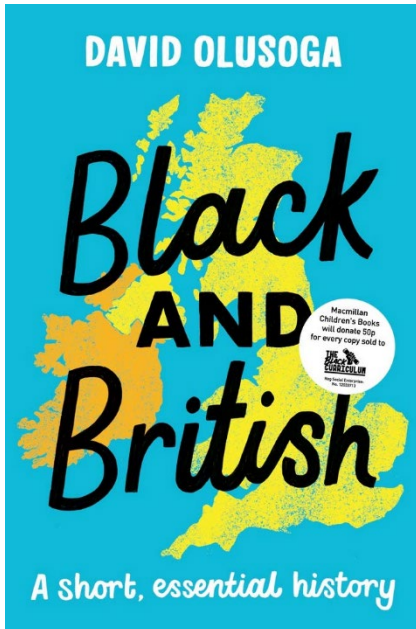


### Activity 1:



'During the summer of 1948, while the *Empire Windrush* had been crossing the Atlantic Ocean, a new law had been passing through parliament. The British Nationality Act ensured that the people of the British Empire had the right to enter and live in Britain... But the MPs who passed the new law imagined that the people coming to Britain would be white people from Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand – parts of the empire that were sometimes called “white dominions” or the “old commonwealth”. However, the British Nationality Act gave the same rights to the people of what was called the “new commonwealth”, which included Africa and the West Indies, as well as Asia.

The politicians believed that very few Black and brown people from those parts of the British Empire would come to Britain. They were wrong. By 1958, ten years after the *Windrush* had landed at Tilbury Docks, there were about 125,000 West Indian people living and working in Britain.'

Olusoga, D. (2020) *Black and British: a short, essential history*, London: Pan Macmillan, pp. 180-181

### Activity 1: What impact did the Act have?

#### CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES.

##### *Citizenship by birth or descent.*

4. Subject to the provisions of this section, every person born within the United Kingdom and Colonies after the commencement of this Act shall be a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by birth :

(3) The following are the countries hereinbefore referred to, that is to say, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Newfoundland, India, Pakistan, Southern Rhodesia and Ceylon.

##### BRITISH NATIONALITY.

1.—(1) Every person who under this Act is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies or who under any enactment for the time being in force in any country mentioned in subsection (3) of this section is a citizen of that country shall by virtue of that citizenship have the status of a British subject.

Did it improve relations?

Go further: Read through sections of the law. Can you make links to Olusoga's explanation?

## **What legally changed?**

*1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act:* This controlled the immigration of all Commonwealth passport holders. People who wanted to come to Britain had to have a work voucher (this was usually just given out to highly skilled workers like doctors).

*1965 Race Relations Act:* The Act banned racial discrimination in public places and made the promotion of hatred on the grounds of 'colour, race, or ethnic or national origins' an offence.

*1968 Commonwealth Immigrants Act:* This made changes to the 1962 Act and extended it to only allowing people to migrate to the UK if they were born there or had at least one parent or grandparent there. Hundreds of thousands of African, Asian and Caribbean immigrants arrived by other methods (illegal passports) or migrated to the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

*1968 Race Relations Act:* This made it illegal to refuse housing, employment or public services to a person on the grounds of colour, race, ethnic or national origin. This Act was focusing on second-generation immigrants.