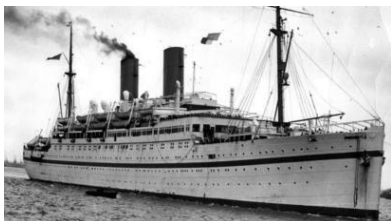


22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



WHAT WAS THE WINDRUSH?

The Windrush was a ship named:

“HMT EMPIRE WINDRUSH”

HMT stands for 'Her Majesty's Transport'. This ship brought migrants from the Caribbean to the UK.

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

The ships brought workers to address labour (work) shortages in the UK. As the UK's economy was expanding there were more industrial and agricultural jobs, so the UK government encouraged this migration. Many of these passengers had fought for the UK during the war.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Those arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries have been labelled the 'Windrush generation'. The ships brought migrants from the Caribbean, including from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Bermuda, Cuba and other islands.

WHY IS WINDRUSH FAMOUS?

More than **half a million migrants** went on to not only settle in the UK, but make a significant and lasting contribution to its infrastructure, economy and culture. But these migrants have suffered many prejudices, including illegal deportation and denial of their legal rights.

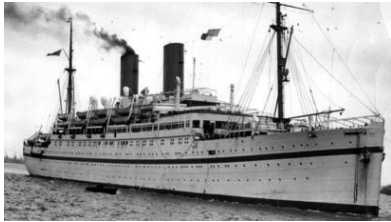
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

The Windrush ship arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex, on 22 June 1948. It was not the first ship to bring migrants from the Caribbean, but it was the most famous. Although thousands travelled on other ships and aeroplanes until 1978, all are labelled the 'Windrush generation'.

Want more info? ➡

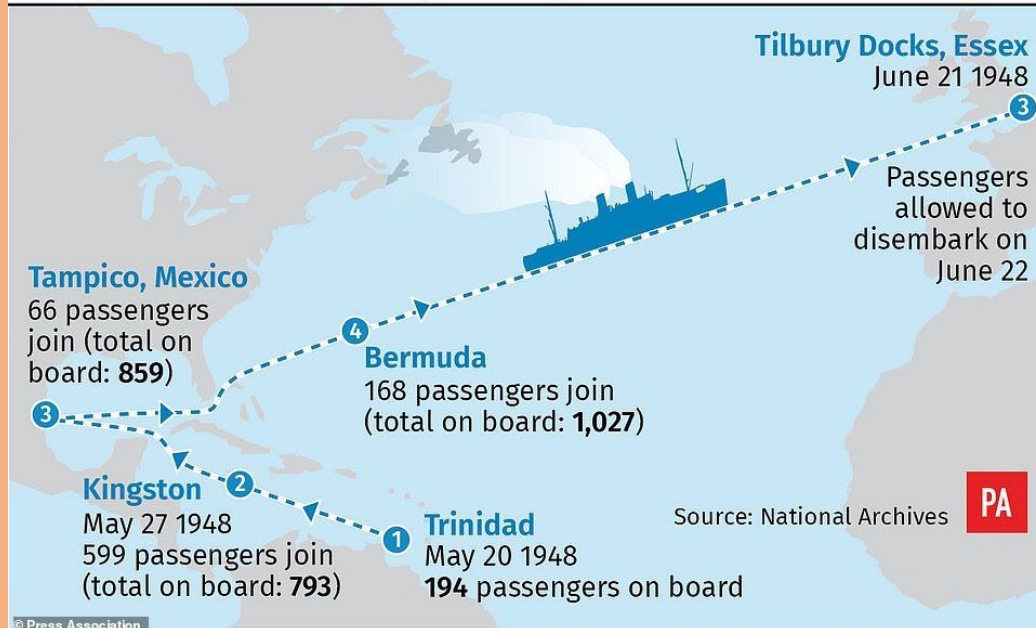
Sources: [BBC: Windrush generation](#) [Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants](#)

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY

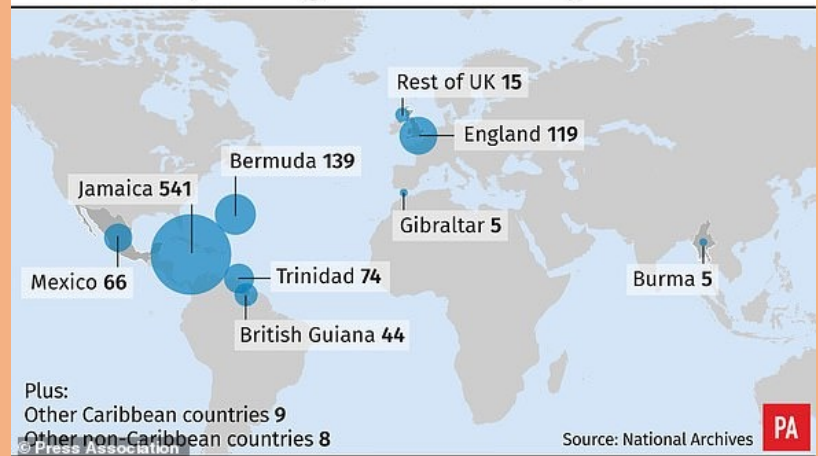


WHERE DID THE WINDRUSH GENERATION COME FROM?

Empire Windrush's journey to Britain

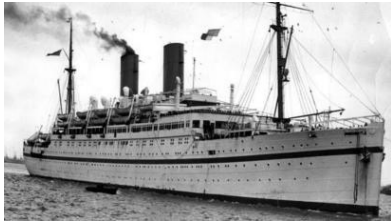


Windrush passengers' last country of residence



Look at these two maps: why do you think these passengers came from the Caribbean?

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



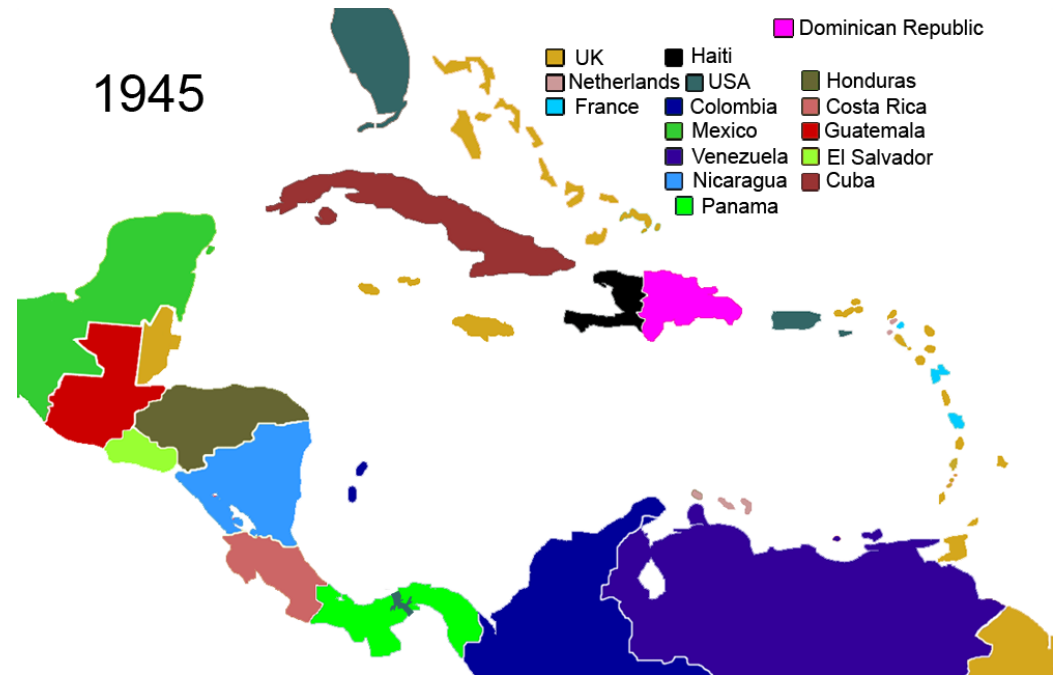
WHY DID THE PASSENGERS COME FROM THE CARIBBEAN SPECIFICALLY?

It is helpful to consider colonialism when answering this question.

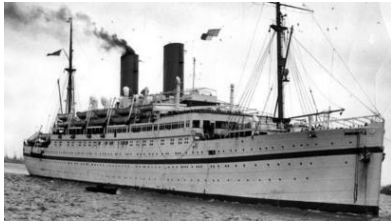
COLONIALISM = TAKING POLITICAL CONTROL OVER ANOTHER COUNTRY, OCCUPYING IT WITH SETTLERS, AND EXPLOITING IT ECONOMICALLY

Take a look at how many different countries held control over colonies in the Caribbean after the Second World War.

1945



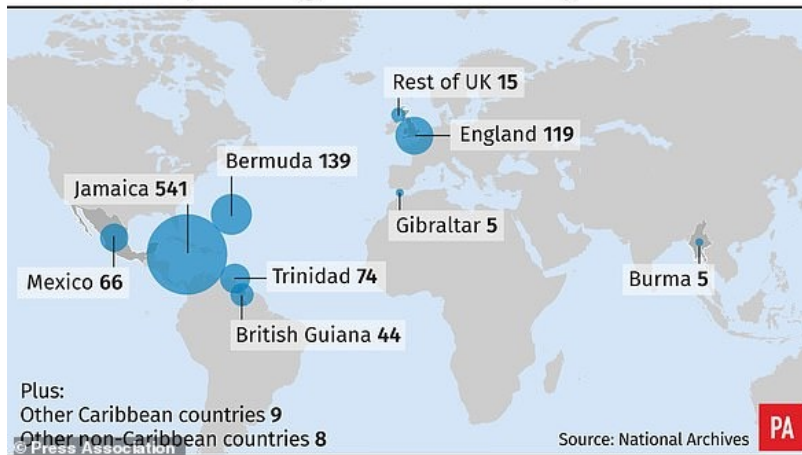
22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



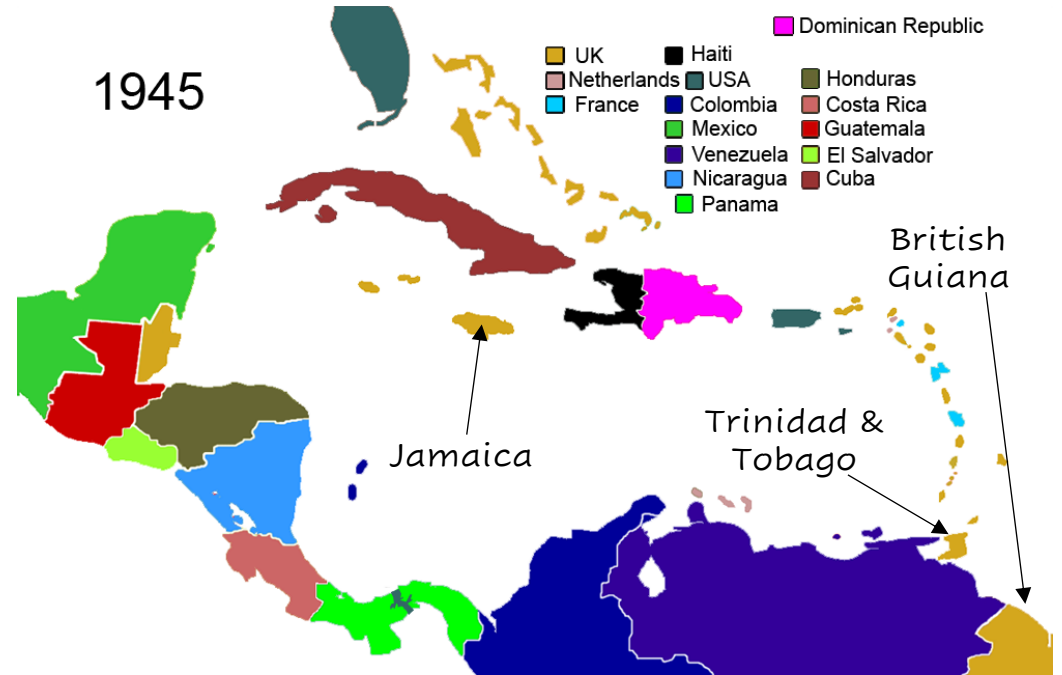
WHY DID THE PASSENGERS COME FROM THE CARIBBEAN SPECIFICALLY?

Now look at where the majority of Windrush passengers stated their last country of residence was ...

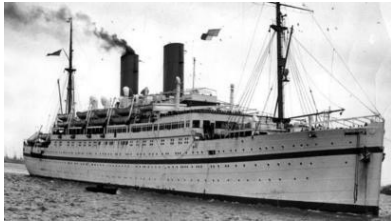
Windrush passengers' last country of residence



1945



22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



WHY DID THE PASSENGERS COME FROM THE CARIBBEAN SPECIFICALLY?

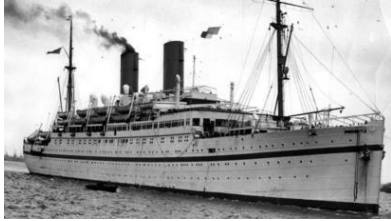
So this **colonial rule** meant that, during this time, residents of these colonies were officially 'British subjects', which, before 1949, meant that you were from a country which was part of the British Empire.

Because those passengers travelling on the Windrush came from British colonies that had not achieved independence, **they believed they were British citizens.**



Windrush generation members arrive in the UK

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



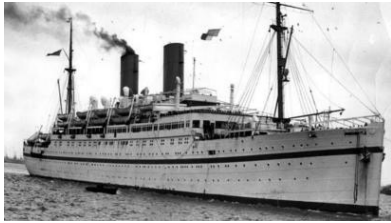
WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE TO THESE PASSENGERS?

By 1958 **over 125,000 migrants** from the Caribbean had settled in Britain since the war.

When the passengers landed they didn't always get the friendly welcome they had hoped for. Many of them experienced **racism and discrimination** and often found it hard to get proper homes to live in and to make friends with British people.

It wasn't always easy for the new arrivals to get jobs. Some companies **said they didn't want black people to work for them**. Later many of their children were bullied at school because of the colour of their skin. Some of them suffered **racial attacks** and in later years there were riots in cities across Britain.

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



THE WINDRUSH SCANDAL




In 2017 it emerged that hundreds of Commonwealth citizens, many of whom were from the Windrush generation, had been **wrongly detained, deported and denied legal rights.**

There was widespread shock and outrage at the fact that so many Black Britons had had their lives devastated by Britain's deeply flawed and discriminatory immigration system.

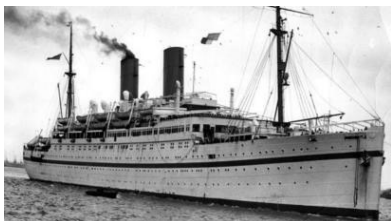
This quickly became known as ...

THE WINDRUSH SCANDAL

Want more info? 

Sources: [Windrush Scandal Explained](#)

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



THE WINDRUSH SCANDAL


During the past decade, some of the people who arrived in the UK as children with their parents have been wrongly told that they live here illegally. In 2010, **landing cards belonging to Windrush migrants were destroyed by the Home Office.**

In 2012 **there was a change to immigration law** and people were told they needed official documents to prove they could get things like free hospital treatment or benefits in this country. This led to some being sent to immigration detention centres and facing deportation.

On 21 August 2018, Home Secretary Sajid Javid announced that - after a review of 11,800 cases - 18 members of the Windrush generation who could have been wrongfully removed or detained would get a **formal apology** from the Government. He also said that anyone who had left the UK will also be helped to return.

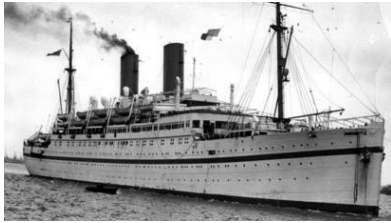


Protesters calling for a halt to the deportation of the Windrush generation

Want more info? 

Sources: [BBC: Windrush Generation?](#) [Newsround: What is the Windrush generation?](#)

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



THE IMPACT OF THE WINDRUSH GENERATION ON BRITAIN


The Windrush generation made a **huge contribution** to the British economy and economic growth, not only in the immediate post-war period but also across decades of continuous employment.

As the demand for both skilled and unskilled labour continued to grow throughout the 1950s as the economy recovered, employers and managers in key sectors **actively began to recruit in the Caribbean**, rather than waiting for workers to arrive in the UK.

London Transport, for example, **recruited more than 3,500 Barbadians** in the ten years from 1956, paying workers' fares to the UK and then recovering them through a deduction from their wages.

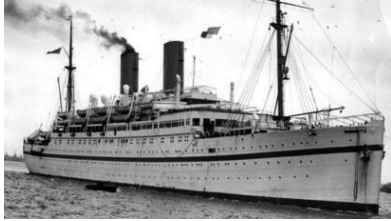


Advertisement for cheap passage to England, Jamaica 1950s

Want more info? 

Sources: [How Caribbean migrants rebuilt Britain](#)

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



THE IMPACT OF THE WINDRUSH GENERATION ON BRITAIN

At a recent congregation at Westminster Abbey, Rev Canon Joel Edwards described how Windrush had 'gifted' Britain with **leaders in politics, trade unions, business, sport and culture.**

But while the Windrush generation are possibly the most famous group of migrants from the Caribbean, **Windrush was not the beginning of multicultural Britain.** Caribbean migrants arrived in Britain as early as the 1800s.


Some argue that the migrants who came in 1948 arrived to **a changing multicultural scene** that was already happening.



Lord Kitchener performing at the Calypso Cabaret



Diane Abbott, who served as Deputy Home Secretary from 2016–2020. Her parents are both originally from Jamaica.

Want more info? 

Sources: [How the Windrush Generation transformed British arts and culture](#)

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



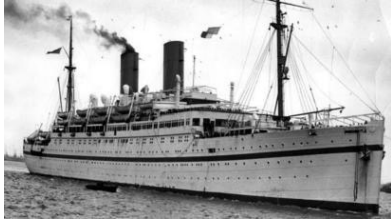
WINDRUSH DAY

In June 2018, the government announced an annual Windrush Day to encourage communities across the country to commemorate the Windrush story on Windrush Day and throughout the year.

The national celebration is backed by a £500,000 Windrush Day Grant Scheme overseen by a Windrush Day Advisory Panel of community representatives.



22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



WINDRUSH DOCUMENTARY

This documentary offers an insight into the experience of one woman's family, a family which belonged to the Windrush generation.

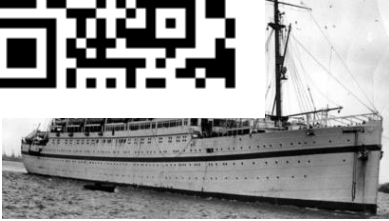
The film 'From Slavery to Windrush' helps us to see the numerous challenges faced by this family throughout their history.

She discovers why the Windrush scandal was about more than the politics of immigration.



[Watch the Windrush documentary here](#)

22ND JUNE WINDRUSH DAY



FINE OUT MORE ...

Visit www.bcaexhibits.org to find out more about the Windrush Generation past, present and future:

- The *Windrush: What's Next? The struggle for justice* podcast series frames the 2018 'Windrush Scandal' within a historical but forward-facing narrative, bringing together campaigners, people affected by the Windrush Scandal, race equality practitioners, cultural historians and lawyers.
- *Sounds of the 'rush* – newly digitised excerpts from our Windrush oral history collections. Hear testimonies from iconic figures such as the activist Connie Mark, Windrush passenger Clifford Fullerton, and others covering themes from arrival, employment, social life, family and resistance.
- *Windrush Waves* was launched in 2020 to give young people aged 14–21 the opportunity to respond artistically to the story of the Windrush Generation. A selection of artwork in various media is displayed here, selected by artist Linett Kamala.