

The British government during the 20th century followed a less active imperial style due to several reasons, particularly the two devastating world wars. With the end of the empire, a multiracial, coequal Commonwealth of Nations evolved, which had modest utility but generally cooperative feelings. The British Commonwealth of Nations was also established as an association of equal and independent states united by common allegiance to the British Crown. Commonwealth of Nations: Commonwealth of Nations, worldwide association of nations and their dependencies, whose members share a common commitment to promoting human rights, democracy, and economic development. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 gave Britain most of the German Empire in Africa, while the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East led to the British acquisition of Palestine and Iraq in 1918.