

Lecture 1 – National Identities/ National Loyalties

IL

- British attitudes and behaviour have their roots and causes in **history**. History is the skeletal framework of today's **sociocultural identity** and is an important factor in understanding "Britishness".
- England is **not** Britain.
- Britain consists of **four nations** (= cultures): England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland.
- Unification into **one** state was completed in **1800** (unitarian government).
- Britain today is a **cosmopolitan/multicultural mix** – especially since the Second World War.
- Today we have got: indigenous 'native' groups
 ethnic 'colonial' groups
 refugees and asylum seekers

making up a population of **58.7 million** inhabitants (of which approx. **3 million** are ethnic minorities = 5.5%). NB: There is a population density of **239 persons per sq. km**

- Loyalty (sport)
- History of arrival and settlement started seriously **5000 years ago**.
Three **major** 'peaceful' waves of integration have occurred in more recent times:
 1. 1840s → the **Irish** integration (3/4 million)
 2. 1880s → The **Jewish** integration (150,000 + 60,000)
 3. 1950s → "**New Commonwealth**" integration (1-2 million)

Should there be: **assimilation** (cultural absorption), **integration**, or **acculturation** (cultural exchange)?

Division of loyalties / 'foreigners' – foreigners

- **Cultural geography** is important in forming basic national character:
 - a) size and topography
 - b) race
 - c) language
 - d) system
 - e) symbol
- An island nation **not** successfully invaded since 1066 with **no written constitution**.
- **Today** there is a feeling that a **constitution** needs to be written in order to guarantee basic **civil rights** due to 18 years of Conservative rule and the 'ever-changing' world relationships brought about by "globalisation" and, more so, the European Union.
- England (and the English) dominates.
- English (British) character.