scots workers supported socialist parties.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gladstone-by-Watts-1859.jpg>

William Gladstone (1809-1898), Scotsman, Liberal Party Leader, and Prime Minister – Portrait by George Frederic Watts, 1859

In 1918, a Reform Act tripled the electoral franchise and diluted Liberal support. Many new voters, workers and women, supported the Labor Party, which was founded in 1900 by two Scots, James Keir Hardie and Ramsay MacDonald. Labor became the leading party in Scotland after the 1922 election. But Labor-Liberal coalitions had no solution to the Depression, and the Conservative Party led Britain during the Second World War. The election in 1945 resulted in Labor Party dominance in Britain. The new Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, nationalized industry and power and introduced a broad program of social welfare (state pensions, unemployment insurance, and a national health system). In Scotland, the Labor Party underpinned its political power by building 650,000 public ("council") houses.
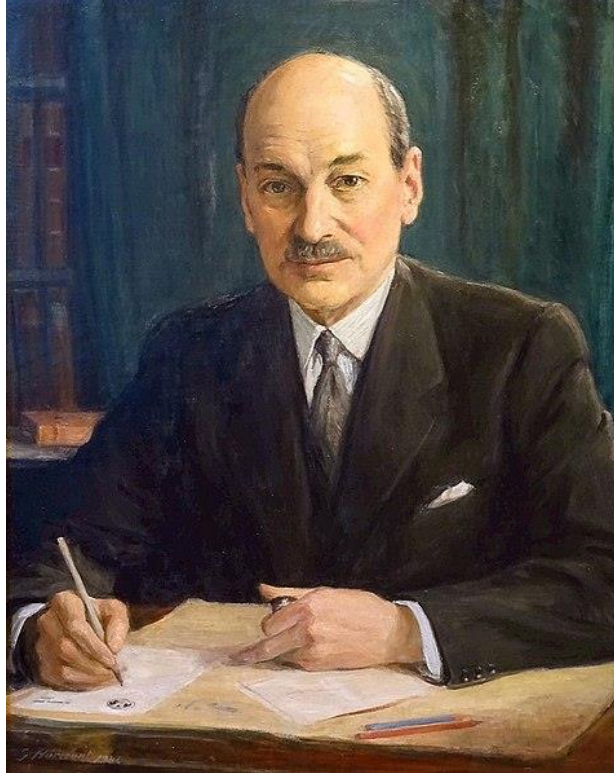
Clement Attlee (1883-1967), Labor Party Prime Minister (1945-1951) –
Portrait by George Harcourt, 1946

Led by Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative Party returned to rule

in 1979. Thatcherism – privatization of industry, liberalization of

markets, and reduction of union power – was very unpopular in

Scotland, where the Tories closed steel mills, sold public housing, and

introduced an experimental poll tax. When Britain elected Tory

governments between 1979 and 1997, in Scotland the Labor Party

increased its leading share of votes and parliamentary seats.

Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013), Conservative Party Prime Minister (1979-1990) – Very Unpopular in Scotland

Scottish Parliament. The Scottish National Party (SNP) was formed in 1934 by John McCormick, during the depths of the Depression, to advocate for home rule for Scotland within the United Kingdom. The SNP was ineffective politically for three decades, when Scotland was focused on World War Two and post-war economic recovery. In the election of 1967, the SNP shocked pundits when Winifred Ewing unseated a Labor Member of Parliament in Hamilton. The SNP continued its success in the 1974 election, winning 30 percent

of the vote and 11 parliamentary seats. Although the SNP promoted

Scotland's independence, only 12 percent of Scots favored that goal in

1974. The 1979 referendum on home rule failed in part because the

SNP provided only tepid support.

Scottish National Party Logo –
Tepid Support for the Failed 1979 Referendum on Home Rule

However, the SNP (along with the Labor and Liberal Democratic

Parties) gave strong support for home rule in the 1997 referendum. The

voters favored the creation of a Scottish Parliament (74 percent) and of

its having tax-varying powers (64 percent). In 1998, the British

Parliament devolved authority on all issues, except foreign policy,

defense, macro-economic policy, and social security, to new legislatures in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The first election for the 129 members of the new Scottish Parliament (known as "Holyrood") was held in 1999. Labor won 56 seats and formed a coalition with the Liberal Democrats (17 seats); the SNP won 35 seats. That pattern was repeated in the election of 2003 although Labor's support declined. The SNP won the most seats in the 2007 election, formed a coalition with the Green Party, and Alex Salmond, the leader of the SNP, became First Minister. In the 2011 election, the SNP won 69 seats, and Salmond continued as First Minister. In its short existence, the Scottish Parliament has carried out a radical land reform, abolished university tuition, and provided free home care for the elderly.

Alex Salmond, Scottish National Party –
First Minister of Scotland, 2007-2014

In September 2014, following a lengthy political campaign led by

the SNP, Scotland held a referendum on whether it should become an

independent nation, separate from the United Kingdom. Eighty-five

percent of the 4.3 million registered voters cast their ballots. Two

million (55 percent) voted "No," and 1.6 million (45 percent) voted

"Yes." Salmond resigned as First Minister and head of the SNP and was

succeeded by his former deputy, Nicola Sturgeon. Sturgeon has

forcefully led the SNP since November 2014.
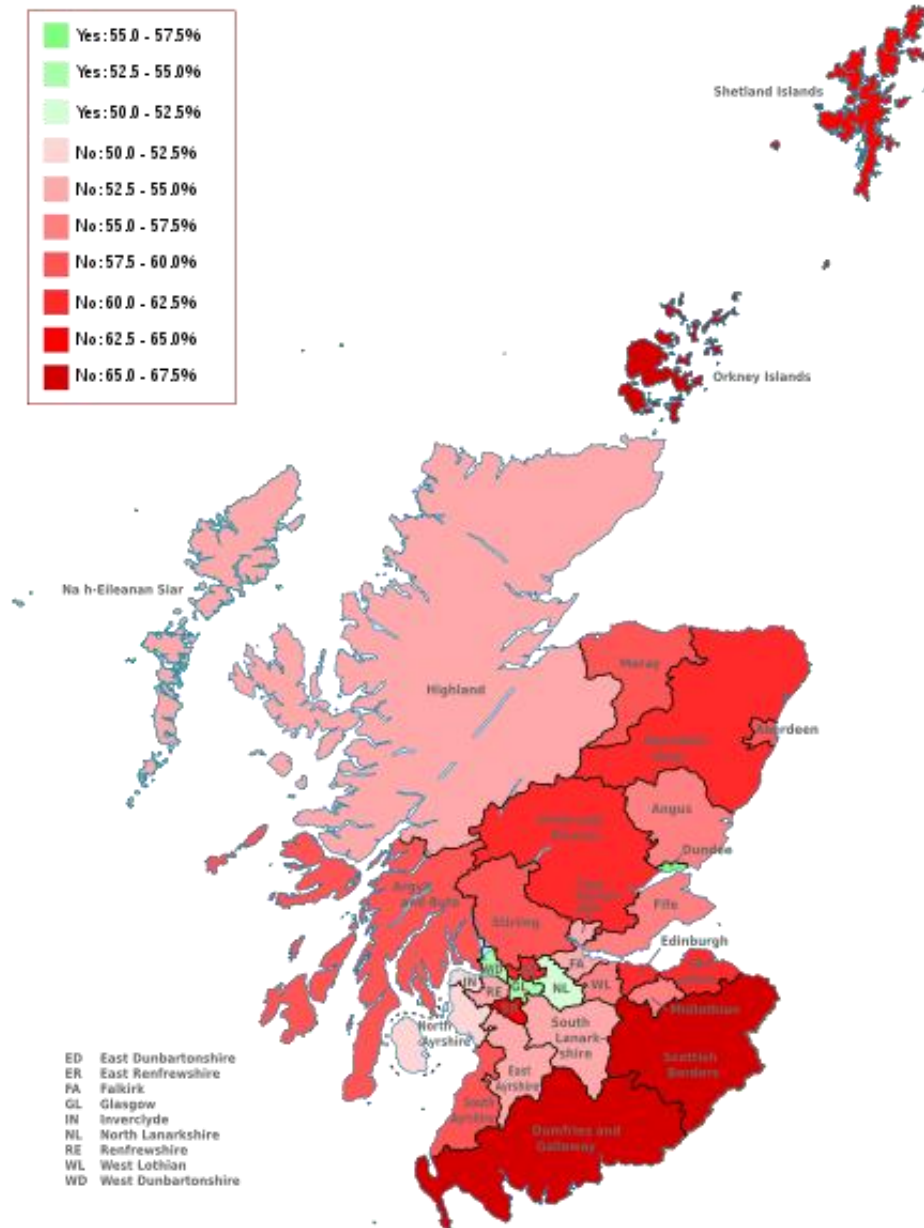
Results of the 2014 Referendum on Scottish Independence –
Greater Opposition in Urban, Southern Scotland

In the May 2016 election for the Scottish Parliament (all three of the main parties were led by women), the SNP won 47 percent of the vote and 63 of the 129 seats. Sturgeon formed a coalition government and remained First Minister. The June 2016 referendum on whether the United Kingdom should leave the European Union ("Brexit") passed with 52 percent of British voters in favor. But 62 percent of the voters in Scotland favored to Remain rather than to Leave.

Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_Minister,_Nicola_Sturgeon.jpg>

Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish National Party –
First Minister of Scotland (2014-present)

Sturgeon and the SNP subsequently gave wide support to holding another referendum on Scottish independence. The SNP confirmed its political strength in the 2019 election for the UK Parliament by winning 48 seats (80 percent of the seats in Scotland). In December 2020, the UK government concluded its Brexit treaty with the EU. The UK, including Scotland, is no longer in the European Union. But a second referendum on Scottish independence has not yet been scheduled.

Contemporary Scotland

Time Line for Scotland

8th-4th millennia BCE	earliest inhabitants of Scotland – nomadic hunter-gatherers
3500-500 BCE	Neolithic peoples migrated in from Asia – brought agriculture
500 BCE	Belgicae Celts arrived in Scotland – introduced iron plows and weapons, pottery wheels, and gold minting
1st millennium CE	three Celtic peoples with similar social organizations and languages – Picts, Scots, and Britons – inhabited Scotland
43 CE	Roman Emperor Claudius conquered Celtic Britons in Britannia
84	Battle of Mons Graupius, northeast Scotland– Gnaeus Julius Agricola, Roman Governor of Britain, defeated Celtic tribes
122	Romans built Hadrian's Wall – northern England
142	Romans built Antonine Wall, Forth-Clyde line, Scotland – northern limit of Roman Empire in Britain
3rd-9th centuries CE	Picts established the Fortriu Kingdom – wheat, barley, cattle
3rd-4th centuries CE	Gaelic-speaking Scots emigrated into Scotland from Northern Ireland – extended the Irish Kingdom of Dal Riata into Argyll
3rd-4th centuries CE	Britons, Celtic settlers of southern Britain, formed the Strathclyde Kingdom in southwest Scotland
410	Celtic Britons expelled Romans from Britain
5th century CE	Anglo-Saxons (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes from northern Germany and Denmark) invaded and settled southern Britain
5th century CE	Angles established Kingdom of Northumbria, southeastern Scotland and northeastern England – ruled for two centuries

5th century CE	four groups inhabited Scotland – three Celtic (Picts, Scots, and Britons) and one Anglo-Saxon (Angles)
8th century	Norwegian Viking raiders attacked monasteries in Britain
793-795	first Viking raid on Lindisfarne and Iona
843	Kenneth MacAlpin, Scots King of Dal Riata conquered Pictland – created new Kingdom of Alba with capital at Forteviot
from mid-9th century	Norwegians conquered Shetland, Orkney, and Hebrides Islands and northwestern coastal regions of Highland Scotland
c. 900	Kingdom of Alba unified under MacAlpin kings
973	Kingdom of Alba expanded southward to include Lothian
1018	Kingdom of Alba expanded southward to include Strathclyde
1040	Macbeth defeated and killed King Duncan
1066	William of Normandy conquered England
1124-1153	King David I ruled Kingdom of Scotland – 250,000 inhabitants
1215	proclamation of Magna Carta in England
1266	Norwegian rule of Hebrides and northwestern Scottish coast ended
13th century	population of Scotland increased from 400,000 to 600,000
1296	Auld Alliance between Scotland and France began
1296-1305	William Wallace led Scots in Scotland's Wars of Independence
1297	Battle of Stirling Bridge – Wallace defeated large English force, led by Edward I – proclaimed "Guardian of Scotland"
1298	Battle of Falkirk – English army defeated Wallace's Scottish force

1305	English captured Wallace – executed him in London
1306-1329	Robert I (the Bruce) ruled Scotland – Anglo-Norman noble – signed secret treaty with France in 1309
1314	Battle of Bannockburn – Bruce led 8,000 Scottish troops to victory over Edward II's 24,000 English soldiers
1318	Battle of Berwick – Bruce defeated English and won Scotland's freedom
1326	Treaty of Corbeuil – Bruce gained French support for Scotland
1328	Scotland and England concluded a Peace Treaty
1371-1689	Stuart Dynasty ruled Scotland – Auld Alliance between Scotland and France
1411	foundation of St. Andrews University
1451	foundation of Glasgow University
1469	Norwegian rule of Orkneys and Shetlands ended
1488-1513	James IV ruled Scotland – married Margaret Tudor of England (Union of Hearts) in 1503, brought peace – social reforms
1542-1567	Mary Queen of Scots ruled Scotland – daughter of Mary of Guise
1560	Treaty of Edinburgh – Scotland and England pledged peace – Protestant Reformation began in Scotland
1568	Mary was forced to abdicate – unpopular marriage to Earl of Bothwell, suspected murderer
1568-1587	Mary lived in exile in England – Elizabeth I placed her in detention
1587	Elizabeth had Mary beheaded – removed threat to English throne
1567-1625	James VI ruled Scotland – ruled England as James I (1602-1625) – Union of Crowns

1649-1660	Scotland under military rule during the Cromwell Commonwealth
17th century	population of Scotland increased from 600,000 to 1 million
17th century	agriculture improved – yield increases from applying lime, better crop rotations, new rural markets, and longer written leases
17th century	400 Scottish settlements in Poland or coastal Prussia – Scots owned riverboats, financed grain farmers, exported grain to Europe
1685-1689	James VII ruled Scotland (and England as James II) – unpopular pro-French Catholic
1689	William of Orange and his wife, Mary (a daughter of James VII) accepted English and Scottish crowns
18th century	Scottish Enlightenment – outpouring of intellectual creativity.
1707	Act of Union between England and Scotland – Scotland gained free trade with England/colonies and protection of Navigation Acts
1715	Battle of Sherrifmuir – loyalist forces defeated Earl of Mar ("Bobbing John") in first Jacobite Uprising (to restore Stuart rule)
1740-1780	production and export of linen increased fourfold
1746	Battle of Culloden – loyalist forces defeated Prince Charles Edward ("Bonnie Prince Charlie") in second Jacobite Uprising
mid-18th-mid-19th c.	Scotland had an agricultural revolution – higher crop yields from systematic fallowing, better rotations, and increased use of manure
1760-1860	Highland landowners forcibly evicted crofters – shifted to ranching
late 18th century	Great Britain initiated the Industrial Revolution
1778	first cotton textile mill opened in Scotland
1792	raw cotton imports from America began

1800-1850	Lowland enclosures – emigration of cottars to industrial towns
1807	Archibald Buchanan constructed the first integrated cotton mill
1821-1915	44 million people emigrated from Europe – 2 million from Scotland – mostly to the Americas or Australasia
1832	Reform Act of 1832 – Liberal Party dominated Scottish politics
1837-1901	Queen Victoria ruled Great Britain
1840s	potato blight in Ireland – Protestant Ulster Scots (Scots Irish) moved from Northern Ireland to industrial Scottish Lowlands
1850-1914	integrated heavy industry (coal, iron, steel, shipbuilding, and engineering) dominated – near coal deposits around Glasgow
1870s	land ownership was most concentrated in Europe – 118 families owned half of Scotland
1884	Reform Act of 1884 – extended franchise to male householders – many Scots workers supported socialist parties
1886	Crofters Act – gave tenants security of land tenure and fair rents
1900	Labor Party founded – James Keir Hardie and Ramsay MacDonald
1914	Scotland's population was 5 million – Scottish foreign holdings were valued at L500 million, one-eighth of British total
1914-1918	First World War – Scottish industry – shipbuilding, engineering, steel, munitions, machinery, jute bags
1918	Reform Act of 1918 – tripled electoral franchise – diluted Liberal support
1930s	global economic depression – massive unemployment in industry

1934	Scottish National Party (SNP) formed – John McCormick – advocated for home rule for Scotland within United Kingdom
1939-1945	Second World War – demand for arms revived Scottish heavy industry – steel, ships, and large machinery – Glasgow
1945	Labor Prime Minister, Clement Atlee – nationalized industry – state pensions, unemployment insurance, national health system
1947	British Labor Government nationalized coal production
1948	British Labor Government nationalized railways
1949	British Labor Government nationalized steel production
1950-1953	Korean War – Scotland's shipyards built one-sixth of world's ships
1950s	American IT multinational firms began locating in Scotland – Scottish skilled laborers, engineers, and tax incentives
1967	Winifred Ewing of SNP – elected to Parliament from Hamilton
1969	oil and gas discovered in North Sea
1976	petroleum and natural gas in the North Sea began production
1977	British Labor Government nationalized shipbuilding
1979	Conservative Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher – privatization of industry, liberalization of markets, and reduction of union power
1979	referendum on home rule failed – SNP provided only tepid support
1992	Ravenscraig strip steel mill in Motherwell (near Glasgow) closed

1997	Scottish voters passed home rule referendum – creation of Scottish Parliament (74 percent) – Scottish tax-varying powers (64 percent)
1998	British Parliament devolved authority on all issues, except foreign policy, defense, macro-economic policy, and social security
1998	final Dundee jute bags produced
1999	first election for Scottish Parliament ("Holyrood") – governing coalition of Labor (56 seats) and Liberal Democrats (17 seats)
2002	last Scottish deep coal mine (at Longannet) shut down
2003	second election for Scottish Parliament – Labor-Liberal Democrats
2007	third election for Scottish Parliament – Scottish National Party-Green Party – Alex Salmond became First Minister
2011	fourth election for Scottish Parliament – Scottish National Party won 69 (of 129) seats – Alex Salmond continued as First Minister
2014	Scottish voters rejected a referendum on independence – on a turn-out of 85 percent, 55 percent voted No and 45 percent voted Yes – Nicola Sturgeon replaced Alex Salmond as First Minister and head of SNP
2016	fifth election for Scottish Parliament – Scottish National Party (SNP) won 59 (of 129) seats – Nicola Sturgeon continued as First Minister
2016	British voters opted to leave the European Union (52 percent in favor of Brexit) – 62 percent of Scottish voters favored to remain
2019	SNP won 48 seats (80 percent of the seats in Scotland) in the election for the UK Parliament
2020	The UK, including Scotland, left the European Union and concluded a Brexit treaty with the EU

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Scottish Highlands by Rail
Stanford Travel/Study Program
April 30-May 9, 2012
Train-based, Aboard the *Royal Scotsman*

Glasgow

For centuries, Glasgow and Edinburgh have competed to be Scotland's leading city. Edinburgh took the early lead, when Scottish trade was focused on Europe. But in the mid-18th century, Glasgow forged ahead. Entrepreneurial Glaswegian traders and planters monopolized the export of Virginia tobacco to Europe, and Glasgow became Scotland's leading entrepôt port and wealthiest city. Edinburgh surged in the first half of the 19th century, when the manufacture of cotton textiles expanded in southeastern Scotland. But Glasgow swamped its rival during the second half of the 19th century. Glasgow became the world leader in steam engines, ship-building, and train locomotives.

The Stanford group spent a spectacular two days seeing the highlights of revived Glasgow. We observed the creativity of Glasgow's famed architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, at the Mackintosh House in the University of Glasgow and at his turn-of-the -20th-century masterpiece, the Glasgow School of Art. We enjoyed a great collection of Spanish art at the Pollok House and an eclectic mélange of Egyptian, Chinese, Islamic, and European art at the renowned Burrell Museum. We learned about Glasgow's social history with visits to the new Riverside Museum, the *Glenlee* (once a sailing cargo ship), and the Tenement House (a Victorian apartment now operated by the National Trust).

Spean Bridge and Fort William

The *Royal Scotsman* is a luxury train owned by the Orient Express group, which has been operating three routes in Scotland for the past 27

years. The private train serves incredible meals and provides impeccable service. It holds up to 36 passengers, but our group of twelve had the entire train to ourselves on our three-day journey into Scotland's Western Highlands. The first leg of our train trip was from Edinburgh to Spean Bridge via industrialized Clyde River, beautiful Loch Lomond, and desolate Rannoch Moor. We stabled for a night at tiny Spean Bridge and then moved on the next day to Fort William, a town of 10,000 residents which outfits travelers visiting the Western Highlands.

A visit to a prestigious Scotch whisky distillery is mandatory on a tour of the Highlands. Our group spent a delightful and informative morning at the Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William, located at the foot of Ben Nevis – at 4409-feet elevation, the highest point in the United Kingdom. We learned how whisky is made (malt barley, brew beer, distill twice, and age for three years in oak casks) and how to taste it properly (less is better, add water on the third sip). In the afternoon, we visited Old Inverlochy Castle, the site of several key battles in the 14th-17th centuries, and Glenfinnan, where Bonnie Prince Charlie rallied Highlanders in 1745 in his vain fight for the British crown.

Wemyss Bay and Isle of Bute

Following a night with the train stabled at the Bridge of Orchy, we moved southwestward to Wemyss Bay to take a ferry across to Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. Bute is an idyllic little island with 7000 permanent residents. In the 17th century, the Stuarts of Bute built a castle at Rothesay to defend the Firth of Clyde from foreign invaders into western Scotland. The Stuarts of Bute share a common ancestry with the Stewart/Stuart dynasty, which ruled Scotland from 1371 to 1689. But the Bute Stuarts supported the British monarchy during the Jacobite rebellions. In the 19th century, Bute became a favorite site for Glaswegian industrialists to build luxurious second homes.

On the Isle of Bute, our group visited Mount Stuart – one of the most magnificent homes in Great Britain. Between 1880 and 1900, the Third Marquis of Bute built Mount Stuart as a palatial home for his family, the Stuarts of Bute. His blind father, the Second Marquis, had become fabulously wealthy by exporting coal from family properties in southern Wales. Set in a huge garden with views of the Firth of Clyde, Mount Stuart is breath-taking. The central Marble Hall is lit through twelve stain-glass windows, each representing a sign of the Zodiac. The estate's archivist showed us examples of the Stuart family's priceless collections of paintings, books, and historical memorabilia.

Edinburgh

With its distinctive Georgian architecture, Edinburgh has long been known as the Athens of the North. Following the disastrous collapse of Edinburgh's two largest banks in the 2008 crisis, wags now claim that the title is apt for economic as well as artistic reasons. Marvelous Edinburgh has been Scotland's intellectual heart for eight centuries, and many of Scotland's key historical events occurred in or near the charming city. Today, Edinburgh remains Scotland's capital. It is the wealthy, vibrant home to 500,000 bustling residents and the host, every August, to the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival. The city thrives from tourism, higher education, and financial, business, and IT services.

Medieval Edinburgh was a walled city, now known as the Old Town. By the mid-18th century, Edinburgh had out-grown its walls. Planners laid out the New Town, and wealthy Edinburghers – noble families and merchants – moved into the garden-filled development. The Stanford group delighted in visiting both parts of Edinburgh. We traversed the Royal Mile between Holyrood Palace and Edinburgh Castle and worked our way through the Castle's endless museums. Many of us carried on to the Museum of Scotland and reviewed Scottish history in six well-presented floors of exhibits. Some poked into the restored 16th-century tenement of Thomas Gladstone, a wealthy merchant.

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Journey to the Fjords, Aboard the Queen Mary 2
Cunard Line
June 11-26, 2005
Ship-based, Aboard the Queen Mary 2

Invergordon, Scotland

The QM2 typically runs between Southampton and New York. But the grand ship has occasional cruises to Norway, the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean. We were fortunate to be on one of the two Norway cruises scheduled for this summer. From Southampton, we sailed first to Dunmore East, Ireland, a port that services Waterford. We then sailed northward between Ireland and Great Britain and spent a day in Invergordon, Scotland (near Inverness in northeastern Scotland). The people in this town of 3,000 went all out for the QM2 passengers, hosting an arts and crafts fair and presenting traditional Scottish songs and dances. Sandra and I took advantage of an unusually balmy Sunday afternoon to hike to a neighboring village along the Cromarty Firth.

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Cruise to Northern Scotland and Arctic Norway,
Lindblad Special Expeditions
July 4-23, 1999
Ship-based, Aboard the *Caledonian Star*

Skara Brae, Maes Howe, and Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland

Skara Brae, on the west coast of Mainland, Orkney, is the best preserved Neolithic settlement in western Europe. It was the home to perhaps 50 self-sufficient people between 3100 and 2500 BCE, who cultivated barley and wheat and raised cattle, sheep, and pigs. Maes Howe, in central Mainland, Orkney, is the best extant example in Scotland of a

chambered cairn (tomb). This impressive architectural monument gives evidence of the skills of Neolithic stone workers and of the wealth of the agricultural society in Orkney around 3000 BCE. More than four millennia later, in 1153-1154, Viking crusaders broke into the tomb and carved numerous runic inscriptions in the stone walls.

The Ring of Brodgar and Stones of Stennes, in Orkney near Maes Howe, are important religious henge (circular area defined by a bank and a ditch) monuments containing stone circles. The wealth and organization of the Neolithic people in Orkney is illustrated by the 150,000 man-hours required to construct those stone monuments. The settlement of the Northern Isles by Norsemen, starting in the 9th century, led to a complete absorption of the earlier Pictish culture in both Orkney and Shetland. Shortly after Scandinavian Scotland converted to Christianity, the people of Kirkwall in Orkney began construction of a magnificent monument, St. Magnus Cathedral, which was redesigned several times and finally completed in the 15th century.

Fair Isle and Mousa Island, Shetland Islands, Scotland

Fair Isle, sited between Orkney and Shetland and now administered as part of Shetland, was heavily populated in the first millennium BCE as evidenced by numerous burnt mounds (heaps of discarded cooking stones), hut circles, and field systems. That island now is a bird sanctuary, visited by 335 species of migrating birds and used as a breeding ground by another 43 bird species. Mousa Island, part of the Shetlands, is best known as the home of an impressive Iron Age broch, a dry-stone, circular tower constructed with thick, hollowed walls. The broch of Mousa is both the largest and the best preserved of the five hundred brochs that have been recorded in northern Scotland. This unique type of fortification, erected about 100 BCE, was motivated by a need for military defense and by a desire to enhance local prestige.

Jarlshof, Shetland Islands, Scotland

Jarlshof in southern Mainland, Shetland Islands, provides evidence of continuous settlement from about 3300 BCE through the 15th century CE. Of special interest are the Iron Age wheelhouses (3rd-5th centuries CE) and the Viking Age farm buildings and fields (9th-15th centuries CE). The Vikings from Norway had taken over the Orkney and Shetland Islands (along with much of the rest of northern and western Scotland) in the ninth century, absorbed the Pictish residents there, and introduced a Norse language (Norn) and culture that persisted into the seventeenth century. Even today many of the residents of these Scottish islands claim to feel more Norse than Scottish.