

# POLS 103 A

# Comparative Politics

Class 7:

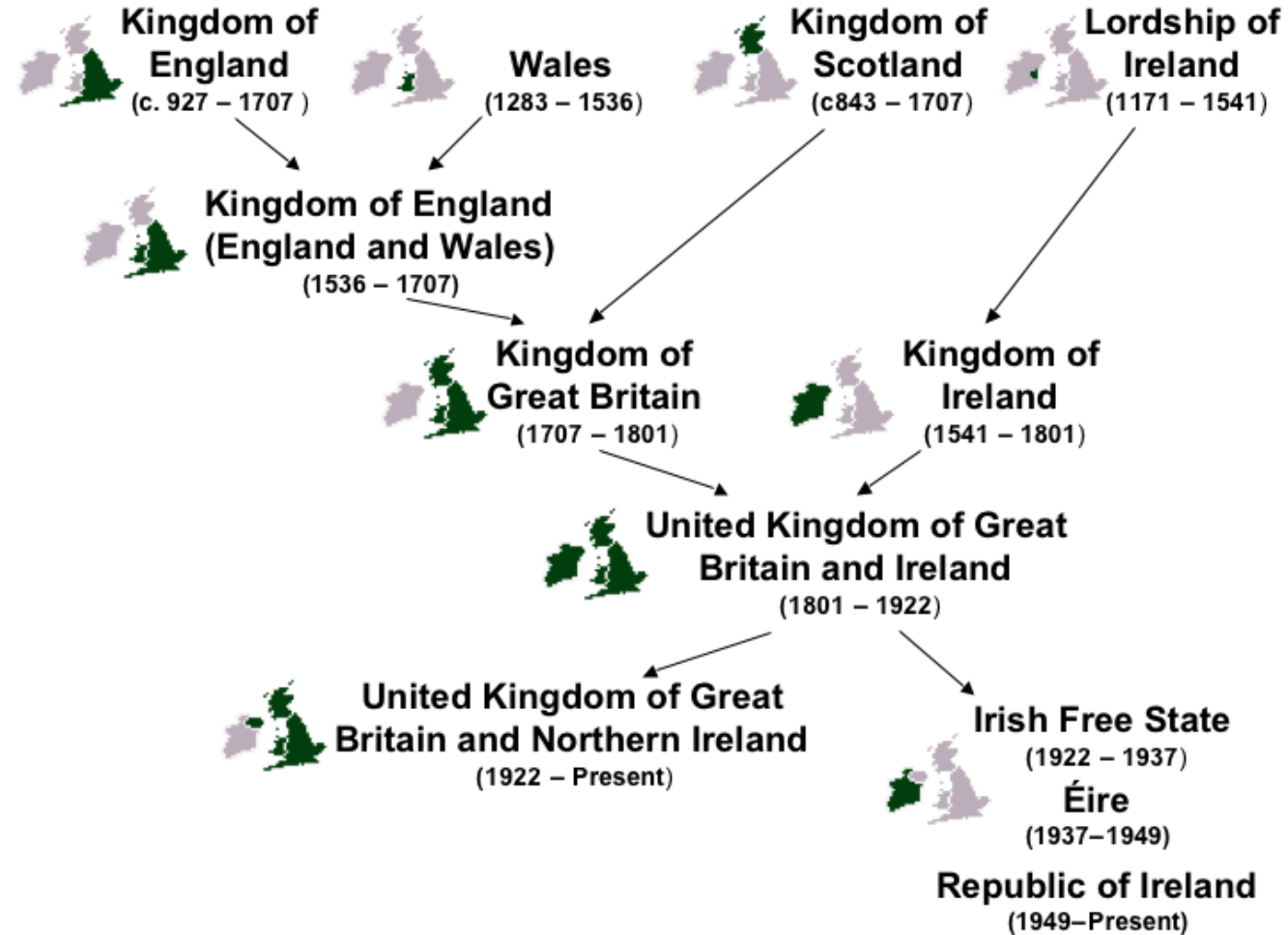
State-making in Britain

How many countries is  
the United Kingdom?

# Countries of the United Kingdom



# Territorial evolution of the United Kingdom



How has this territorial evolution shaped Britain's state-making process?

# A brief overview of state-making in Britain

- Norman Conquest, 1066
- Elite replacement and state control
- Seeing like a state c. 1086: the Domesday Book
- Pipe Rolls and the Exchequer
- The creation of *common* law and diminution of regional loyalties





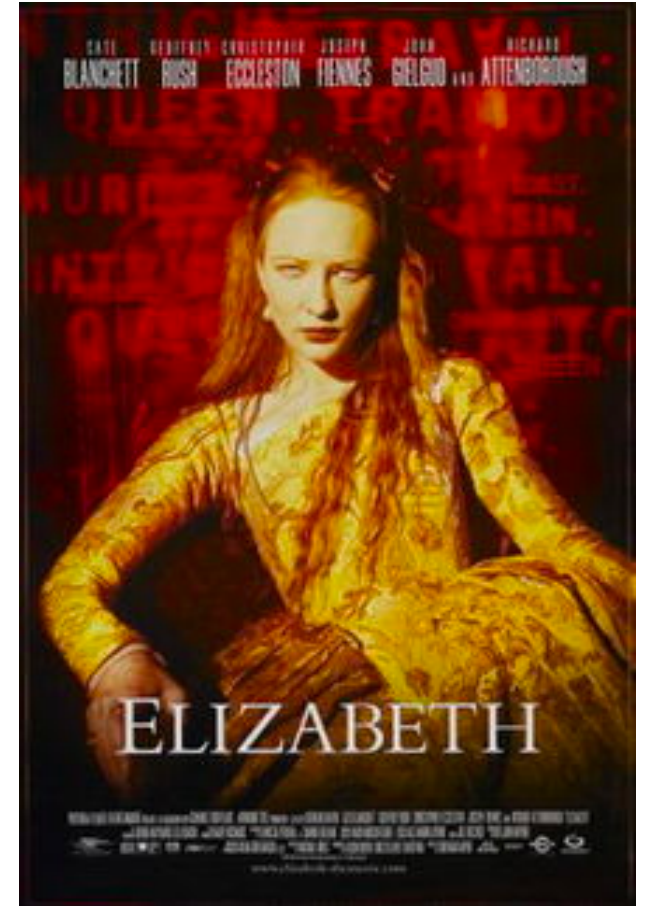
# A brief overview of state-making in Britain

- Reign by *vis et voluntas* ("force and will")
- Magna Carta (1215) and the 'mother of all parliaments'



# A brief overview of state-making in Britain

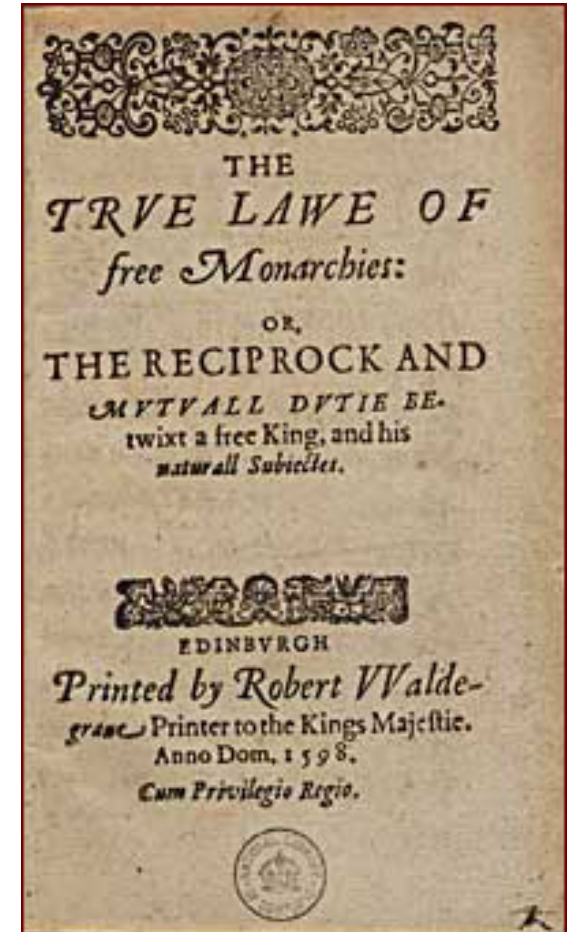
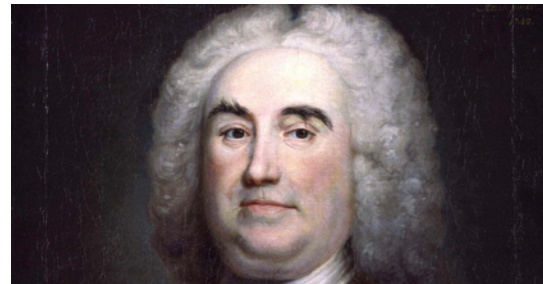
- Bastard feudalism and decentralization of power in the hands of barons and lords →
- Threats of centralization of power →
- Deposition of monarchs
- Wars of the Roses, 15<sup>th</sup> c.
- The Tudor state-making project, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> c.
- Act of Supremacy (1534):
  - The monarch as ‘the only supreme head on Earth of the Church of England’
  - Suppression of the Monasteries





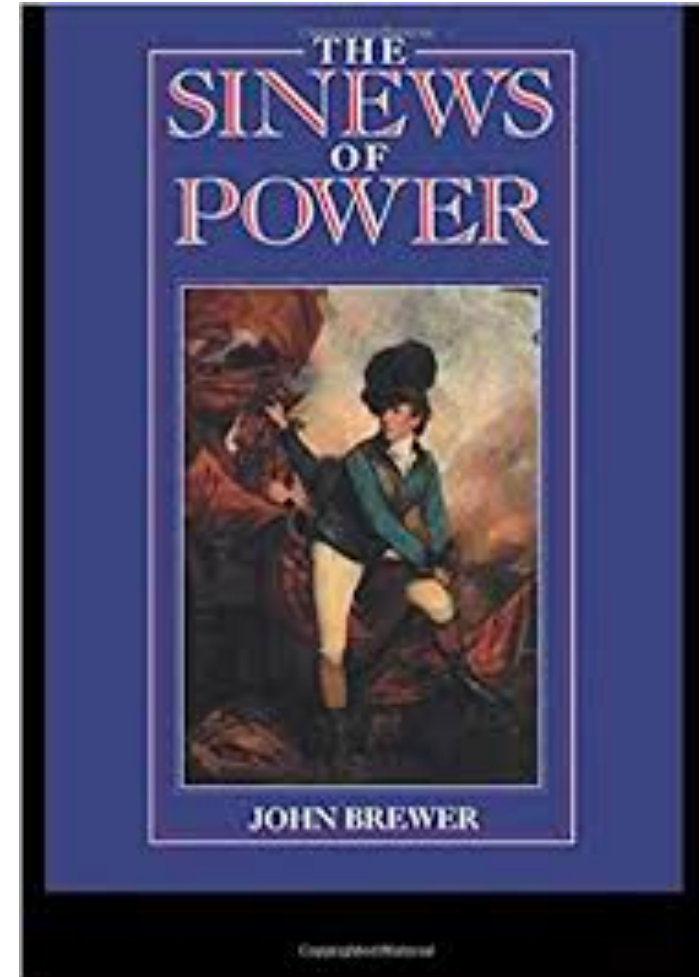
# A brief overview of state-making in Britain

- The Stuart kings and Union of the Crowns, 1603
- The divine right of kings and political absolutism
- English Civil War (1642-1651) → no governance without Parliament's consent
- Restoration (1660) → Glorious Revolution (1688) → parliamentary sovereignty and the emergence of the prime ministerial office
- Acts of Union (1707 and 1800)



# Sinews of power

- Transformation and ever-increasing reach of the British government due to:
  - Radical increase in taxation
  - Development of public deficit finance (national debt)
  - Growth of public administration →
- Creation of the 'fiscal-military state'
  - Brewer, John. 2014. *The Sinews of Power: War, Money and the English State, 1688-1783*. London: Routledge: Routledge.



# State-making and empire-making

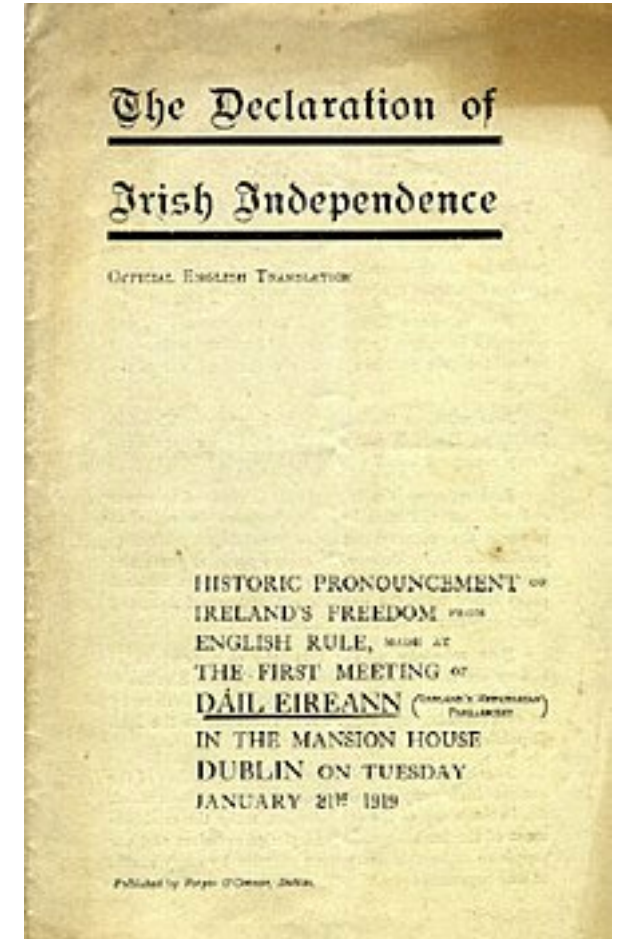


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cB6RirM3ZY>



# British state-making in the 20<sup>th</sup> c.

- The Irish question and Irish War of Independence (1919-1921)
- Irish independence and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Reemergence of regionalisms in Britain and devolution
- Accession to the European Union (1973)



# British state-making in the 21<sup>st</sup> c.





What is Brexit?

# Brexit



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PV8e1cmlCG8>

How does Brexit affect  
Britain's state-making  
process?

Can theories of state-making  
explain Brexit?

Can the rise of inequality and  
populism explain Brexit?



# Explaining Brexit

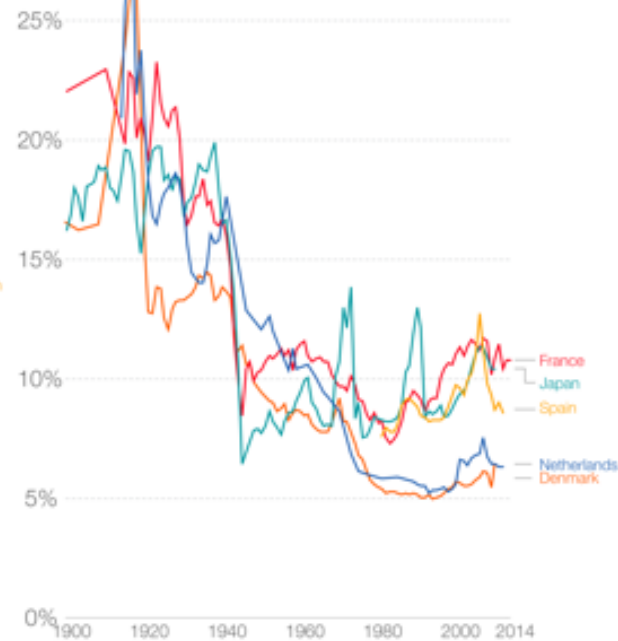


## Share of Total Income going to the Top 1% since 1900

The evolution of inequality in English speaking countries followed a U-shape



The evolution of inequality in continental Europe and Japan followed an L-shape



Data source: World Wealth and Income Database (2018). This is income before taxes and transfers. This data visualisation is available at [OurWorldinData.org](http://OurWorldinData.org). There you find the raw data and more visualisations on inequality and how the world is changing. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

