

A Short History of the British People in the 22nd Century

by

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[**Note:** In this story Hispanics and Wasps are the bad guys. We are all capable of being bad guys so please don't be offended if you are Hispanic or Wasp.]

By the end of the twenty-first century the world was dominated by three superpowers, China, Europa and the Confederation of the Americas (CA). Together they had formed a loose Conference of the Powers (CP) which was intended to appear as a form of world government but was in reality a figleaf for their competing chauvinistic ambitions. This organisation led an intermittent existence, but survived conflicts between the powers. Britain, having left the European Union before the establishment of Europa in 2030, was, unlike its reunited neighbour, Ireland, a backward colony of the CA.

A majority of the population of the old USA and Canada, taken together, was now Spanish speaking, while in the whole CA Anglos comprised a tiny minority. English speaking Americans felt themselves increasingly beleaguered by Hispanics, and in these circumstances a curious and irrational phenomenon arose. People who had little in common with WASPS came to identify themselves as such just because they were native English speakers. If they were Catholic or Jewish they often adopted some form of Protestantism, but their origins could otherwise not easily be disguised if only because the cyber age had made the changing of names impracticable. There were even many blacks who called themselves Wasps. In 2096 Timothy Kleinherz had written a book called *Waspland* in which he proposed the return of all Wasps to their ancestral home in Britain. There they would establish an exclusively Waspish state in which they would be enabled to realise their full genius as a people. He had contemplated other homelands for the Wasps and it is quite clear from his diary entries about one of these that he foresaw the removal of the native population of whatever country was chosen. But Old Blighty proved the only land on which the Wasps could agree, and its degenerate population was not thought to offer a serious hindrance to colonisation.

During one of the periodic wars between the powers in the Third World, Emilio Rodrigues, Foreign Minister of the CA, was prevailed upon to issue a declaration (subsequently known as the Rodrigues Declaration) to John Hamburger, a Wasp leader, stating that the CA viewed with favour the establishment of a homeland for the Wasps in Britain. Various reasons of state lay behind this cynical move about which it was considered unnecessary to consult the British themselves. This already demoralised people looked on in increasing alarm as first a trickle, later a steady stream and finally a flood of Waspish immigrants moved in and took over large tracts of land either by purchase from absentee landlords or by renting. At first it was thought that the new immigrants would integrate into British society, just as many others had before, but it became increasingly clear that Kleinherz's plan of an exclusively Waspish state was the dominant agenda. Brits were not entitled, for example, to join Waspish trades unions and there was a policy of excluding them from the workforce of Waspish enterprises.

Wasp settlement was particularly heavy in Scotland, the North, the West Midlands, Wales and the South West. The Scottish Highlands and Southern Uplands, the Pennine moors, the Welsh hills and the South Downs were transformed into market gardens by the application of the most modern technology. The world was impressed but the Brits became rebellious and there followed a period of considerable unrest between 2136 to 2139.

Meanwhile, in 2133, following a period of economic instability, Adolfus Haciendas, who had no serious rival, was appointed President of the CA on a Hispanic Nationalist ticket. Further presidential elections were abolished and a deliberate policy of persecution, and later extermination, of Wasps was pursued. We can now see this catastrophe as the period of history when the fate of the Brits was sealed. In 2139 Europa and China, feeling themselves threatened by American claims on Iberia and the Philippines, declared war on the CA and after six years succeeded in overthrowing the Hispnat government. A repentant administration of National Unity was established and in 2147 the CP convened and all three powers fully endorsed the establishment of a Wasp state in Britain. A partition plan was drawn up which granted the lands already mentioned to the Wasps, the Brits having unwisely boycotted the proceedings on the grounds that they were unjust and illegal.

A civil war then broke out, with Europa half-heartedly backing the Brits, having already secretly negotiated a peace deal with the Wasps. Not surprisingly in these circumstances the Brits lost the war and ceded even more territory to the Wasp state, which had been declared in 2148. Under the CP plan London, which had particular significance for both sides, was to become an international city, but by the end of the war the Wasps had taken the West End and had expanded a corridor down the Thames valley to connect this with the main part of Waspland. Europa, in accordance with its secret arrangement with the Wasps, stayed on to administer the rump of Britain which had not been taken to form the new state. A pre-planned policy was meanwhile put into effect in the expanded Waspland (now incorporating three-quarters of Britain) whereby a process of transfer was to be achieved. Any British towns or villages which did not actively collaborate were besieged, many of the smaller settlements being raised to the ground and erased from the map. Where their people had not fled in advance, they were either killed or driven to the nearest frontier. By the end of this process only 10% of the British population of the Wasp area remained, and these were forthwith subject to all kinds of discrimination, particularly in relation to land use.

Huge refugee camps were set up in the Home Counties, East Anglia and Lincolnshire. Other refugees settled all over the world, but particularly in Europa. In Ireland they became a considerable destabilising influence in the delicate balance of power there. On the other hand, Wasps from all over the world were persuaded, and where necessary coerced (this applied particularly to those living in China), into transferring to the new state. Indeed they enjoyed an automatic 'right of return', a fact which the Brits pointed to as manifestly unfair. The CP publicly maintained that Brits should also be allowed to return to their lands and houses, but the powers did nothing to force Waspland to implement such a policy because in private they either disagreed with it or thought it too troublesome.

Naturally the Brits felt a deep sense of injustice about what had happened, and to begin with naively believed the CP would ensure that they regained at least some of their rights. There were *apparent* reasons for optimism. Fine sounding speeches were made in the CP defending them, and resolution after resolution in their favour was carried. Moreover, not all Anglos accepted Waspism; some were staunch opponents of it, including a few who actually lived in Waspland. Europa was particularly voluble in the expression of pro-Brit sentiments, partly because their people were greatly upset by the spectacle of Brit suffering. But the potent cries of 'anti-Waspism' and 'self-hating Wasp' succeeded in quelling most criticism, or at least rendering it ineffectual. No actions followed and the Brits grew restive.

Guerrilla groups started to make raids across Waspland's borders, and these, together with the massive overkill which they always provoked, served to remind the world that the Brits were still there and waiting. It was at least in part to silence such actions and their effect that Waspland launched a pre-emptive attack in 2167, occupying in the process the remainder of Britain. Many Wasps believed that the occupied territories were theirs by right anyway, and a policy of colonising them, against international law, was soon instituted. The City of London and the East End were also illegally annexed. Criticism of this policy was also met with the defence that it was necessary in the interests of security. The world community continued to mouth its objections, but silently recognised that Waspland was going to colonise the remainder of Britain come what may, and might as well be left to get on with it as quickly as possible. In this way another unpleasant chapter in world history could be closed.

The Brits had little to lose, they believed, by extending their guerrilla activities internationally. True they were condemned for being terrorists, a term of opprobrium which came to be applied to anyone who used force against the wishes of the powers, but such actions paid dividends in terms of world recognition. Later the conflict returned to the occupied territories with a general uprising against the Wasp authorities. The problem for the Brits was that their justifiable anger could always be presented as extremism, and in a world which was more interested in pacification than peace such a tactic worked. Nevertheless in Waspland itself there was a war-weariness, and the powers came to realise that the final suppression and disempowerment of the Brits might not be achieved in time to prevent a major destabilising conflict. Some device was required to trick the Brits into believing for long enough that they were going to be granted some form of justice while the final stages of pacification were carried out.

This was achieved through the secret Omaha accords which set a timetable for negotiations but failed to spell out publicly that there was little left to negotiate. Under the agreement the British leader, Yvonne Armitage (nicknamed Boadicea), who already enjoyed special privileges in Waspland, effectively abandoned all hope of a truly independent state on the vague promise that she would be granted some form of limited autonomy in the occupied territories with part of London as its capital. Settlement building and expansion was not to be stopped, nor was there to be any restriction on the building of by-pass roads. Indeed in the following years this process was greatly accelerated leaving the British areas divided up into small cantonettes. Brighton, for example was effectively cut off from London by the enormous South Downs settlement, now an outer suburb of the capital. In any case

hardly any Brightonians were permitted to visit London on the grounds that they were a security risk.

Boadicea had gambled that the powers, and particularly the CA, would squeeze reasonable concessions out of Waspland, thus saving her position with her own people. No such pressure was exerted. Instead when at last it came to finalising the Omaha process it became clear that she was expected to capitulate publicly all that she had already conceded privately. Clearly she could not sign. Whatever private advantages she might gain, her people would crucify her. The final insult was the 'generous' proposal to allocate Redhill, which had some years previously been annexed to London, as the British capital. As for the City of London, she was told she could have a seat on the St Paul's parish council.

It was said by the Wasps that their Prime Minister, Edward Bronowski, had gone the extra mile in offering 90% of what the Brits had been asking for. Boadicea was heavily criticised for not accepting such a benevolent offer in the interests of peace. What only fully emerged later was that the 90% Bronowski claimed he had proffered related to the secret agreements which had already been concluded at Omaha, as understood by the Wasp side, rather than to the public position of the British. We can now look back in shame from the middle of the twenty-third century at our part in the final destruction of the British in this island. We join the Americans, who destroyed the native peoples living there, and the Australians, who decimated the Aborigenes, as criminals against humanity. It is ironic to reflect that we have done this to the very people who were supposed to have defined our identity.