

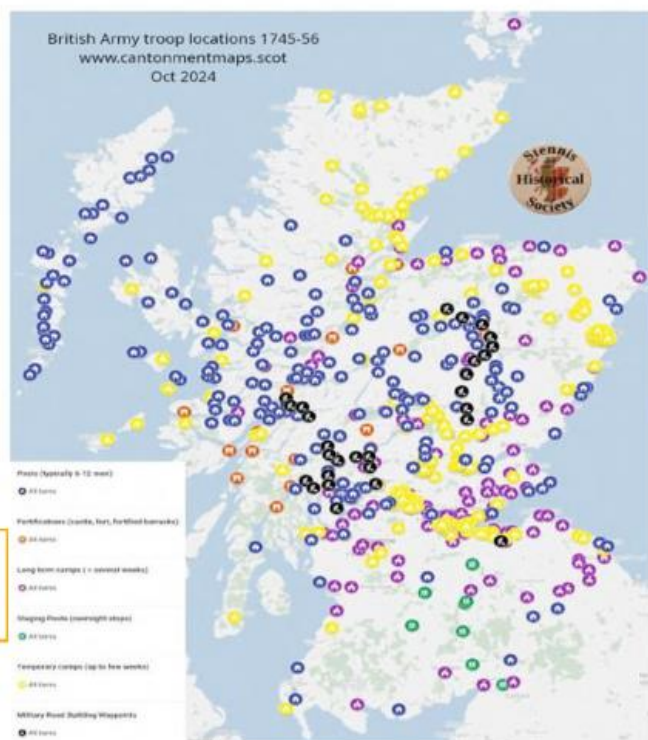
# Colonial Markers in Scotland (post-1707): *extract from full list*

## Colonial Marker 1: Military Threat, Invasion, Subjugation.

**1708: Military Occupation of Scotland** – commenced immediately after the 1707 Anglo-Scottish Union. English government troops forcibly suppressed anti-Union protests across Scotland and subsequent pro-Jacobite uprisings in 1715 and 1745/46, including at the Battle of Culloden (near Inverness) in April 1746.

**The 1708 Treason Act** was introduced to establish the dominion of the English Crown over the Scottish Crown (rather than a ‘united crown’). Imposition of English law in Scotland was a direct violation of the terms of the Treaty of Union. It enabled the violent suppression and deliberate destruction of Scotland’s ancient Highland clan society by government military forces during the mid-18th Century.

Military occupation was enabled by construction of an extensive network of military roads, bridges, army barracks, fortifications and strategic garrison towns across the whole of Scotland, to facilitate access and movement by government armies. By 1746 there was an extensive network of new military garrisons established across Scotland (**Figure 1**).



**Fig. 1. Cantonment types and locations**

Reference: Hansard/House of Commons Library, letters, orders. Stennis Historical Society.  
[https://archive.org/details/CantonmentsOfTheBritishArmyInScotland\\_1745-56\\_V3\\_0/page/n17/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/CantonmentsOfTheBritishArmyInScotland_1745-56_V3_0/page/n17/mode/2up)

**Post-1746: Military Occupation, Subjugation and War Crimes** – decades of brutal military occupation of the Scottish Highlands following the Battle of Culloden, combined with new government laws to outlaw and eradicate the native language (Gaelic), dress, music, religion and customs, effectively destroyed Scotland’s ancient system of clans.(1) The brutality of the English Occupation from 1746 has largely been written out of Scottish history along with the records of the overwhelming popular opposition to England’s colonisation of Scotland under the pretext of a union.

The extent and duration of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century military occupation of Scotland and the severity of the conditions imposed on Scots and the orders issued to the troops, reflect not a partnership but a brutal occupation and subjugation. The extent of this military occupation is illustrated by the map of government troop garrisons across the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland post-1746 (**Figure 1**). Details of this military occupation are not described in any detail by conventional history books and relevant contemporary materials have largely remained unstudied until now.

(1) <https://cranntara.scot/clear.htm>

## Colonial Marker 2: Ethnic Cleansing, Displacement, Settler Occupation.

**Post-1746: Destruction of the Scottish Clan system and initiation of the Scottish Land Clearances** – For centuries prior to 1746, Scottish Clan chiefs held significant judicial and administrative control over their territories and maintained the autonomy of the ancient clan system. Immediately after the Battle of Culloden, the Anglo-British state commenced a programme to forcibly remove indigenous Scots from their land to benefit the colonial elite.

This was initially enabled by the **1746 Heritable Jurisdictions (Scotland) Act**, the primary purpose of which was to dismantle the traditional judicial powers held by Scottish Clan chiefs and other hereditary Scottish landholders and farmers and consolidate legal authority in the English Crown and its appointed officials. This centralised legal and landholding system replaced Scottish law and practice with that of England and enabled the removal of existing hereditary land holders and farmers from their farms and holdings.

This Act followed English, not Scots laws which vigorously protected land holder rights. The formal introduction of tenancy as a legal and economic concept in Scotland began with the post-1745 reforms, particularly through the Heritable Jurisdictions Act and

the Agricultural Improvements. This transition marked the shift from traditional clan-based landholding to the modern tenancy system familiar today.

Using this new Act, the Administering Power sought to dismantle the clan system and bring the Highlands under direct legal and economic control. (1) Under the clan societal system, clan Chiefs held land on behalf of the clan, and tenants and sub-tenants had traditional, often unwritten rights to the land they worked. The relationship was primarily one of kinship and obligation rather than formal contracts. Tenure was customary, and rents were often paid in kind (e.g. livestock or produce) rather than cash.

Violating the terms of the Treaty of Union, the Heritable Jurisdictions Act (2) abolished the authority of clan chiefs and replaced it with the English tradition of tenancy under which the tenant was entirely at the mercy of the landowner.

Thereafter, the 'comprador' class of Scots elites, trusted and rewarded by the colonising Anglo-British State, was permitted to operate as chiefs and landlords and convert traditional clan obligations into cash rents. This removal of traditional rights allowed the first phase of the 'Clearances' to begin – resulting in more than two centuries of atrocity, inhumanity and ethnic cleansing (3), much of which has been misrepresented or removed entirely from the record - and from popular Scottish national consciousness.

(1) <https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/07/the-collapse-of-the-scottish-clan-system/144184>

(2) [Heritable Jurisdictions \(Scotland\) Act 1746](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/apgb/Geo2/20/43/introduction)<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/apgb/Geo2/20/43/introduction>

(3) Tom Devine, *The Scottish Nation 1700-2000*, Penguin Books, London 1999. P.468

<https://books.openedition.org/pus/10139>

**1846-1856: Famine, combined with Land Clearances** - triggered a new wave of mass emigration of impoverished Scots (mainly to North America, Australia and New Zealand) and ongoing rural depopulation in Scotland.

As traditional access by the native rural Scots population to their historic land and sea resources became increasingly restricted during the 18th and early 19th centuries, food scarcities became more common, culminating in the '**Highland Potato Famine**' of **1846-56** in which tens of thousands of rural Scots starved to death. (1)

The Scottish potato blight of 1846 to 1856 caused starvation among the rural highland population. Instead of taking measures to prevent starvation, the British Government used the opportunity that was afforded by the vulnerability of the Scottish population to continue to clear peasant Scots off their land. As a result, many thousands became homeless and wretched.

The famine offered a 'win-win' situation for the Administering Power who offered destitute landless Scots subsidised passage to the English colonial settlements in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The cleared land could now be readily populated with more profitable sheep and other livestock. (2)

Following the famine, the new Landlords, with government support sought to reduce the population and alleviate economic pressures, often facilitating and financing the relocation.

The potato blight and famine of the 1840s also greatly afflicted Ireland (which was also in an enforced incorporating union with England at the time) and where similar social and land use conditions prevailed.

(1) [Malcolm Gray - The Highland Potato Famine of the 1840s](#)

(2) [Wikipedia - Highland Clearances](#)

**1851: Scottish Land Clearances – Forced Emigration of Scots.** Poor economic conditions in the mid-19th Century coincided with the return of the thousands of Scots who had fought for the British Army in the Napoleonic wars. The elite ruling classes considered that forced emigration could solve the problem of unemployment and in 1851, the government passed the Emigration Advances Act to assist landlords finance emigration by their tenants.

As well as the removal of the indigenous Scots peasant population, prime land was the prize for depopulation. Landlords served inhabitants with notices of eviction to which there was little right of appeal and evictions went ahead. No one was safe from forcible eviction during the second half of the 19th Century. (2)

Forced emigration followed years of famine and hardship. Landlords, who had replaced the old clan landholding system, resulting in the potato monoculture, blight and famine, were offered financial incentives to 'assist' emigration of the poor from their estates. The Administrative Power mouthpiece, 'The Scotsman' newspaper went as far as to condone '*the removal of a diseased and damaged part of our population.*' (1)

One landlord is quoted as saying that "*it would be absolute insanity not to take advantage of the present opportunity of getting rid of our surplus population*".

In the words of Scotland's leading historian, Tom Devine, *Scotland was the "emigration capital of Europe" for most of the nineteenth century.*

(1) Quoted in T. M. Devine, *The Great Highland Famine*, Edinburgh: John Donald Publishers, 1988, p. 250.

(2) [Example text of Writ of Removal](#)

**1920s – 1970s: Empire Settlement Act 1922** - British 'Colonies and Dominions (particularly Canada,

Australia and New Zealand) to promote the economic well-being of the Empire as a whole.

The Act was extended in 1937, and again in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967.

The British State resettlement scheme subsidised transport cost and targeted Scots to move to British overseas colonies during much of the 20th Century. Scottish out-migration on per capita basis was at least 8-times higher than England, so movement was specifically targeted at Scots. (1)

While England's population continued to grow throughout the 20th century to in excess of 50 million, Scotland's population remained at around 5 million.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire\\_Settlement\\_Act\\_1922](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_Settlement_Act_1922)

### **1701-2024: Steady Scots Demographic Collapse.**

Scotland's population growth has dramatically failed to keep pace with England over 300 years of 'Union'. In 1701, Scotland's population was 21% that of England; in 2025 that proportion has fallen to less than 10%.

Scots emigration between 1825 and 1938 was around 2.3 million i.e. 55% of the average population of the period. No European country except Ireland (also colonised by England) suffered this level of population loss. (5) In total Scotland under the Union has been depopulated to the extent of around 4 million people; 72% of its present population; 100,000 in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century; 1.8 million in the 19th Century and 2 million in the 20th Century up to 1970. Without emigration, Scotland might have had a population of 8-10 million today. In contrast, England's population has grown consistently and substantially.

An illustration of Scotland's demographic trend by comparison to England, Ireland and 5 similarly sized European countries is shown in Figure 2 (1)(2). From 21% of England's 5.2m in 1701, Scotland's relative population has fallen to 9.6% of England's 57m today. It has remained practically flat since 1951, while England's grew in the same period by nearly 40%. Ireland's population indicates 63% growth in this same 75 year time-frame, after also suffering as an English colony for centuries. The light grey lines show the population growth of 5 other European countries. Comparing the growth over the full 323 year period, Scotland grew by a multiple of 5 compared to England's 11. The average for the 5 mainland European states meanwhile is 6.5.

Despite Scotland's advanced level of industrial development in the 19th and 20th centuries, its population flatlined during the 20th Century - in stark contrast with England's spectacular growth and also neighbouring European nations who have all exhibited steady growth during this period, (**Figure 2, p.16**)

Scots emigrants were typically skilled workers and their constant loss over three centuries has suppressed Scotland's national development.

(1) Population data collected online with verification checks from (typically) <https://www.statista.com/statistics/975956/population-of-england/>

(2) [Chart of Comparative Demograph Trends](#)

(3) Christopher Harvie, *No Gods ad Precious Few Heroes* 3rd ed, Ed. Univ. Press, 65-66

(4) [Geoffrey Barrow, Inaugural Lecture, University of Edinburgh, 11 Dec 1980](#)

(5) Marjorie Harper, *Adventures in Exile: The Great Scottish Exodus*, Profile Books, 2004.

## **Colonial Marker 3: Cultural and Linguistic Imperialism, Cultural Genocide and Cultural Assimilation.**

### **1707 – 2025: Linguistic Imperialism and Linguicide.**

The Scots are a distinct ethnic group and Scotland has two indigenous languages, i.e. Scots, and Gaelic, which were both widely spoken in Scotland at the time of the Anglo-Scottish Union. The period since the Union has seen a substantial long-term decline in the speakers of Scotland's indigenous languages, due to a combination of discrimination, punishment, lack of teaching and neglect by the Anglo-British state authorities.

Linguistic Imperialism marginalizes and destroys indigenous languages; results in the death of a language ('linguicide') and with that, the removal or significant diminishing of a minority people's sense of national identity. (9) The degradation of Scotland's indigenous languages has been an outcome of the Anglo-Scottish Union.

The 2011 Scottish census recorded that there remained only around 1.6 million people in Scotland who speak Scots, out of a total population of 5.6 million people, i.e. less than 30 percent. Some 70 percent of the Scottish population now primarily Anglophone.

Although state provision for Scotland's small minority Gaelic speaking community (around 50,000 people) is provided (Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, TV channel, funding), the larger Scots-speaking community continues to be ignored. The Scots language (3) is not taught to the Scottish people. (4) The British state has effectively deprived Scots of properly learning their own mother language, preventing them from fully absorbing the main ingredient and basis of their national identity.

Loss of language undermines a people's sense of identity and sense of belonging, which is an established aim and feature of colonialism. (10) The result of this is that many Scots today have a confused or dual (also false) national identity – British and Scottish – and hence a dual persona. (5) Its ultimate demise is inevitable when it is not taught or given authority, as is the case with the Scots language.

In seeking to justify only the English language being taught to Scots in school, British educationalists, even until recently, maintained that Scots was not a 'valid' language (6); this is ethnic discrimination and an abuse of a people's human rights – i.e. the right to one's own language, or 'mother tongue'. (7) The Council of Europe in its minority language reports has repeatedly criticised the UK and Scottish Governments for failing to teach and give authority to the Scots language. (8) Despite this, the indigenous language of Scots remains ignored by British State authorities, including its devolved Scottish administration responsible for education of the people.

Because Scotland's native language and culture forms the basis of our national consciousness, (11) without these aspects a people's motivation for nationhood and sovereignty is sorely diminished. Language policy in Scotland within an Anglophone dominated social and cultural hierarchy aims to deprive Scots of their language, to kill it off, and diminish the desire for Scottish nationhood and self-determination.

The cultural objective of the Anglo-British State towards the Celtic nations (Scotland, Wales, Ireland) has been to make them ever more Anglophone and Anglicised, as part of a long-established imposed colonial language educational policy. (12)

In this regard the native bourgeoisie, including the teaching profession, have generally been the most receptive group toward such a colonial policy, which is necessary for them to maintain their socio-economic status and privileges. Postcolonial theory tells us that native elites and bourgeoisie are eager to cast off their supposedly inferior indigenous native language and culture and to embrace (i.e. mimic) that of the colonizer's, reflecting the fact that colonialism is always a co-operative venture. (13)

Motivation for cultural assimilation is also heavily influenced through the promotion of negative stereotypes of native (i.e. Scots) speakers supplanted in people's minds via colonial media, broadcasting and educational policy. Culture and language are key factors in formation of national identity (15).

(1) Mike Medeiros. "Redefining the Influence of Language on National Attachment: Exploring Linguistic Threat Perceptions in Quebec." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 23, No. 4, (2017): 375-390

(2) John M. Lipski. *Varieties of Spanish in the United States*. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 2008

(3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scots\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scots_language)

(4) Billy Kay. *Scots – The Mither Tongue*. Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing, 2006

(5) Tom Devine. "Carving out a Scottish Identity." 2013.

<https://blogs.sps.ed.ac.uk/referendum/carving-out-a-scottish-identity>

(6) Basil B. Bernstein. *Class, Codes and Control: Volume 1 – Theoretical Studies Towards A Sociology Of Language*. London: Routledge and Kegan, 1971

(7) Billy Kay, *Scots – The Mither Tongue*, 20

(8) Council of Europe. "European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages: Fifth Report of the Committee of Experts in respect of the United Kingdom." 2020 Secretary General's reports on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (coe.int)

(9) Phillipson, *Linguistic imperialism and linguisticism*.

(10) Iain A. MacKinnon. "Education and the colonisation of the Gaidhlig mind." *Bella Caledonia*. December 3, 2019. <https://bellacaledonia.org.uk/2019/12/03/education-and-the-colonisation-of-the-gaidhlig-mind/>.

(11) Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, 198

(12) Michael Hechter. *Internal Colonialism: The Celtic Fringe in British National Development*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2017

(13) Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, 48

(14) Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, 151

(15) Patricia A. Shaw. "Language and Identity, Language and the Land." *BC Studies – The British Columbian Quarterly*, No. 131 (Autumn 2001): 39-55

(16) Ross Bond. "National identities and the 2014 independence referendum in Scotland." *Sociological Research Online* 20, No. 4, (2015): 92-104. <https://doi.org/10.5153/sro.379>

(17) Hechter, *Internal Colonialism: The Celtic Fringe in British National Development*, 356

(18) David Ross. *Scotland: History of a Nation*. New Lanark: Lomond Books, 2008; Baird, Doun-Hauden: *The Socio-Political Determinants of Scottish Independence*, 261

**1889-2025 Anglicisation of Scotland's Higher Education.** The traditional Scottish approach to Education emphasized broad philosophical foundations and 'first principles' thinking across disciplines, reflecting Enlightenment ideals and close connections to Continental European universities, particularly German ones, which in turn emulated aspects of Scottish education. Yet, in Empire, and even post-Empire Britain, Scottish education has been portrayed as reactionary and constricting. "Grimly authoritarian and narrow" (1) was the verdict of one of Scotland's most distorting historians, the Kentish import to Scotland's higher education establishment, T.C. Smout.

The Scottish philosopher George Davie explored in more serious and sensitive detail the emphasis placed on philosophy and debate from 'first principles' in the native Scots academic tradition, before the implantation of teaching more compliant with English culture, which came in full force with the 1889 Commission that led to the Universities (Scotland) Act 1889. Of that Act, Davie wrote damningly: "*the Scottish heritage could much more easily be retained in a fossilised, static form, incapable of giving much trouble, than in a developing condition in which it might — from the British point of view — prove embarrassingly alive. Accordingly, the Commission's prime contribution to education was to suggest the introduction of a dual system which ordained the coexistence, side by side in the same institutions, of a Scottish principle which represented the national inheritance but which was to have little or no future, and of an English principle to which, in spite of its alien character, the future was to belong.*" (2)

The future, Davie says, was to belong to England, observing of Scotland's intelligentsia the abasement into dependency on English cultural modes:

*“the only points of view about education or culture which are taken seriously by responsible Scots are those which are reckoned respectable and fashionable over the border.”* (3)

Craig Beveridge and Ronald Turnbull are clear about the impulse behind the narrowing of Scottish education to suit English imperial demands:

*“those aspiring to swell the ranks of organisers and specialists required for the new Imperial Britain were relieved of the burden of doing compulsory philosophy and, instead, were given a narrower type of training which left them intellectually indistinguishable, or almost so, from the southern product – at any rate provided that, after taking their Scottish degree, they spent a year or two at Oxford or Cambridge acquiring the necessary polish”.* (4)

Scottish philosopher John Anderson (1893-1962), Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney from 1927 to 1958 and the other leading historian of Scottish education, shared Davie’s sense of loss of a great Scottish educational tradition under the wheels of the juggernaut of Empire: of the highly distinctive system of intellectual values inherited by Scotland from the (pre-Union) Reformation and the (post-Union) Enlightenment, Anderson asked:

*“whether this unique legacy of a philosophically centred system of education was to be vitalised to meet the challenges of the times, or allowed to die out finally and forever.”* (5)

Liberation Scotland is asking the question “will it be vitalise or allowed to die out finally and forever” of every aspect of this ancient nation’s cultural, linguistic, social and political life. Given the very low proportion of Scottish Academics at Scotland’s Universities (**Figure 3, p.16**), it has today become more urgent than ever.

1) Smout, T.C. (1986) *A Century of the Scottish People 1830-1950*. London: Collins, p. 216

(2) Davie, George (1961) *The Democratic Intellect: Scotland and Her Universities in the Nineteenth Century*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press p. 79

(3) *Ibid* p. 8

(4) Beveridge, C. and Turnbull, R. (1989) *The Eclipse of Scottish Culture*. Edinburgh: Polygon, p.78.

(5) George Davie, *John Anderson in Scotland*, Quadrant, (Sydney) July 1977

#### **Colonial Marker 4: Colonial Administration.**

**2000 – 2025: England’s continued subjugation, domination and exploitation of Scotland in the 21st century.** The continued colonization of Scotland by England took a more subtle and nuanced form in the 21st century. In 1999 when the Scottish Parliament was set up, England’s continued political and administrative control of Scotland was ensured by the reserving of all key functions to England’s Westminster Parliament via the **“Reserved Matters”**.

The effect of the Reserved Matters is that Scotland is not self-governing or politically autonomous and that England is able to continue to subjugate, dominate and exploit Scotland. This includes the exploitation of Scotland’s land and assets, the alteration of Scotland’s territorial boundaries, the sale of national assets and infrastructure to private companies at below market value prices, the adoption of discriminatory pricing and the imposition of unfair taxes and the adoption of laws and regulations that benefit England at the expense of Scotland. All of these actions and more, taken together, have removed the ability of the Scottish nation to prosper economically.

The extent of these reserved powers over Scotland (around 70% of Westminster’s legislative programme) is emphasised below.

**“Reserved Matters”**, set out in the Scotland Act 1998 amount to around 70% of the UK government’s annual legislative programme. They include all of the key political, economic and fiscal levers of state. These are:

1. Constitutional matters: The Crown, Union of Scotland and England, UK Parliament
2. Foreign affairs: International relations, EU relations, Defence, National security
3. Economic and fiscal matters: Monetary policy, Currency, Financial services, Most taxation, National insurance, Public service borrowing
4. Home affairs: Immigration, Border control, Drug policy, Data protection, National security, Counter-terrorism
5. Energy: Nuclear energy, Electricity, Coal, Oil and gas, Energy regulation
6. Transport: Aviation, Railways, Road traffic law, Marine transport
7. Employment: Employment rights, Industrial relations, Health and safety
8. Social Security: Most welfare benefits, Pensions
9. Broadcasting: BBC, Media regulation
10. Equal opportunities legislation.

#### **Colonial Marker 5: Colonial Exploitation.**

**1940s, 1950s, 1960s: Misuse of Scottish sovereign territory for biological warfare and experimental nuclear testing.** During the mid-20th Century the Anglo-British state located experimental biological and nuclear testing programmes in remote parts of north and west Scotland.

**Anthrax:** during World War II the UK Ministry of Defence tested Anthrax bombs on the island of Gruinard, located 1km off the NW Scottish mainland. Gruinard Island (1) was compulsorily purchased by the UK Ministry of Defence in 1941 and outdoor anthrax experiments conducted with little concern for the safety of local people. Contamination from this toxic

bacterium was recorded 1km away on the mainland. Clean up proved difficult and the island was finally declared safe only 50 years later.

**Yersinia Pestis (Plague):** In 1952, the UK Ministry of Defence conducted peacetime trials of bubonic and pneumonic plague on a ship moored in waters around the Isle of Lewis (the main inhabited island of the Hebrides), for biological warfare trials and with near disastrous consequences. (2),(3).

**Dounreay Experimental Fast Breeder Nuclear Reactor** - was built in 1955 by the UK Atomic Energy Authority, on Scotland's northern coastline near the town of Thurso. It was the first experimental reactor of its type and bred fissile plutonium for the British government's nuclear weapons programme. Radioactive waste was dumped locally for 18 years and although the facility is being decommissioned, it is likely that there will be restricted use of this site for several hundred years.

The experimental Dounreay Fast Breeder Reactor was located on Scotland's northern coastline, since the population was lower than that of alternative suitable areas considered in England. No consultation was conducted in Scotland over the hazardous, controversial and prejudicial use of Scotland's sovereign territory for the production of nuclear energy - and weapons grade materials. Between 1959 and 1977 approx. 800m<sup>3</sup> of mixed radioactive waste was dumped in an onsite shaft until an explosion resulted in seawater intrusion and leakage of radioactive materials into the surrounding coastal waters and sea bed, resulting in heavy and long term contamination. (4) A clean-up operation on this shaft is said to be in progress but is an extremely complex and lengthy engineering challenge. Dounreay itself is being demolished in a decommission project running to £2.6bn.

These examples illustrate the contempt of Scotland's colonising power towards Scotland's sovereign territory and its popular sense of a periphery remote from the metropolitan core considered suitable for the imposition of dangerous experimentation with little concern for the native population.

(1) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gruinard\\_Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gruinard_Island)

(2) [Press & Journal: Recalling when scientists tested bubonic plague in the Western Isles 70 years ago](#)

(3) <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5041545/>

(4) [BBC: Dounreay: 'World's deepest nuclear clean-up' to begin](#)

(5) ['Most radioactive' particle found on beach near Dounreay](#)

**1973: Closure of Scotland's Stock Exchanges and its longer-term consequences for Scotland's economy and industry.** This closure moved the Scottish Stock Exchange (1) - the centre of investment business in Scotland - out of Scotland, and into England (mainly London), thus hampering attempts by Scottish businesses and industry to expand and invest in newer

technologies and leading many to seek investment from offshore entities that both assumed ownership and extracted profit from Scotland's economy.

The act of removing a fundamental instrument of trade, Scotland's Stock Exchange was executed at a time of growing Scottish economic expansion, as the development of Scotland's vast North Sea oil and gas reserves was just commencing. Financial control was deliberately moved south to benefit England, with professional services following suit - an act of manifest harm to the Scottish economy. Scottish ownership and control of any significant aspect of the oil and gas industry was thus thwarted.

This colonising appropriation of the assets of Scotland has continued through current, externally funded activity in renewables generation and energy storage development particularly under the tax-incentives of the Freeports and Special Economic Zones in Scotland; schemes of deepening external economic control imposed upon Scotland by the UK Government.

This comment from Energy Voice describes the impact: *"this lack of financial support combined with politically driven ideological indifference meant that we never really became a supplier of sector critical hardware and when we did the companies concerned generally found itself turning to overseas sources of finance or simply selling themselves to an overseas company or private equity outfit to be able to fund their next stage of development It's surprising how many companies we think of as being "local" are in fact overseas owned by virtue of a corporate or private equity buy out."* (2) The article continues: *"A study by Momentous Change Ltd last year into the viability and potential for a new Scottish stock exchange noted that the last Scottish exchange closed in 1973 and was merged into the London Stock Exchange. Had it survived it would have enabled Scottish companies to raise capital, buy productive assets and grow in Scotland, helped ensure liquidity and of course to help in the overall scaling up process. Norway, Denmark, and other small countries have stock exchanges for these very reasons and it's not a coincidence they're already outperforming Scotland in developing energy transition technology."*

(1) [Wikipedia - the Scottish Stock Exchange](#)

(2) [Financing the Transition: Why not a Scottish stock exchange?](#)

(3) [The McCrone Report on Scotland's Oil Reserves, from The National newspaper](#)

**1999: Transfer of 15,500 km<sup>2</sup> of Scotland's internal waters and territorial seas, to England.** This changed the existing established maritime boundary between Scotland and England in the North Sea in England's favour. And permits exploitation of historical Scottish

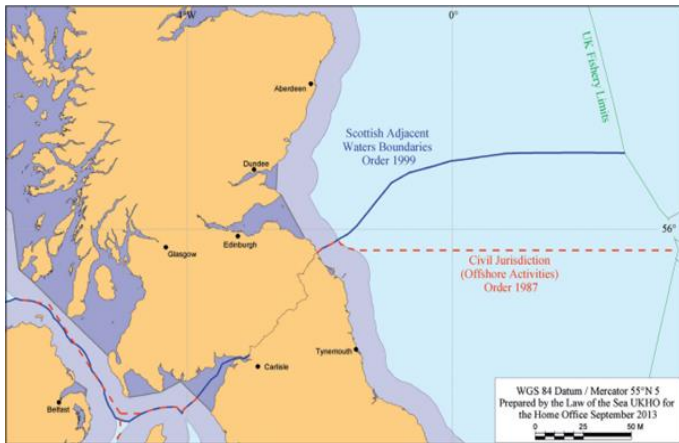
maritime resources (including fisheries and mineral rights) by UK government for the benefit of England.

It was enabled by passing of the Adjacent Waters Boundaries Order 1999 as a statutory instrument of the UK government. (1) This redefined the boundaries of internal waters, territorial sea, and fishing limits adjacent to the east coast of Scotland without the consent of the Scottish people (**Figure 4**). (2)

(1) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1999/1126/contents/made>

(2) <https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2012/01/scotlandengland-maritime-boundaries/>

**Figure 4: Impact of Adjacent Waters Boundaries Act 1999**



### **1970s – 2025: Colonial Economic Plunder – Oil & Gas and Renewable Energy; the realities of an energy-rich Scotland plundered under colonial rule.**

This concerns the theft (“exported” with an insignificant fraction of the proceeds coming to Scotland) of Scotland’s vast oil and gas wealth, which is still ongoing, and with much of Scotland’s gas production also used to support England’s gas-powered electricity generation.

It also concerns Scotland’s vast renewable energy production which is being plundered (“exported” at no cost to the importing country) for use in England.

In the 18th Century, England’s greatest resource was wool, which generated one-third of its foreign exports. No-one could imagine Scotland the ‘voluntary partner’ helping itself to England’s great wool resource, as any more credible than Scotland taking over a 20th Century City of London. In contrast, Scotland, the ‘voluntary partner’, has had its oil, gas and renewables removed in right of an English Crown, and limited revenue, obscurely arrived at, delivered back to it. Scotland’s Claim of Right does not permit our territory and resources to be plundered in this fashion, any more than the trade assurances of the Treaty of Union deemed theft an equitable trade practice. It falls on the ‘United Kingdom’ to demonstrate a valid partnership agreement which might justify any of this. Or accept it is justified

by nothing more than the imposition of a foreign, colonizing sovereignty.

Scotland’s renewable energy production is calculated to have a retail value of at least £60 billion per annum by 2030, based on UK prices of around £0.30 per kWh. And, given expected additional production, we might reasonably project this ‘resource’ will have a retail value exceeding £100 billion per annum shortly, i.e. every year for at least the next 30 years, and probably much longer.

Scots will not see or benefit from any of this as we would have done with a state-owned energy company and better management of our resources. In Scotland, high electricity prices are the norm and that will not change under London rule, which in turn also limits the future social and economic prospects of Scots. Scotland’s vast renewable energy capacity is, just like our oil and gas, geared mostly to serving the needs of England’s far greater population. As much as 90% of this production is planned to directly supply England via cables already laid and in the process of being laid. As is the case with oil and gas, Scots will not see much, if any, financial benefit from this ‘business’.

But the effects from exploitation of Scotland’s resources does not end there. Whilst resources are extracted cheaply from a colony, supplies to the colonized country are priced high. Which means a colonized people get hit twice – the theft of their resources AND being made to suffer higher prices for goods and services supplied back to them by the Coloniser and the corporations and market “regulators” who control the (rigged) ‘market’.

In order to illustrate and prove this reality, we compare colonial Scotland’s domestic electricity prices with other oil and gas rich countries which are independent (**Figure 5**). Most of these, like Scotland, also now have a strong focus on developing renewable energy capacity. The data in the table below tells us that, as part of the UK, Scotland’s electricity price of US\$0.44 per kWh (2023) is far higher than all of the world’s major oil producing nations (e.g. USA \$0.17 per kWh and Norway just \$0.11 per kWh.)

Norway’s low electricity prices have enabled it to build over 100 electric ferries; and 90% of all new car registrations there are electric. In several other oil rich nations electricity prices are only about one tenth of that in Scotland, with some very close to zero! So Scotland is unique amongst the world’s oil & gas producing nations, suffering from extremely high electricity prices imposed via London rule.

**Figure 5: Household electricity prices worldwide in September 2023, for major oil + gas producing countries (in U.S. dollars per kilowatt-hour):**

Country	U.S. dollars per kilowatt-hour
<b>Scotland/UK</b>	<b>0.44</b>
USA	0.17
Mexico	0.12
Norway	0.11
UAE	0.08
Russia	0.06
Venezuela	0.05
Saudi Arabia	0.05
Qatar	0.03
Nigeria	0.02
Iran	0.02

### **Colonial Marker 6: Denial of Self-Determination.**

**2014: A false referendum on Scottish independence.** A referendum was held in Scotland on 18 September 2014, using the referendum question "Should Scotland be an independent country?". 55% of voters answered "No" and 45% "Yes".

The referendum used an open franchise; this included people with temporary residences or loose ties to Scotland being allowed to vote on the constitutional future of Scotland.

The result of the 2014 Westminster-designed local-authority franchise-based non-binding "referendum" (1) did not provide a true picture of the desire for independence among indigenous Scots or residents with a proven long-term commitment to Scotland. This franchise is acceptable for domestic municipal affairs but not for national constitutional matters, as these should be reserved for indigenous Scots and those with a proven long-term commitment to Scotland and its people.

The referendum was managed by the UK's devolved administration in Scotland (Holyrood) and covered by the 'national' UK media in Scotland (including the BBC

and newspapers based outside of Scotland) who were visibly biased in favour of a 'No' vote.

Given the media bias (2) and the breaching of the campaigning "purdah" period and the new initiatives/'bribes' offered by UK politicians as inducements to vote "No" late in the campaign period (3), the 2014 referendum was clearly a 'performative' exercise by UK authorities to mask a substantive and comprehensive denial of the democratic right of the Scots to self-determination.

By simulating a democratic expression of that right, the 2014 independence referendum result was used to try to convince the international community that Scotland is indeed a voluntary partner in a union of nations and wishes to remain there by consent, which is not the case for the majority of Scots.

- (1) <https://www.emb.scot/scottish-independence-referendum-2014-3/scottish-independence-referendum-18-september-2014/10>  
 (2) <https://www.eupublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/scot.2016.0150>  
 (3) <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/inside-vow-how-historic-daily-6464878>

### **2016: Scots Denied National Choice in EU**

**Referendum.** In holding the referendum, the UK government did not acknowledge or respect the legitimate sovereignty of Scotland and as a result, Scotland under force by the UK government left the EU in January 2020 after 47 years of membership (along with the rest of the UK) despite clearly voting to remain and against its national democratic will.

EU exit (Brexit) provides further direct and clear evidence of denial of Scotland's sovereignty and democratic agency within the so-called "voluntary partnership" of the United Kingdom. With less than 10% of the UK population, the views and choices made by Scots are simply overruled, systematically and without consultation, by the administering Anglo-British state, where these diverge from those of England. This is in breach of England's obligations under the Claim of Right and the comprehensively abused, discredited and never-implemented Treaty of Union.

Scotland, as an independent state had enjoyed several hundred years of peaceful trading and cultural interchange with the countries of mainland Europe. This is reflected in the rich presence of European language roots in the Scots tongue, the Latin influence in Scots Law, and religious influences. During most of this period England was at war with much of Europe as well as with Scotland.

In other words Scotland's culture, traditions and heritage are distinctly far more European/Latin than Anglo-Saxon, and hence we find domination by the latter to be no more than an aggressive form of Cultural Imperialism and hence oppression, with our people and

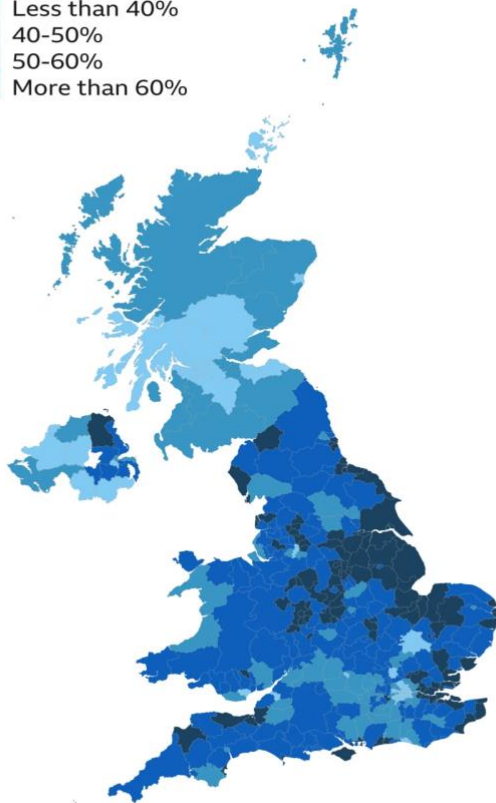
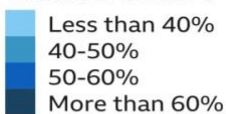
nation subject to the constant imposition of a range of colonial procedures obscured by the pretence/hoax of union.

Scotland was removed from membership of the European Single Market and the Customs Union by the UK government against its democratic will and is suffering from very significant and adverse economic, cultural and demographic impacts from this decision.(2)

2016 UK referendum on membership of the European Union, 62% of the electorate in Scotland voted to remain in the EU, with a majority of voters in all Scottish regions voting in favour of continued membership (Figure 6).(1)

## Figure 6 'Brexit' Referendum Results

### Leave share of the vote



4% of Gibraltar also voted to Leave

Source: Electoral Commission



(1) <https://ig.ft.com/sites/elections/2016/uk/eu-referendum/>

(2) <https://www.gov.scot/news/counting-the-impact-of-brexit/>

## Colonial Marker 7: Shared features of Colonized Societies.

### Introduction

Frantz Fanon's book *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961) established how colonial violence creates intergenerational psychological trauma which manifests as persistent anxiety and depression in colonized populations. This was expanded by Ashis Nandy's *The*

*Intimate Enemy* (1983) which shows how colonialism creates a psychological framework of self-hatred and cultural alienation that continues to affect health behaviours long after formal colonialism ends.

This psychological impact combines with material deprivation, as described by Albert Memmi (1957), where economic marginalization and social degradation become internalized, leading to what is now recognized as historical trauma response - visible in high rates of substance abuse and mental health issues across generations. Memmi specifically identifies how the systematic denigration of native languages and cultural practices creates what he terms a "psycho-existential complex", where a colonized people internalize their supposed inferiority, leading to self-alienation and profound psychological damage. Nandy deepens this analysis by exploring how colonialism operates through the "intimate enemy" of cultural and linguistic dominance, creating a psychological state where the colonized begin to view their own cultural practices and language as backward or primitive.

Memmi's cultural dualism has become a salient and much debated feature in Scottish literature and culture where it is often expressed through what's known as the "Caledonian antiszygy" - a term coined by G. Gregory Smith in 1919 to describe the dual nature of Scottish identity and its literature. Post-colonial literature is only beginning to impact on this ongoing debate and, indeed, to reveal the true source of this much discussed phenomenon.

The accompanying interplay of physical health with historical trauma response, inferiorisation and lack of acceptance is today widely understood. Michael Marmot's *Status Syndrome* (Bloomsbury 2004) <https://tinyurl.com/257c86g6> demonstrates that health outcomes follow a clear social gradient, where lower social status consistently correlates with poorer health, independent of absolute poverty.

This relationship operates through multiple interconnected pathways: reduced autonomy and control over life circumstances reinforces chronic stress; limited social participation weakens support networks; restricted opportunities for full societal engagement reduce access to health-promoting resources.

These factors create a self-reinforcing cycle, a feedback loop where lower status augments biological stress responses leading to poorer health outcomes which in turn further diminish social participation and control, perpetuating health inequalities across generations.

**2000s: Scotland's Health Crisis – an Ongoing Colonial Legacy.** With an average life expectancy at birth of just 77.1 years (and in the most deprived areas only 47 years) Scotland lags comparable European states by 6.4%.

All other indicators underperform England and show marked negative variance from the European nation average. Scotland suffers between 4 and 5 times the European average for drug deaths. Alcohol deaths are nearly 3 times the European average.

This should be a matter of alarm not only to the UK government's arm in Scotland (Holyrood) but to the UK government itself. Instead, it is used as a stick to beat those administering Scotland, chastising them for not achieving more with consistently less financial resources and with no direct access to Scotland's own resources. No consideration is ever given to the root cause of this malaise, the colonial landscape, or any thought of how to alleviate it.

As Michael Mammot shows, it is futile to try to cure these ills by a general lifting of prosperity, even if economic conditions permitted and the Administering State state were willing to do so. A comprehensive societal reset is demanded that will relieve native Scottish society, much of it exposed to the health and welfare conditions described here, from an externally-imposed cultural divide to replace it with the more equitable society for which they consistently vote.

Sir Harry Burns, the former chief Medical Officer of Scotland, highlighted the reputation of Scotland as being “the sick man of Europe” (Burns 2009) (2)

A comparison of key health indicators between Scotland and 5 other European countries including England - the others chosen for similarity of population, makes for a bleak picture. **(Figure 7, p. 17)** Scotland has the worst outcomes in all 10 of the categories examined; life expectancy, obesity, drug deaths, alcohol deaths, homicides, prison population, suicide, poor mental health, cancer mortality and smoking. Around 60% of Scotland's excess mortality stems from psycho-social causes: alcohol, drugs, violence and suicide. The remaining excess is mainly attributable to cancer, cardiovascular causes and stroke. (3)

**Poor Dental Health** Dental health is widely considered a valuable indicator of overall population health, as it provides a snapshot of socioeconomic conditions and generational patterns and correlates with other health metrics. The persistence of Scotland's deep oral health inequalities is highlighted here. (4) The Scottish Needs Assessment Programme on Adult Oral Health reported: *“The level of dental health in Scotland is poorer than in England and Wales with approximately one in five Scottish individuals over the age of 16 years having lost all their natural teeth, and almost all of the remainder having some form of gum disease. This is exaggerated by the fact that only a small proportion of population is registered with a dentist.”* (5)

(1) [Health indicators: Scotland compared with England and four small European states](#)

(2) [The Sick Man of Europe](#)

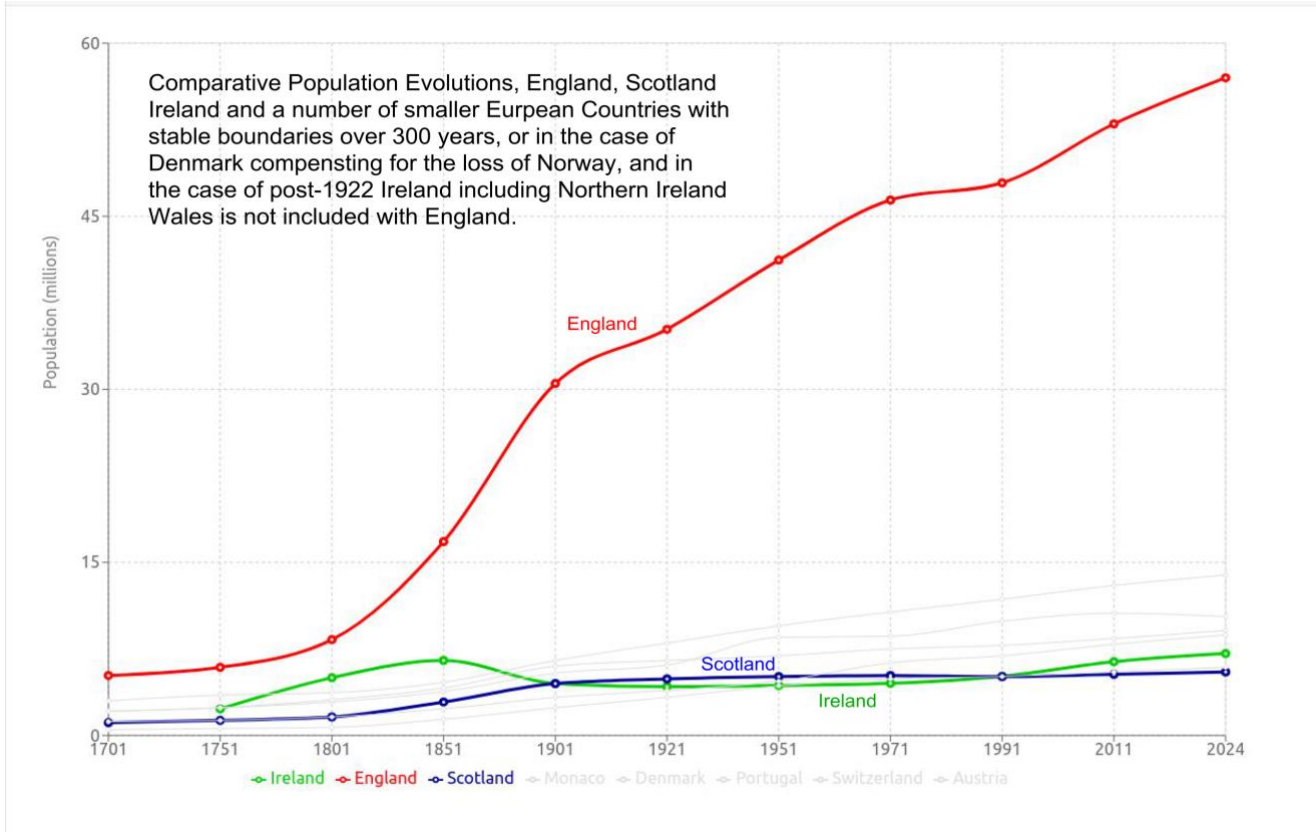
(3) [www.longevity.co.uk](http://www.longevity.co.uk)

(4) <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41406-023-1008-9>

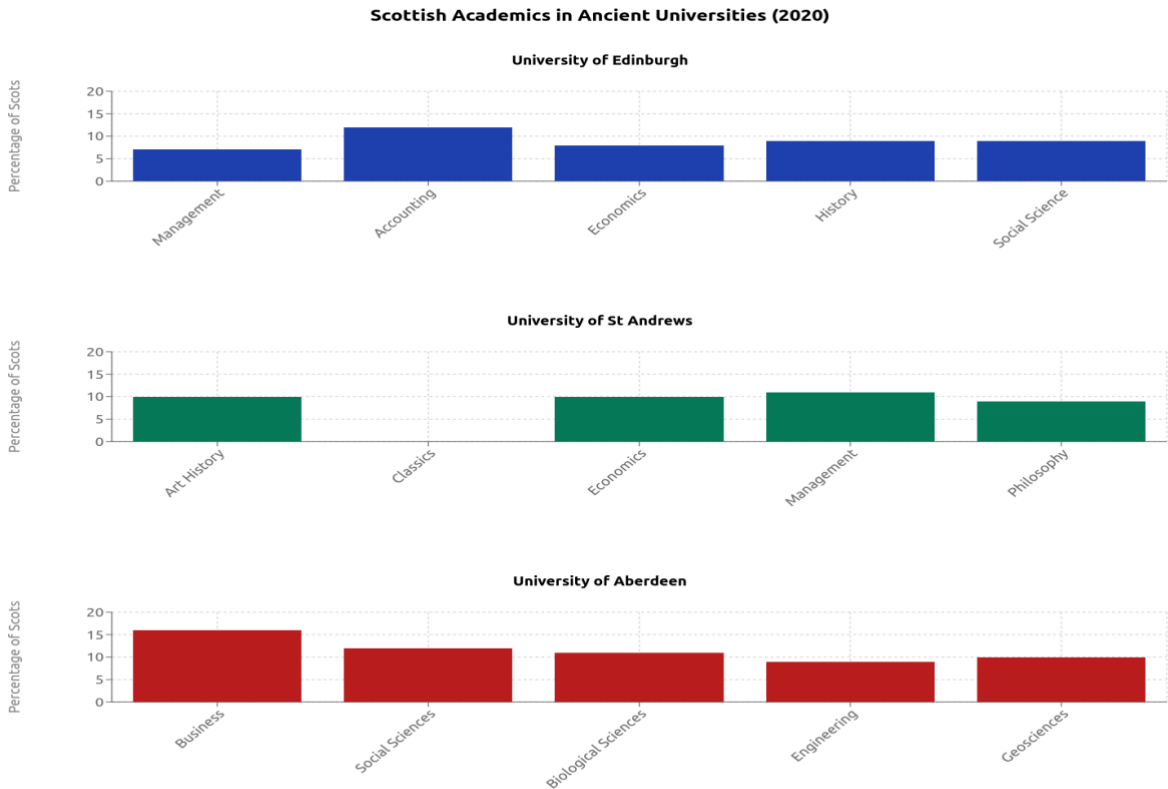
(5) [https://www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SNAP-Adult\\_Oral\\_Health.pdf](https://www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SNAP-Adult_Oral_Health.pdf)

- executive summary

**Figure 2: Population Growth Comparison 1701-2024**



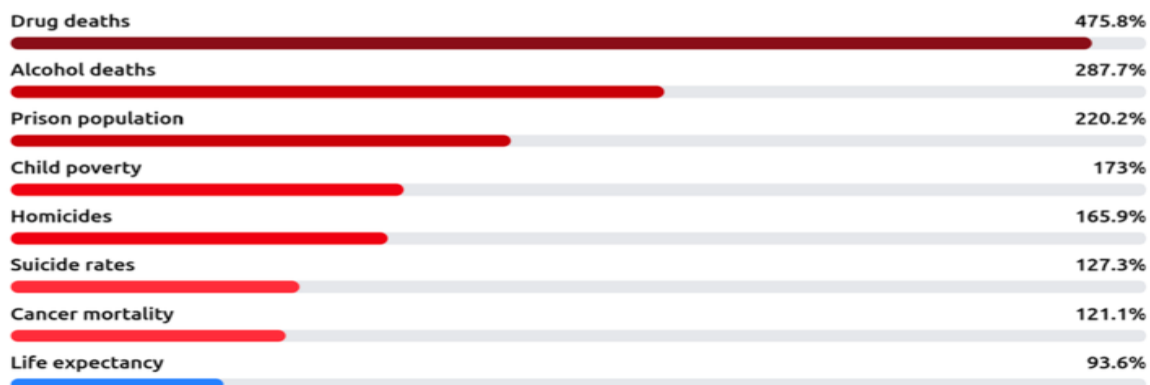
**Figure 3: Proportion of Scottish Academics at Scottish Universities (2020)**



Source: Data derived from University websites, academic staff only.

**Figure 7: Population Growth Comparison 1701-2024**

**Scotland's Health Indicators vs Other Countries\***



\*Comparison ratio where other countries = 100%

Indicator	Scotland	England	Ireland	Norway	Denmark	Finland
Life expectancy (years)	77.1	81.3	82.6	83.2	81.6	82.0
Drug deaths (per million)	295	76	70	47	55	76
Alcohol deaths (per million)	205	140	115	43	62	65
Homicides (per 100,000)	1.7	1.1	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.6
Prison population (per 100,000)	136	132	77	56	63	51
Suicide rates (per 100,000)	14.8	10.7	12.1	11.8	9.2	13.4
Cancer mortality (per 100,000)	311	258	275	242	261	249
Child poverty (families >3 children) %	24	32	19.6	9.8	12.7	13.4

Sources: WHO European Gateway, OECD health statistics, ScotPHO, Eurostat, EMCDDA (2022-23), ONS, Irish CSO, Scottish Government

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF COLONIAL MARKERS

### Taken by Fraud, Held Down by Force and Kept Down by Fear

*“The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”*

— Steve Biko

For several centuries from the Middle Ages to the modern era, England’s elites sought to conquer neighbouring Scotland and English foreign policy toward Scotland was always aimed at ultimate conquest, ownership and control, through numerous wars and subterfuge.

The 1707 Anglo-Scottish ‘Union’, implemented before democracy was introduced, was wholly rejected by the mass of the Scottish people at the time, and only signed by Scotland’s elite representatives under duress and bribery after further threat of military force by England.

But this Union was no more than annexation, Scots being merely another colonized people handed a worthless treaty that was immediately and ever since, violated. As a consequence, Scotland and its people have been, and remain today, subject to an extensive range of colonial procedures severely damaging to the development of its people and the nation itself.

This includes mass population displacement, ethnic oppression and discrimination against the indigenous native people and culture which was in large part revenge for the 18th century wars of independence to end the union and English rule. Colonialism always involves hateful racism and also leads to internalized racism impacting the minds of the colonized group. And we know that through this process, ethnic oppression becomes normalized in the colonial setting due to pathological impacts and a colonial mindset that determines the passivity and acceptance of the colonized group.

Demographic and economic under-development of Scotland has been a continuous theme relative to the ‘core’ nation England within the UK internal colonialism model. Colonialism resulted in a constant ‘planned’ loss of population in Scotland over three centuries, whilst Westminster policies emphasized both economic expansion and population growth just across the border in England. At the time of Union, England’s population was five times that of Scotland; today it is ten times.

Cultural substitution of Scotland into a ‘North Britain’ region was attempted but has stalled. However, colonial cultural assimilation created a cultural hegemony favouring the dominant Anglophone culture and values emphasising private ownership, private profit and the individual, in contrast to Scots’ traditional cultural norms of protecting society and the common good.

The administering Power uses ‘divide and rule’ policies to split the Scottish people, with Gael-Scots and Catholics set against Pict/Lowland-Scots and Protestants, and vice versa. This is continued today with the administering Power passing the Gaelic Language Act in 2005, but with no equivalent Scots Language Act nor resources for the benefit of the bulk of the people who still speak Scots, their mother tongue.

State and institutional restrictions prevent many Scots from accessing their own elite universities now operating as international businesses which prioritise Anglophone and higher fee students from outside Scotland. Scots fill only a minority of places at postgraduate level and especially in doctoral study. This in turn means there are very few

Scottish academics and professors working in Scotland's universities, only around 1 in 10, and reducing. Today the Scots are a people deprived of opportunity in their own land, resulting in significant under-development of the native population and culture.

Racism is therefore evident in this as in any colonial framework and this includes constant attempts by the colonizer to debase the colonized group. Although often obscured, racism becomes institutionalized in any colonial society. As was common with Ireland and the Irish until recently, the Scot is the victim of endless English jokes and ridicule even at the highest levels of government, media and society, including within Scotland itself.

Historical instances of oppression and genocidal acts are downplayed or denied in any authoritative colonial narrative usually written by colonialists. The promotion of Scots language and culture is ridiculed rather than prioritized. A colonised society therefore remains burdened and oppressed through social and linguistic prejudice and segregation favouring the dominant imposed Anglo (i.e. colonial) culture and its own values and symbols, and where Scottish history, culture and heritage are diminished, forgotten, and replaced through Anglo domination.

All the while, external economic plunder of Scotland continues, which is the main purpose of colonialism. This is now accelerating once more with the colonizing power moving to grasp the impending vast Scottish renewable energy bonanza; just as it did in the 1970s when Scotland's oil and gas began to flow, pushing hundreds of billions of Scotland's pounds into London's Treasury over the last half century and more, with not a penny in royalties paid to the real owner, the Scottish people (in stark contrast to Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund, established for the benefit of its citizens, and today earning over £200 billion in interest annually).

After Scotland was annexed and colonised, the Scottish army was absorbed into England's colonial army, just like the Indian, Kenyan, Nigerian and Irish soldiers and others too, and used to suppress other peoples, as well as their own. These soldiers were considered 'no great loss if they fell' as they were deployed in the deadly work expanding England's Empire. The deployment of colonial armies including Scottish soldiers to fight England's numerous foreign wars (over 180 conflicts) also had the dual purpose of removing the prospect of civil unrest within impoverished colonies from where recruits were sourced. Unlike Scotland, Ireland has avoided some 80 of England's colonial conflicts since its independence a century ago. The Scots have likewise had enough of England's imperial warring.

Whenever colonialism is imperilled, 'it reveals its fangs' (Fanon), confirming that 'colonialism is force'. Reflections from the administering Power's own Senior Civil Servants (UK Cabinet Constitution Director) confirm that the UK Government's relationship with Scotland is colonial; that is, it is based on force, not consent; that the UK seeks only to deny Scots their inalienable right to Self-Determination, and; that the UK 'voluntary union' is and always has been a pretence, i.e. a cruel hoax.

Daniel Defoe, one of England's early 18th Century spies propagandising in favour of the Union, stated in an essay addressed to English parliamentarians and merchants that "the advantages of this Union shall be greater to England than to Scotland". During the 1920s, government papers confirmed that the UK Treasury kept almost three-quarters of revenues raised in Scotland, the latter having to make do with just 28% of its own money. The same remains true today where Scots are forced to make do with an annual block grant of £43 billion from Westminster whilst consideration of Scotland's artificially low GDP-per-capita (compared with its near neighbour independent countries, e.g. Denmark, Norway, Ireland)

indicates that a colonial price is still being remitted in the opposite direction in the order of £150 billion (or more) each year.

Scotland's international export trade today remains vastly under-developed compared to our near neighbours, due to a lack of investment in and control over the nation's major seaports, which the administering Power has sold to foreign-owned offshore corporations; the latter impose high charges on ships and cargo which discourages trade. Scotland's major exporting heavy industries have been shut down and its commercial businesses allowed to be acquired, rationalised or closed by external interests, leaving its economy externally-dependent, weak and vulnerable.

Meantime Scotland's 'domestic' UK trade is fully exploited by the administering Power, particularly the energy sector (oil and gas, renewables) which it dominates, with zero royalties remitted back to Scotland for extraction of its resources. Similarly, the bulk of Scotland's imports are transported via one single source – England – with goods and services arriving at high/monopoly prices, including Scotland's home-produced energy for consumption by Scottish households and businesses at the highest retail prices in the world.

Approximately two-thirds of Scotland's entire trade is dominated by England in this way which means Scotland derives little benefit and great disadvantage from a one-sided colonial trading arrangement. Like many former English colonies (e.g. Ireland, Australian, Canada), after independence Scotland will need to reorient its trade away from an exploitative 'mother country' towards other nations; this necessitates rapid decolonization and an end to Scotland's industries, economy and people being forced to serve primarily its dominant oppressors' economic needs under duress.

Scotland's pre-Union history was as a friendly trading nation in Europe, which is in stark contrast to an aggressive anti-European England, the latter almost continually at war with European states, as it was with Scotland, for most of its history. Scotland's Latin and Presbyterian, Legal and Educational culture and traditions which emphasise protection and improvement of society and the common good, also align more closely with that of European states, and far less with the Anglo-Saxon culture of England which prioritises private ownership, private profit, and the utility of the individual.

Scotland's culture, traditions and heritage are therefore distinctly far more European /Latin than Anglo-Saxon, as reflected in a substantial majority vote by Scots in 2016 to remain in the European Union, a democratic decision disrespected and blocked by the administering Power; hence Scots find their position within the UK Union charade to be no more than subject to an aggressive form of Cultural Imperialism and oppression, leaving the people bystanders in their own land.

Still a Non-Self-Governing Territory in its full meaning, the Scots people and nation remain subject to the constant imposition of a range of colonial procedures and propaganda, often obscured by the pretence and hoax of Union. The repeated blocking of Scottish self-determination by the administering Power is a blatant denial of the human rights of the Scottish people and a violation of the 1960 UN 'Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples' and subsequent Resolutions.

Scotland also exhibits many of the poor health characteristics of a colonised people separated from their own resources and dislocated from their culture and with half the population living in or close to poverty levels. This includes lower life expectancy, high addiction levels, a range of illnesses, suicides, mental disorder, homicides and a high prison population (the highest in Western Europe).

Scotland is administered by an elite running its institutions which is for the most part culturally assimilated, Anglophone and holding to English values. This arrangement is fostered through a segregated, colonial (i.e. private) school education system and restricted access (in favour of elites) to elite universities for the more privileged group. Combined with colonial elites appointed from the 'mother country', together they make up the institutional elite and cultural hegemony that controls and directs Scotland's national institutions, and which reflects a different culture and values from the indigenous Scots-speaking people.

The steady and increasing desire for independence in Scotland is also to do with 'a peoples' growing awareness of their oppression, as well as their national culture / consciousness amidst ongoing questioning of an imposed dominant culture and identity; and therein lies the 'colonial hoax' and cultural illusion that is 'Britishness', which a great many former colonies have since discarded. This cultural illusion applies in the same way to Scots as it does to so many other colonized peoples and nations around the world who were sold the rather novel idea that they could all be 'British' (or rather English), and hence acquire a far 'superior' and more valued cultural and national identity than that of their own, by implication, 'inferior' ethnic group.

Yet still Scotland's administering Power, in an effort to keep its colonial racket going, and following a dubious and one-sided referendum process in 2014, insists that: despite Ireland's partial liberation, no constituent part is allowed to leave the UK; that the UK government insists that it can block any and every lawful path to Scottish independence if it wishes to; that insofar as Scotland has a right to national self-determination, it is for Westminster, not Scotland, to decide when – and if – that right is to be exercised; and that Westminster has made a choice to disallow the exercise of that right to national self-determination for an indefinite period, in spite of repeated explicit majority votes of Scots in favour of it.

**And so, it is here that Scotland and the rest of the world are entitled to draw – must draw – from these messages the conclusion that the UK is not and never has been a voluntary union of different nations. That the resistance of Westminster means the Union is neither voluntary nor one of consent. That because self-determination of Scots is being denied, the United Kingdom is holding the Scots by force of UK law. And hence, by implication, the Scots are, in truth, a colonized people who retain their inalienable right to self-determination, to be an independent nation (again), to decolonize, and to be liberated from oppression and exploitation as a matter of urgency.**