

William Cuffay

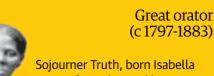
Fighter for universal suffrage (1788-1870)

Cuffay's father came to Britain from St Kitts (a Caribbean island) on a British warship. After losing his job because of his involvement in a strike in 1834, Cuffay became a leading member of the Chartist movement (which campaigned for greater democracy) and was elected president of the London Chartists in 1842. He, along with other Chartist leaders, was tried, convicted and transported to Tasmania because of his political activism. He refused a royal pardon offered him later, on the grounds that he was continuing the fight he had helped develop in England.

Harriet Tubman

Liberator of enslaved peoples

(1820-1913) Harriet Tubman (pictured) was a leader of the Underground Railroad that helped free thousands of Africans in the period before the American civil war. During the war she was the first woman to lead American troops when rescuing enslaved Africans.



ojourner Truth, born Isabella Baumfree, changed her name, saving that this was the name God gave her. After gaining her freedom around 1827 she gave black women a distinctive voice in the struggle to end slavery, such as in her famous in't I a woman" speech

1820 1831 1834

Sojourner Truth

Frederick Douglass Abolitionist (1818-1895)

Born a slave, Frederick Douglass went on to become one of slavery's most formidable critics, especially in his hardhitting autobiography The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. He was instrumental in the abolition of slavery in the United States. He also visited Britain and Ireland as well as being a strong supporter of the women's suffrage movement that ought for votes for women.

1846

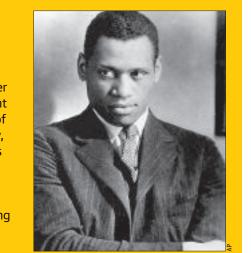
Paul Robeson

Political activist, actor, singer (1898-1976)

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Paul Robeson — an outstanding athlete, singer and actor — first came to England in 1922 and developed a strong attachment to the working-class people he met. He was acclaimed for his performance of Othello in London in 1930, and later acted in CLR James's play Black Majesty, on the life of Toussaint L'Ouverture. He mixed with African liberation leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta.

In 1952 he was considered too close to Soviet Russia by the American government and was banned from travelling outside the US. A huge Britishbased campaign, Let Paul Robeson Sing Again, was launched and helped brin him back to Britain. In 1959 he became the first black man to sing in

St Paul's Cathedral, London.



The Haitian revolution

After a 12-year struggle in which thousands of formerly enslaved Africans overcame the British, Spanish and Napoleonic French armies, the first independent black republic in the Americas is established. Motivated by ideas of the French revolution and led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, Dessalines and Petion, this revolution destroys slavery in the most profitable French colony. William Wordsworth later dedicated a poem to L'Ouverture, including the lines: "There is not a breathing of the common wind ... That will forget thee ... thou hast great allies ... exultations, agonies, love and man's unconquerable mind."



Abolition of the Slave Trade Act

The British slave trade is abolished in parliament on March 25. However, many slave traders discover ways to circumvent the new law.

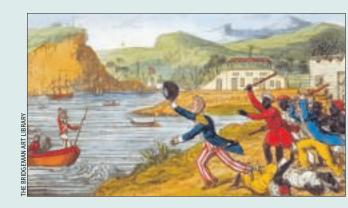
Shaka Zulu

1807 1818

The Zulu army conquers great areas of southern Africa under the leadership of Shaka Zulu. During a period of 10 years of warfare, Shaka Zulu quadruples the size of his army and the number of his subjects, absorbing them into the Zulu nation.

Repatriation

Having observed attempts by the British abolition movement to repatriate formerly enslaved Africans to Sierra Leone, the American Colonisation Society pays for 80 African Americans to be repatriated to Africa. They set sail on the Elizabeth to west Africa, and though their attempt to establish a colony almost fails, they are later followed by others and go on to establish Liberia.



Slave rebellion in Jamaica

Indentured labour

Indians are moved to the British Caribbean as indentured labourers (who worked for five years on plantations in exchange for wages and passage fares). Indentured labourers experienced terrible conditions as they had little rights.

Slavery abolished in British empire

1838

An apprenticeship had to be served until 1838 by the formerly enslaved Africans. The owne received £20m in compensation. The freed received nothing.



The Count of **Monte Cristo**

The novel by Alexandre Dumas is published to great acclaim. Dumas's father was a Haitian-born general in Napoleon's army. Dumas also authors The Three Musketeers.



Great Exhibition

As the British empire is

approaching its zenith, the Great

Exhibition is held in Hyde Park in

London. Over 6 million visitors

view goods from Africa, India

and the West Indies. It is here

protectorate are "donated" to

Queen Victoria. They become

part of the crown jewels.

that jewels taken from an Indian

1851 1852

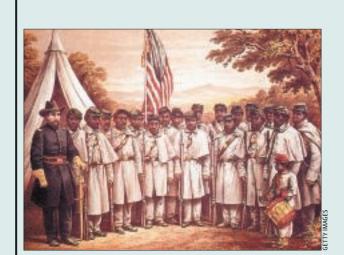
Uncle Tom's Cabin

Publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe. It is an instant bestseller and polarises opinion on the issue of slavery in the United States and Britain.



A bishop ordained Samuel Ajayi Crowther (from Nigeria) is the first African to be ordained a bishop by

the Anglican church.



Abolition of slavery in the US

Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation. Many free African Americans and runaway slaves join the Union armies in the ongoing American civil war. Slavery is formally abolished after the war ends, in 1865.

President Ronald Reagan passes a bill to make Martin Luther King's birthday an annual national holiday

Guion "Guy" Bluford Jr is the first African American to go into space, on the Challenger space shuttle.

A bronze bust of Martin Luther King of Congress, the first of any African

Congress overrides July 20 a presidential the Civil Rights Restoration Act (the original act was temporary).

Jesse Jackson at the Democratic convention but fails to win his

The Oprah Winfrey Show begins its run.

party's nomination.

African American Douglas Wilder is elected state governor

Colin Powell is appointed head of the US's armed forces, another African American first.

Riots in Los Angeles as four white police officers are acquitted after being filmed by a passer-by beating up an African American, Rodney King.



author of Song American woman to win the Nobel prize for literature.

1993

Million Man March is organised by Louis Farrakhan of the aim of the march is one of "atonement" for African American males.

in their thousands in a reprise of the Million Man March earlier in Washington. The focus this time is on healthcare, education and self-help.

1997

Paul Ince becomes

the first black

Colin Powell becomes secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice becomes foreign policy adviser, and Roderick Paige secretary of education. The cabinet of the incoming president George W Bush contains more African Americans than any before.

An estimated 1,700 people die as Hurricane Katrina passes over The African American population bears the brunt of the flood when the levees break around New Orleans, but the federal

2005

government is slow to respond.

Barack Obama becomes the first to secure the Democratic nomination.

2008



1983

The National

Front, an

extreme

party, is

rightwing

prevented

protestors

marching

Lewisham,

through

from

by anti-Nazi

Viv Anderson is the first black

footballer to play for England.

Rock Against Racism carnival

introduce reggae to a wider

brings together black and white

teenagers. This movement helps

audience and changes the nature

of punk. Artists like Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols and Big

Youth in Jamaica form a musical symbiosis that helped shape

British people feel "swamped" by an alien culture, during the

build-up to the following year's general election. In doing so,

Margaret Thatcher, Conservative leader, says that many

she wins over voters from the far-right National Front.

the parameters in which British music developed.

1988

1989

Riots in St Paul's, a district of

of the far more serious riots to

A disproportionate number of

young black men are stopped

under the 1824 Vagrancy Act

(originally designed to stop

begging) during this period.

more commonly known as the

"sus law". Black people, while

prison population by this point;

resentment that was to explode

36% of young prisoners were

black. This fed much of the

in riots the following year.

This stop and search was

a small part of the general

population, were 17% of the

Bristol. This was a harbinger

come a year later.

1992

Moira Stuart becomes Britain's first black woman news presenter

New Cross fire. Thirteen young African-Caribbeans are burned to death in a house fire. The seeming refusal of the police to take seriously claims by witnesses that the house had been bombed by racists led to a deepening anger.

The Brixton riots break out in April and are replicated up and down the country (most notably in Liverpool). Years of marginalisation, heavy-handed policing and general alienation explode, leaving millions of pounds worth of damage and injuring hundreds. In their wake, the Scarman report makes recommendations to challenge racial disadvantage. The sus laws are also repealed.

Police and Criminal Evidence (Pace) Act stipulates that the police must give a reason why they are stopping someone.

> **Riots in Tottenham** occur around the issue of police brutality.

Black History Month is made a fixture in the UK for the first time. MPs Bernie Grant, Paul

Boateng, Keith Vaz and captain of the Diane Abbott are elected England football to parliament. team.

Bill Morris

becomes the

first black

leader of a

maior British

trade union.

Stephen Lawrence is murdered at a bus stop in London.



2001

Chris Ofili wins the Turner Prize.

The Macpherson report on the police investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence is published. The report's recommendations represent a watershed in UK race relations, identifying institutional racism for the first time.

Damilola Taylor is murdered. This incident raises questions about gang culture and urban poverty.

Treasury, becoming the first black cabinet minister The following year Baroness Amos (pictured) becomes the first black woman cabinet minister.

chief secretary to the

Paul Boateng is appointed



Sentamu (pictured) becomes the first black Archbishop of York.

UK in the Frank Bowling becomes the first black

run-up to the **US** presidential election. His visit prompts the question: will there ever be a black British prime minister?

Barack Obama

flies in to the

south-east London.

1979

Blair Peach is killed during

an anti-racist demonstration.

The circumstances of his death

remain unanswered to this day.

1980

1981

1984 1985

1999 2000

|2002 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2008

team.

Jason

Robinson

first black

captain of

the England

rugby union

becomes the

the Royal Academy of Art.

artist to be elected to