

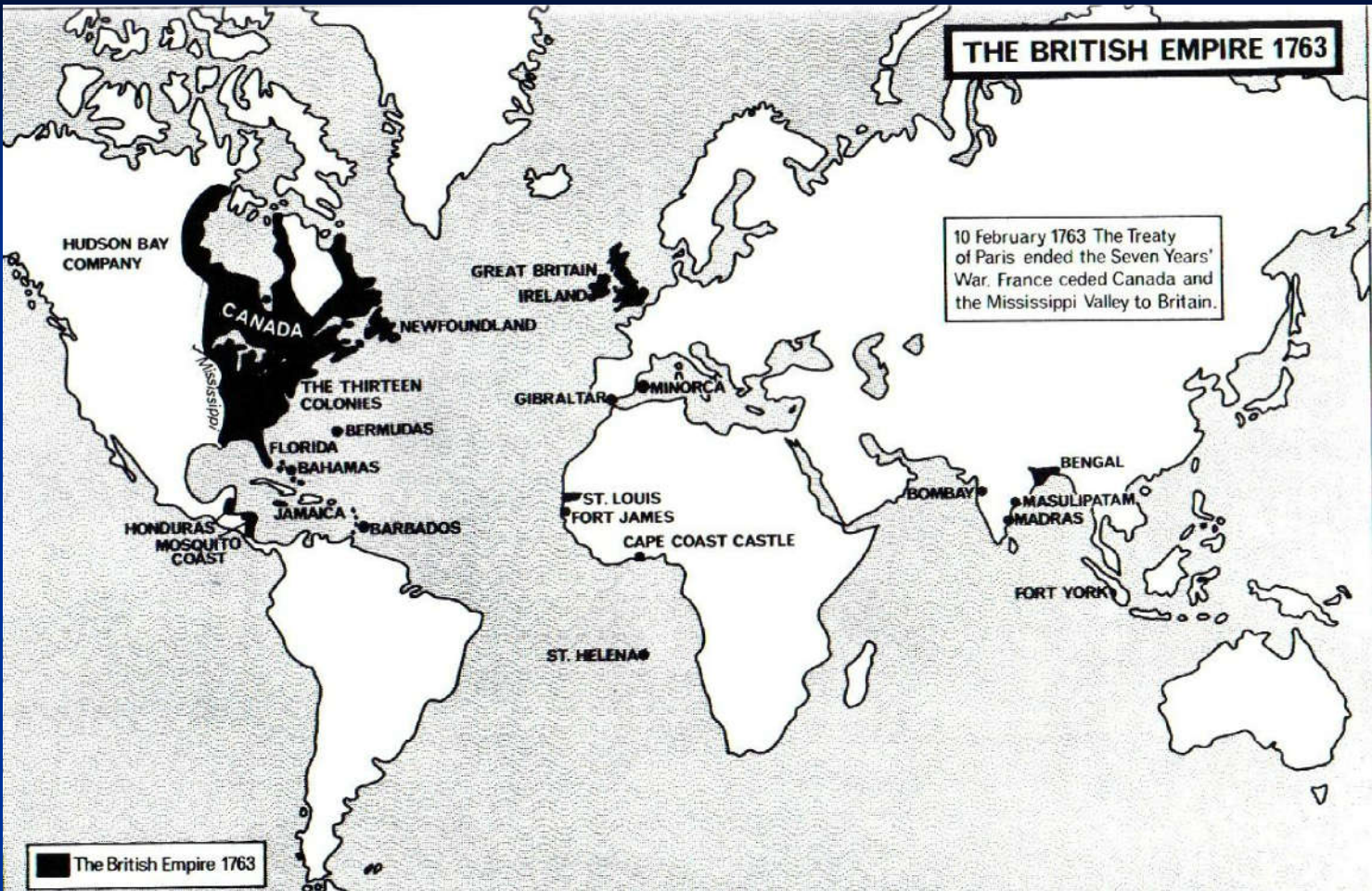
Unit 7
British Foreign
Relations

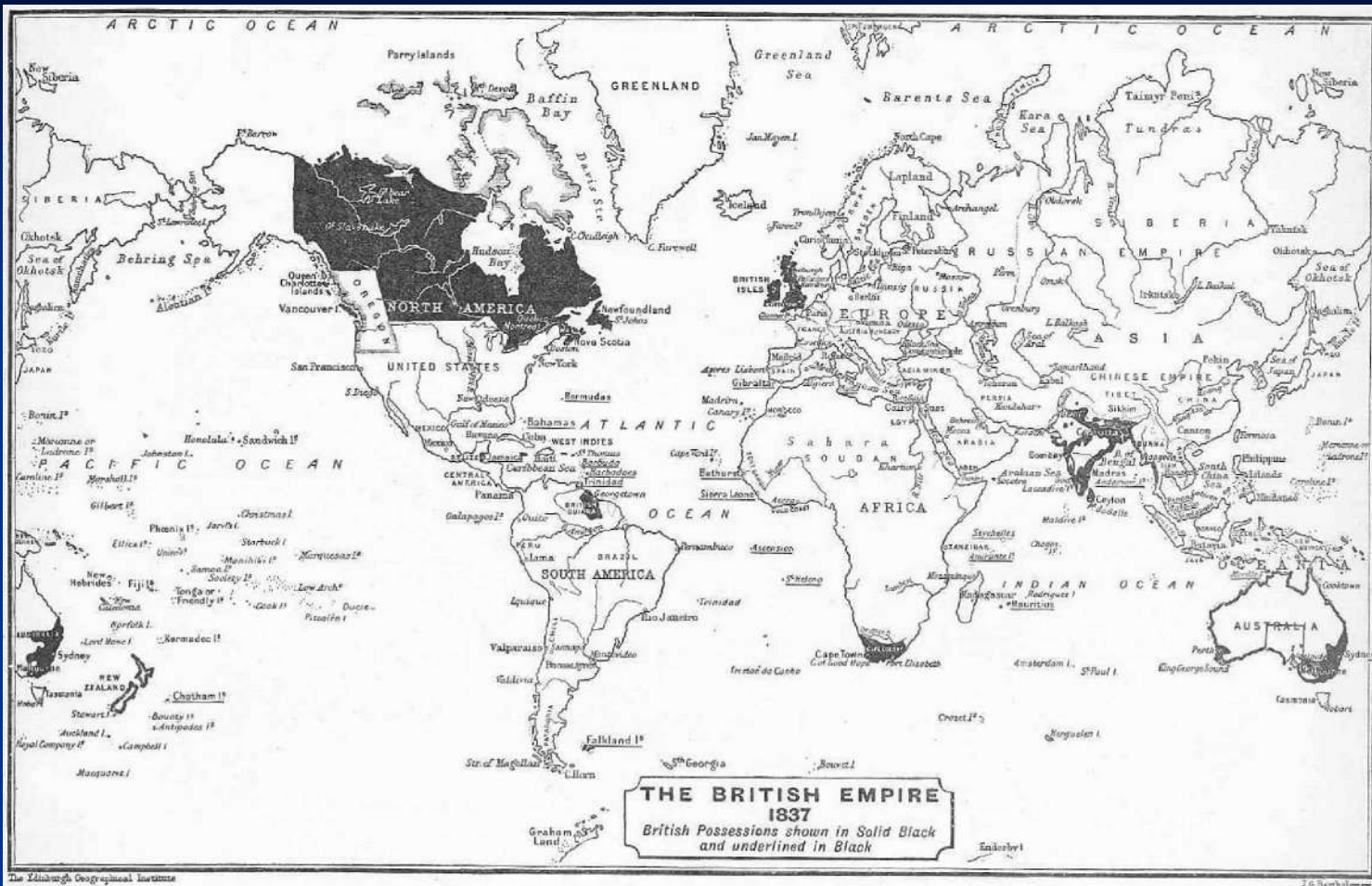
I. Britain then and now

1. Then:

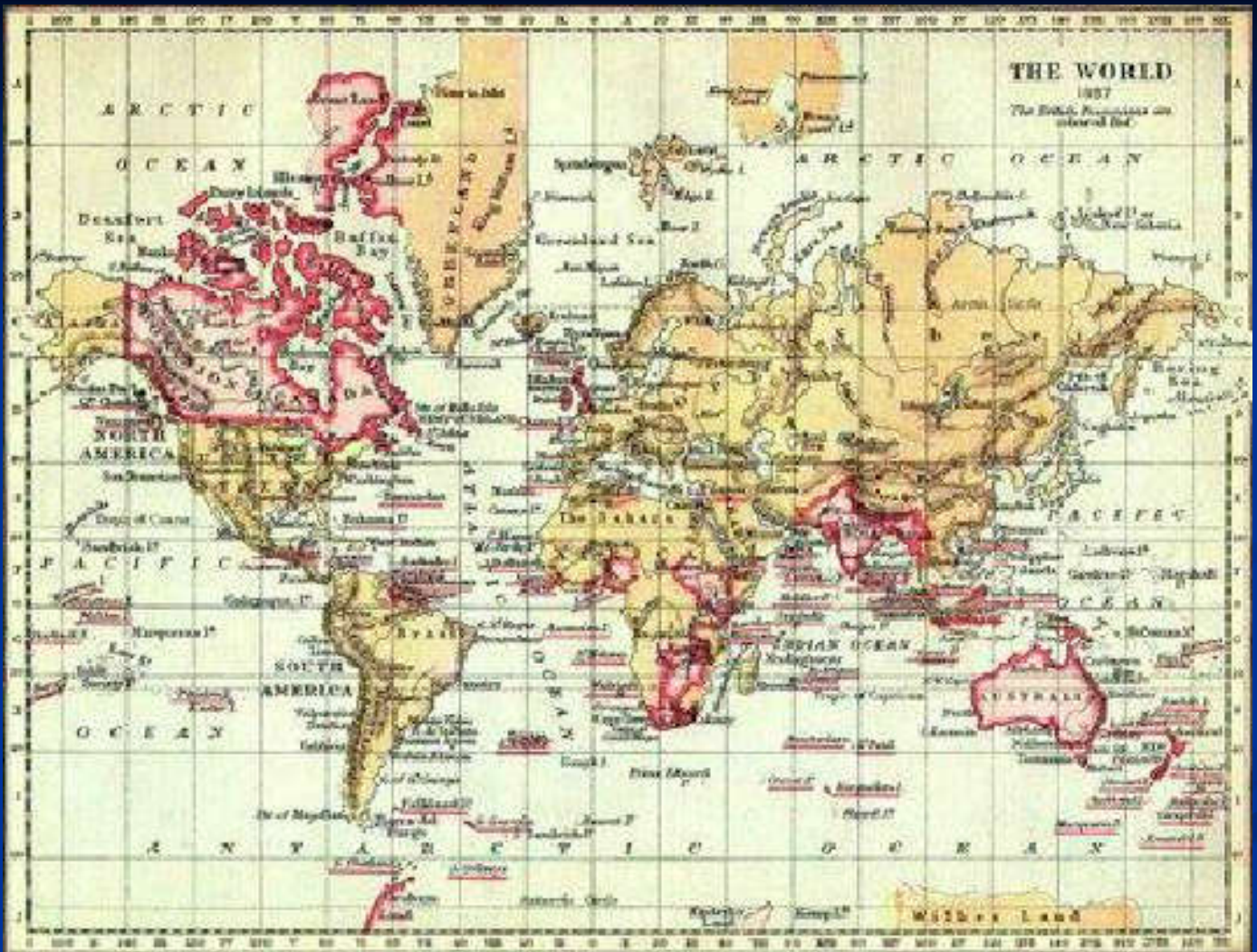
The British Empire was a product of the Age of Discovery, which began with the maritime explorations of the 15th century.

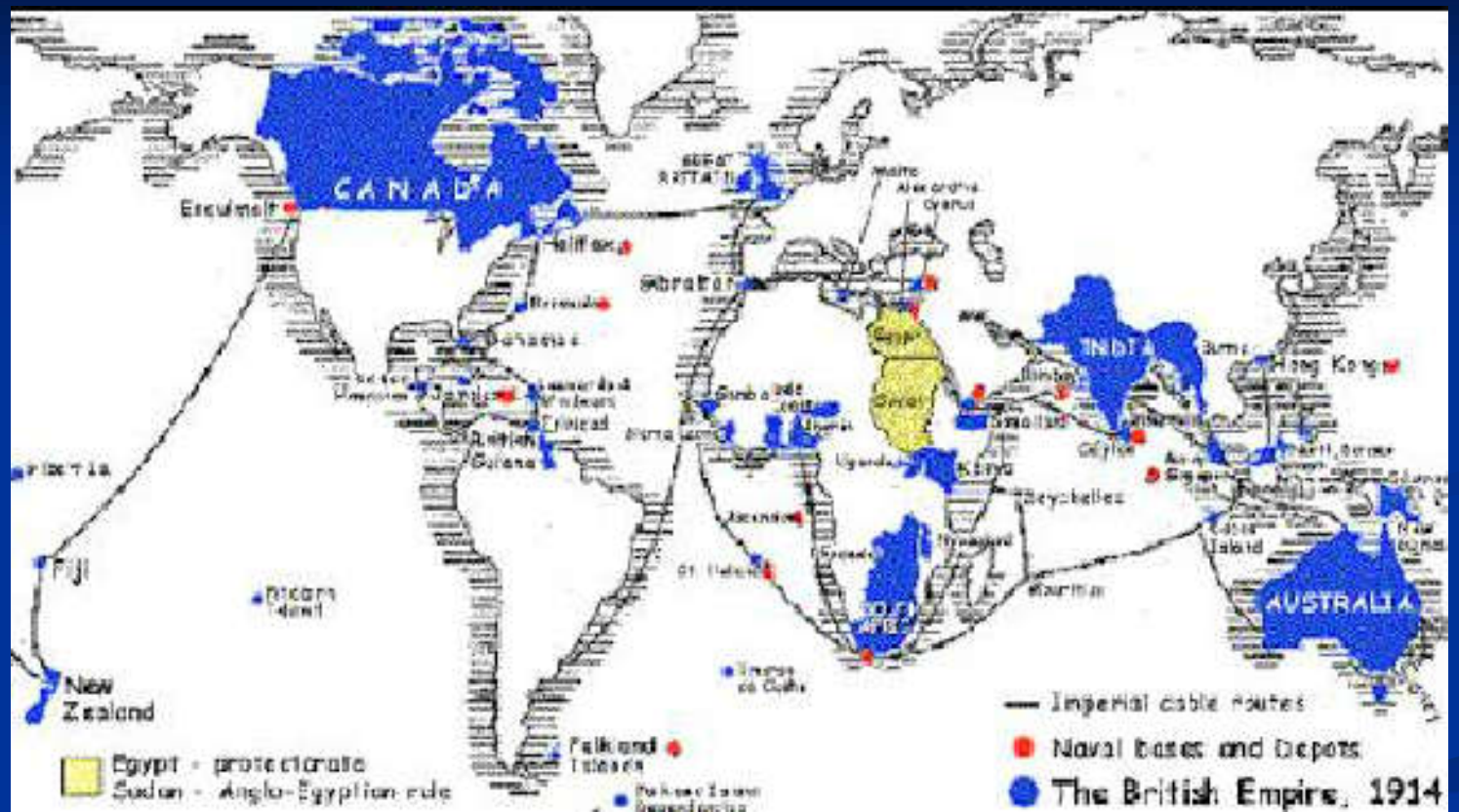
THE BRITISH EMPIRE 1763











i. The 'Sun-never-set' Empire

- a great empire in the world, >50 colonies
- controlled 1/4 of the world people
- ruled 1/4 of the world land

ii. right after the WWII ended,

- the largest military power in victorious, empire largely intact Western Europe
- was awarded a seat on the UN Security Council

* the Great Powers right after the WWII, U.S.A., S.U., CHN, France, U.K

2. Now:

- a medium-sized European country
- an equal member in the EU
- lacks the all-powerful navy of its imperial past
- loses the world markets that it once dominated
- it does have **an independent nuclear deterrent** and **technologically advanced armed forces**.
- The economy ranks about **sixth** in the world in terms of size.

II. How foreign policy is made?

■ . the two decisive elements:

- ✓ its imperial **history**(the most important single factor)
- ✓ the **geopolitical traits**.

Being an island state, Britain has to look for more overseas territory and economic chances, and has developed a sense of psychological isolation.

II. How foreign policy is made?

- The P.M. & Cabinet
- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministries involved in foreign policy
 - e.g. the Ministry of Defense
 - the Department of Trade and Industry
 - the Treasury

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- Relations with its electorate



III. Relations with Europe

- *Culturally* a long common cultural heritage; derive from the Indo-European language family; shared religions; familiar landscapes
- *Politically* a long history of wars and peace between two sides; “Splendid isolation”, “the balance of power” during two world wars
- *Economically* EU as the largest trade partner of Britain

i. with the EN

- be a member in 1971

- Necessity to join the EU

Economical, political, and military bound up with other European countries

- controversies: what is the EU? What will it become?

- Attitude towards EU,
a psychological transition:
a trading partner rather than a fellow citizen
of the larger European State
not wiling to give up its national sovereign
to a European government

- Euro-sceptics: closer union would inhibit Britain's freedom to make its own decision about its political and economic future
- Pro-Europeans: closer union is essential to Britain's national interest that Britain has a voice in the direction of policy in Europe, or Britain will be marginalised.

IV. Britain and int'l institutions:

ii. Relations with the UN

- One of the five members of UN Security Council
 - The sixth largest of UN contributor
- ** the influence of imperial history,
unconsciously wants to be as influential
as before



IV. Britain and int'l institutions:

iii. NATO:

committed to European defense
cooperation <---- geopolitics

95% of Britain's defence expenditure goes to
meeting NATO requirements.







U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson signs the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, as U.S. President Harry S. Truman (second from left) and Vice President Alben W. Barkley (left) look on.



NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer



British troops in Iraq

IV. Britain and int'l institutions:

iv. A member of Commonwealth:

--- a legacy of imperial past

- a voluntary association
- members: 53
- purpose: a forum of continued cooperation and a sort of support network.
- The Queen is the head of the Commonwealth and is head of 16 member states.
- two-thirds of British development aids goes to commonwealth nations

V. Britain and the United States



Special relations!

V. Britain and the United States

Cooperation <--- to dominate the world together with U.S.A.

- geopolitical ---more close relations with U.S. than with the continental Europe.
- the same language and a similar culture
- Economically more dependent on U.S.A. than on European countries
- mutual benefit from the world trade
- closely allied, holding same beliefs in global economy, arm control;
- common worries about the Soviet Union (to prevent the growth of S.U.)

V. Britain and the United States

Cooperation <---

- British and American policy-makers share the general ideas in many respects.

Roosevelt and Winston Churchill

Thatcher vs. Reagan

Blair vs. Clinton

Blair and Bush :100% follower of U.S. foreign policy, Supported U.S. in Iraq War



*Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill
in August 1941.*



Prime Minister Winston Churchill (left), with President Franklin Roosevelt, at the Yalta Conference in 1945.



Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher at Camp David, 1984.



Tony Blair and George W. Bush seen shaking hands on November 12, 2004.



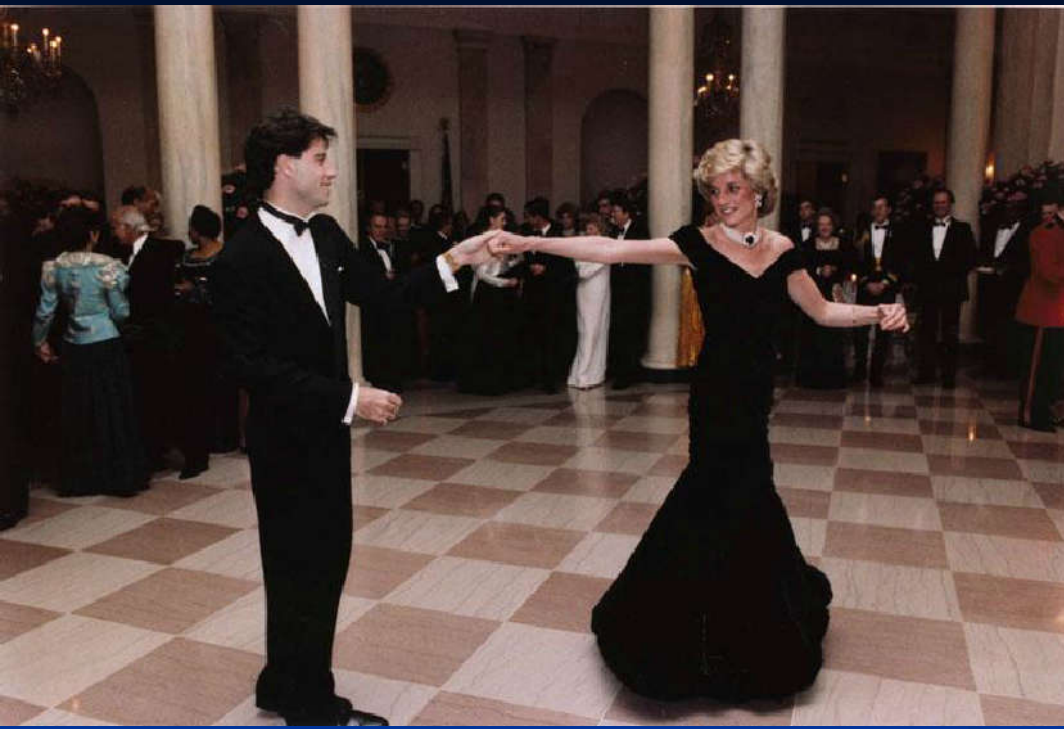
Queen Elizabeth II welcomed President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to Buckingham Palace on April 1, 2009.



Queen Elizabeth II and George W. Bush, share a toast during a 2007 state dinner.



***US Secretary of State Rice and Hillary Clinton
with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.***



John Travolta dancing with Diana, Princess of Wales at the White House, 1985.



The Duke and Duchess of Windsor on their wedding day, June 3, 1937.

V. Britain and the United States

■ **Competition:**

the only superpower of the world ----legacy of imperial past
imperial history: America once a colony of the UK,
UK sets a good model in economic and political development.
Economy: -- By 1880, UK economically dominated the world,
from 1990, the UK was overtaken by both the U.S.A. and
Germany

1956 Suez Crisis, a transiting point

FROM: Acting independently to bring about its policy objectives

TO: Its foreign policies are largely limited by the U.S.A.

- The British are beginning to realize that their own foreign policy actions can be limited by the United States.

But both sides have worked hard to maintain the “special relations”.

- There has been widespread speculation on the nature of the UK's relationship with the United States under Brown's government.

A Washington, D.C. speech by Brown's close aide Douglas Alexander was widely reported as both a policy shift and a message to the U.S: "In the 21st century, strength should be measured on what we can build together...we need to demonstrate by our deeds, words and our actions that we are internationalist, not isolationist, multilateralist, not unilateralist, active and not passive, and driven by core values, consistently applied, not special interests."

(Douglas Alexander, the trade and development secretary)

- However Downing Street's spokesman strongly denied the suggestion that Alexander was trying to distance Britain from U.S. foreign policy and show that Britain would not necessarily, in Tony Blair's words, stand "shoulder to shoulder" with George W. Bush over future military interventions: "I thought the interpretation that was put on Douglas Alexander's words was quite extraordinary. To interpret this as saying anything at all about our relationship with the U.S. is nonsense."

- Brown personally clarified his position; "We will not allow people to separate us from the United States of America in dealing with the common challenges that we face around the world. I think people have got to remember that the relationship between Britain and America and between a British prime minister and an American president is built on the things that we share, the same enduring values about the importance of liberty, opportunity, the dignity of the individual. I will continue to work, as Tony Blair did, very closely with the American administration."

■ **Cameron-Obama: A UK-US special relationship forged in syllables?**

--- Ever since Winston Churchill coined the phrase 'special relationship' in 1945, the number of syllables in US presidents' and British premiers' names have often matched. Was David Cameron destined to become a three-syllable premier alongside Barack Obama?



■ **David Cameron: don't obsess about US-UK special relationship**

Prime minister says Britain can no longer rely on 60-year-old version of special relationship

Patrick Wintour, political editor

The Guardian, Tuesday 20 July 2010

12 May 2010

■ **Obama Reaffirms Special U.S.-U.K. Relationship in Call to Cameron**

--- **President Obama, pictured with David Cameron in 2009, said the special U.S.-U.K. relationship is “not going to go away.”**



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