




6 **Ignatius Sancho**
 Man of letters (1729-1780)
 Thought of in his time as "the extraordinary negro", Ignatius Sancho gained the respect of many important people in 18th-century London for his appreciation of the literary arts.
 He composed music, entertained many of London's literary and artistic figures, and had his portrait painted by Thomas Gainsborough. His letters were collated and published by friends after his death and became a bestseller, even being read by the prime minister of the day.




7 **Nanny**
 Freedom fighter (c1734)
 The feared leader of the Maroon community in Jamaica in the early 1700s (there were five large Maroon communities in Jamaica during slavery). The Maroons were enslaved Africans who managed to escape the plantations and form independent communities all across the Americas.
 Nanny was reputed to be able to repulse bullets and to be the sister of Cudjoe (another Maroon leader). She has a town named after her in Jamaica (Nanny Town) and has come to symbolise the resistance to slavery of the enslaved Africans.




8 **Toussaint L'Ouverture**
 General (1743-1803)
 Toussaint L'Ouverture was the leader of the only successful slave revolt in the Caribbean. With an army of formerly enslaved Africans he defeated the greatest armies of the day including the forces of the French, the English and the Spanish when they tried to reimpose slavery.
 He eventually took control of the whole of the island of Hispaniola, which incorporates modern-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



9 **Alexander Pushkin**
 Writer (1799-1837)
 Pushkin was one of the founders of modern Russian literature, as revered in that country as Shakespeare is in Britain. Pushkin's great-grandfather was an African known as Hannibal.
 Though he won the hearts of his countrymen, there is literary evidence to show Pushkin was not ashamed of his African heritage (most notably a poem called My Genealogy). Pushkin's early works were influenced by Lord Byron.



10 **Mary Prince**
 Writer (1788-1833)
 Born in Bermuda, Mary Prince was the first black writer to recount the reality of what it meant to be a female slave in the West Indies. Her writings challenged the prevailing assumption of the time, that Africans enjoyed their slavery. In The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave, Related by Herself, she wrote, "All slaves want to be free ... they have told me." A determined fighter.



1596 **1604** **1620** **1623** **1672** **1688** **1700** **1739** **1773** **1780** **1781** **1787**

Shakespeare and Othello
 A play featuring a fully rounded black leading character, Othello, is performed for the first time. In some ways Shakespeare's portrayal of a black character was far superior to the often dehumanising representations of black people that were to follow in much European literature.

A powerful state
 Abomey, capital of the kingdom of Dahomey, is founded around this time in west Africa. This was to become a powerful state with a strong connection to the Atlantic slave trade.

Slavery legalised
 Royal African company is granted a charter to carry slaves to the Americas.

A publishing first
 Phillis Wheatley, an African American, comes to London where her poetry had gained a following. She has a book of poems published.

King Sugar
 Sugar and slavery have become synonymous. From North to South America, the Caribbean to Australia, this commodity was grown using slavery or other forms of coerced labour. Sugar was England's dominant import between the mid-18th and 19th centuries. As demand grew, more slaves were needed to fulfil the rigorous demands of sugar production. This, in turn, fuelled the Atlantic slave trade which helped build the international trade system with its complex web of insurance and credit.

Africans thrown overboard
 Captain Collingwood throws 132 sick Africans off the slave ship Zong in order to collect insurance money for them. This incident helps galvanise support for the movement against the Atlantic slave trade.

Elizabeth I expels Africans
 In part reacting to a food crisis, and foreshadowing much future legislation, Queen Elizabeth I decrees that all Africans should be removed from the British realm. This shows that there was a significant black presence in Britain at this time.

St Kitts annexed
 The annexing of the island of St Kitts signals the beginning of British domination of much of the Caribbean. Many islands in the Caribbean changed hands during this period as European colonisers from France, England, Spain and elsewhere fought to control the Caribbean.

Aphra Behn
 During the period that a constitutional monarchy is established in Britain, Aphra Behn publishes her novel Oronoko about an African of royal blood. Apart from being one of the first female writers in the English language, Aphra Behn is credited with producing one of the first attacks on the Atlantic slave trade.

Maroon victory
 After a long-standing war, the Maroons (runaway enslaved Africans who formed their own communities) force General Trelawney, a British general, to sign a peace agreement in Jamaica. Part of the agreement stipulated that the Maroons would return other runaway enslaved Africans who tried to join them.

Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade formed
 This organisation introduces the political poster, the consumer boycott, the petition, the flyer, the political book tour, and investigative reporting designed to stir people to political action. This movement was to immortalise characters such as Olaudah Equiano, Thomas Clarkson, Granville Sharp and, of course, William Wilberforce. It was a three-pronged movement: its parliamentary face; its agitational face on the streets of Britain; but, above all, the struggles of the enslaved Africans themselves.

1965 **1966** **1967** **1968** **1971** **1972** **1973** **1976** **1977**

August
 James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner (one black man and two white men), who had been working to see that black people could vote in Mississippi, are murdered. Evidence suggests the Ku Klux Klan, an extreme white supremacist organisation, is responsible.

February
 Malcolm X is assassinated.

August
 Passing of the Voting Rights Act makes it easier for black people to vote.
 Some of the worst rioting explodes in Watts, leaving 34 people dead, 3,500 arrested, and property damage of about \$225 million.

The leader of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, Stokely Carmichael (later known as Kwame Toure), begins to advocate "black power" as an organising principle.

October
 The formation of the Black Panther party by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in California (pictured).
 Martin Luther King initiates poor people's campaign to unite people of all races.

Summer
 There are 40 riots and 100 other disturbances across the United States, most notably in Newark and Detroit.

The first African American supreme court judge, Thurgood Marshall, is elected.

Interracial relationships between black and white people are illegal in 16 states until the supreme court rules in the Loving v Virginia case that it is unconstitutional to prevent such unions.

April 4
 Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Inner cities across America explode; as many as 125 cities experience riots.

Shirley Chisholm is the first African American woman elected to congress.

Angela Davis is put on the FBI's most wanted list over her links with the Black Panther party.

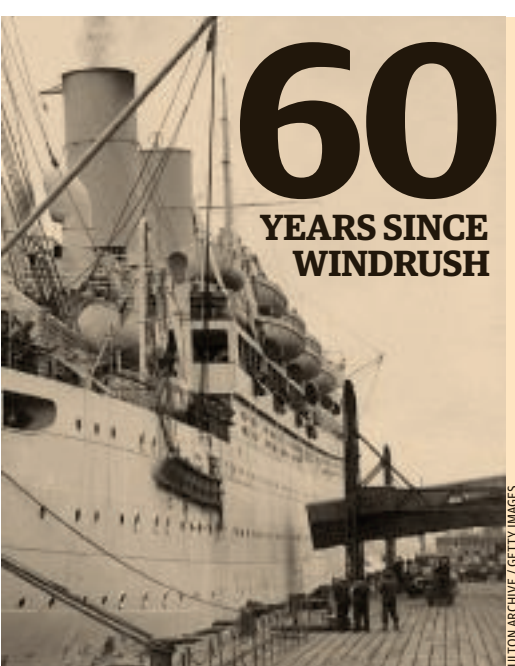
Affirmative action to redress racial discrimination is given a legal basis with the passing of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act.

Tom Bradley is elected the first black mayor of Los Angeles.

Negro History Week becomes Black History Month.

The TV series Roots, based on Alex Haley's novel, is a major hit. Not only does it secure the highest TV ratings ever but it also deepens the debate about race as many Americans, both black and white, learn the story of slavery in the United States for the first time.

60 YEARS SINCE WINDRUSH



In 1948 passengers arrive in Tilbury docks from Jamaica on a boat called Empire Windrush, heralding a new phase of the black presence in the UK. Many of its passengers had served in the second world war defending Britain. Other passengers came along to help rebuild the "mother country", as Britain was referred to across its empire.

492 passengers on Empire Windrush as well as six stowaways.
£28.10 paid by each passenger.
Stiff competition to be aboard as a lot of people tried to buy tickets when they were advertised in a Jamaican newspaper.
June 22 saw Empire Windrush arrive at Tilbury docks, having left Jamaica on May 24.

Second world war ex-service people were among those aboard and had been to Britain before.
1,000 people a year is the low level of immigration from the West Indies until 1951.
66,000 emigrate from the West Indies in 1961 as people rush to beat the door being slammed shut by the 1962 Immigration Act.

Empire Windrush arrives from Jamaica.
National Health Service established. Enoch Powell leads a recruitment drive in the Caribbean for nurses. Much of the workforce that helps to build this institution came from the Caribbean.

Notting Hill riots break out. After growing racial tensions, the newly arrived West Indians fight back against teddy boy gangs who are attacking them armed with iron bars and knives. Riots impact on national consciousness and start a debate about race relations that continues to this day.

Billy Boston is the first black rugby league player to represent Great Britain.

Kelso Cochrane, a black man, is murdered by a gang of white youths. The murderer is not caught. The activist Claudia Jones (see box D, right) organises a campaign to draw attention to this issue.

Commonwealth Immigrants Act is passed with the aim of reducing immigration from the former British empire. Six years later the controls were tightened further.

Notting Hill carnival, originally founded in 1959, takes to the streets.

Race Relations Act makes it illegal to refuse housing, public services and employment on the grounds of ethnicity.
Enoch Powell makes his "Rivers of blood" speech denouncing immigration. There are disturbances across the UK in support of his speech, and some workers march to show their support for his opposition to non-white immigration.

David Oluwale dies in police custody. The issue of police brutality was to become more prominent in the late 1970s.

Bernard Coard publishes the landmark pamphlet How the West Indian Child is Made Educationally Subnormal in the British School System. The book inspires a movement for equal access to educational opportunity for black children in British education.
Immigration Act passed, further restricting migration from Commonwealth countries.

Trevor McDonald becomes first black British newsreader.

Fosters, the long-running sitcom, hits British TV, making a star out of Lenny Henry, among others. Floella Benjamin joins BBC's Play School, becoming well known to a generation of children.
Race Relations Act strengthens laws against discrimination and establishes the Commission for Racial Equality.