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Auszug aus:

*Zentrale Elemente des nationalen Selbstverständnisses
Großbritanniens - vor dem Hintergrund seiner Geschichte als*

Weltmacht

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Titel:	Arbeitsblatt: Zentrale Elemente des nationalen Selbstverständnisses Großbritanniens – vor dem Hintergrund seiner Geschichte als Weltmacht
Bestellnummer:	43463
Kurzvorstellung:	<p>Das nationale Selbstverständnis Großbritanniens, besonders vor dem Hintergrund seiner Geschichte als Weltmacht, gehört zum abiturrelevanten landeskundlichen Hintergrundwissen. Deswegen sollen im Folgenden verschiedene Themen behandelt und erläutert werden, die als Grundlage dafür dienen, wie sich das nationale Selbstverständnis Großbritanniens vor dem Hintergrund seiner Geschichte in den Bereichen Religion, Regierung und Kolonialismus entwickelt hat.</p> <p>Dazu wird zunächst ein grundlegender Eindruck über die geschichtlichen Ereignisse vermittelt, von dem ausgehend die Schülerinnen und Schüler ihr Wissen durch eigenständige Recherche vertiefen sollen. Spezielle Arbeitsaufträge dazu befinden sich am Ende des Dokuments.</p> <p>Das Material ist in englischer Sprache verfasst und unterstützt so die Wortschatzentwicklung der SchülerInnen sowie das Selbstbewusstsein und die Kompetenzentwicklung im Umgang mit fremdsprachlichen Texten.</p>
Inhaltsübersicht:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Back and Forth in Religious Beliefs• The British Government: a Constitutional Monarchy• British Colonialism• Tasks• Solutions
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Towards the beginning of the 20th century the British Empire began to decline. Many colonies started to demand autonomy from Britain because they had developed a strong feeling of nationality over the course of time. The transformation towards an independent country usually consisted of three stages as well; as a Crown Colony its people were under the complete leadership of the mother country. But towards the end of the 19th century many colonies established their own parliaments which took over most responsibilities from the British government, except for defence and foreign affairs. By then these colonies had acquired the status of a self-governing colony. The step towards the status of a dominion separated the colony completely from

political influence by the British and made it a free nation which owed its loyalty to the Crown; although obligations did not exist anymore, the countries still represented British customs and values. The name ‚dominion‘ was later changed into ‚Commonwealth Nation‘ and the ‚British Empire‘ became ‚The British Commonwealth of Nations‘. Today the Commonwealth is a voluntary association with 53 members including Australia, New Zealand, Canada and several countries in Africa or Asia. They benefit from several profitable ties, especially in commerce. The peaceful bond which England managed to keep up with its former colonies is regarded as a major success in British diplomatic relations.

Key Words:	The First British Empire
	The Victorian Empire
	Trade
	Imperialism
	Autonomy
	Commonwealth Nation
	The British Commonwealth of Nations

- Give some information (two or three phrases) on each of the key terms. You may add facts you know which are not given in the text.

5. Tasks

Go online ...

- Find out more about the Elizabethan Age:
 - How did the English culture develop?

- The life and legacy of which famous English person can be found in this era?
- Find out more about England during the time of Oliver Cromwell/ William of Orange.
- How many per cent of the British are Protestant, how many are Catholic? How are they distributed over the island?
- What is the “King James Bible“?

- Create a one-page overview on the most important facts about
 - The Magna Carta
 - The Whigs
 - The Tories
 - The Bill of Rights
 - The British Constitution
- What is the current composition of the British government?
- What is special about the composition of the current British government and why?

- Create a timeline with the most important milestones of the First British Empire/ the Victorian Empire.
- What are the three biggest ethnic groups in Great Britain apart from the British?

LÖSUNGEN

Text 1

- **King Henry VIII** was King of England from 1509 until 1547. He established the Church of England and made himself head of it in order to gain control over its decisions and finances. Over the course of his life he had six wives. (The order of their fate is comprised in the mnemonic „divorced, beheaded, died – divorced, beheaded, survived“)
- **The Church of England** was established in England by King Henry VIII and symbolizes the English reformation. The head is represented by the King or Queen of England which goes back to Henry's wish to control the church's decisions and wealth.
- The **Catholic Church** was a wealthy and independent institution with laws that even restricted the power of kings. Accordingly the pope refused to let King Henry divorce his first wife. The resulting struggle with the Catholic institution forced Henry to found his own national church.
- **Bloody Mary** is the modern expression for one of King Henry's daughters, who was Queen of England from 1553 until 1558. She re-established Catholicism in England by means of force and violence. During her reign many Protestants died.
- **The Puritans** were a religious group which imposed strict rules on England. Under Oliver Cromwell England's economy grew strong and wealthy but public enjoyment was restricted; pubs and theatres were closed and colourful garments were forbidden. The **civil war** came as a result of the strong disagreement the people developed towards the government.
- **William of Orange** ruled over Holland at the end of the 17th century and was married to King James' daughter Mary. Because he was Protestant, the English asked him to declare war against their own country in order to prevent a Catholic succession to the throne.
- The **Act of Settlement** is a constituent of the British constitution and was passed in 1701. Among several other regulations it includes that only a member of the Church of England can become King or Queen of England, a regulation which is based on a history of negative experiences with Catholic kings and queens.

Text 2

- A **constitutional monarchy** is a type of government in which a king or queen represents the head of state, but whose executive powers are very limited; his/her duties are almost exclusively representative, very much like those of the German "Bundespräsident". Legislative and executive powers are mainly held by the parliament and the prime minister as its head representative.
- **King John** replaced his brother King Richard as the ruler of England at the end of the 12th century. He used his powers to enrich himself by charging high taxes. During the years of his reign England suffered from great poverty. The upper classes eventually forced him to an agreement which prevented him from affecting their wealth. This agreement is known as the Magna Carta.
- The **Magna Carta** is a document of the British constitution which was passed in the beginning of the 13th century. It may be regarded as one of the first parliamentary acts in England and included regulations which limited the influence the king could have on the upper classes.
- The first parties to exist in England were the **Whigs and the Tories**. While the Tories represented the Anglican Church and a strong government executed by the king, the Whigs favoured

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