

Stuarts

The course explores the period of the Stuarts but begins in 1625 and so largely ignores the reign of the first English Stuart monarch, James I. Starting with Charles I the course runs through the Civil War, England as a republic, Charles II, James II and the Glorious Revolution.

There are four themes that run throughout this course. In simple terms they are politics, religion, social and economic. We will explore these four themes throughout the period and determine the extent to which it is a period of change or continuity.

Below are some examples of books, podcasts and documentaries that will give you a good understanding of the period and give you some of the background knowledge that we can then build on in class.

Books

- **Peter Ackroyd** - Civil War
- **Allan Massie** - The Royal Stuarts: A history of the family that shaped Britain
- **Leanda de Lisle** - The White King: Charles I, Traitor, Murderer, Martyr
- **Antonia Fraser** - King Charles II
- **Jonathan Healey** - The Blood in Winter: The thrilling story of England's descent into civil war

Podcasts (all available on Spotify)

- **HistoryExtra podcast** - The Stuarts: Everything you wanted to know
- **The Rest is History** - The trial of Charles I, The trial of Charles I part 2, The Republic of Britain: Life under Cromwell.
- **BBC** - The Stuarts: The epic BBC Radio 4 Drama
- **Real Dictators** - Oliver Cromwell Part 1, 2 and 3.
- **Not Just the Tudors** - Charles II: Restoration of the Monarchy
- **Not Just the Tudors** - James II: The Restoration's Last Catholic King
- **Dan Snow's History Hit** - The Scandalous Private Life of Charles II

Documentary (all available on YouTube)

- **Real Royalty** - The Stuarts: The Dynasty that Survived a Plague, Fire and Civil War
- **Paul** - The Stuarts - The Bloody History of Britain's Most Catastrophic Dynasty.
- **UK Royal Documentary** - Kings and Queens of England - The Stuarts
- **The People Profiles** - Charles I & The English Civil War; Charles II & The Stuart Restoration; Oliver Cromwell - The King Killer; James II - The King Who Lost Three Kingdoms

Russia in Revolution

This course explores the dramatic political, economic and social changes that transformed Russia between 1894 and 1924. Students begin by examining the rule of Tsar Nicholas II and the challenges facing the Russian Empire, including industrialisation, poverty, political opposition and the impact of war.

The course then investigates the causes and consequences of the Revolutions of 1905 and 1917, the collapse of the Romanov dynasty, and the rise of the Bolsheviks under Lenin. Students will analyse the roles of key individuals, the importance of ideology, and the impact of the First World War on the revolution.

Finally, the course considers the Russian Civil War and the creation of the world's first communist state, assessing why the Bolsheviks were able to secure and consolidate their power by 1924.

Books

- **Orlando Figes** – A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891–1924
- **Sheila Fitzpatrick** – The Russian Revolution
- **Robert Service** – The Last of the Tsars: Nicholas II and the Russian Revolution
- **Robert Service** – Lenin: A Biography
- **Richard Pipes** – The Russian Revolution

Podcasts (all available on Spotify)

- **HistoryExtra Podcast** – The Russian Revolution: Everything You Wanted to Know
- **The Rest Is History** – The Russian Revolution (Parts 1–4)
- **BBC In Our Time** – The Russian Revolution
- **Revolutions Podcast** – The Russian Revolution Series (Episodes 10.1–10.27)
- **Dan Snow's History Hit** – Lockdown Learning: The Russian Revolution (with Helen Rappaport)

Documentaries (all available on YouTube)

- **Timeline** – The Russian Revolution in Colour
- **Timeline** – The Last Tsar: Nicholas II
- **The People Profiles** – Nicholas II: The Last Tsar of Russia
- **The People Profiles** – Vladimir Lenin: The Revolutionary Who Changed the World
- **Feature History** – The Russian Revolution Explained
- **Kings and Generals** – The Russian Civil War

Civil Rights and Race Relations 1850- - 2009

This course explores the changing nature of civil rights and race relations in the United States between 1850 and 2009. Beginning with slavery and the growing divisions that led to the American Civil War, students examine the impact of emancipation, Reconstruction and the emergence of Jim Crow segregation.

The course then follows the experiences of African Americans during the twentieth century, including the Great Migration, the New Deal, the Second World War and the Civil Rights Movement. Students will investigate the roles of key individuals such as Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, alongside the actions of governments, the Supreme Court and grassroots campaigners.

Finally, the course considers the continuing struggle for equality, assessing the progress made by 2009 and the extent to which race relations had changed over more than 150 years.

Books

- **Vivienne Sanders** – Access to History: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA 1850–2009
- **Taylor Branch** – Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954–63
- **Clayborne Carson** – The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- **Juan Williams** – Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years 1954–1965
- **Michelle Alexander** – The New Jim Crow

Podcasts (all available on Spotify)

- **HistoryExtra Podcast** – Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Civil Rights Movement
- **HistoryExtra Podcast** – US Civil Rights: Fighting for Freedom
- **HistoryExtra Podcast** – A Hidden History of Black Civil Rights
- **The Rest Is History** – Martin Luther King Jr.
- **The Rest Is History** – Malcolm X

Documentaries (all available on YouTube)

- **PBS** – Eyes on the Prize
- **American Experience (PBS)** – Freedom Riders
- **Timeline** – The Civil Rights Movement
- **The People Profiles** – Martin Luther King Jr.
- **The People Profiles** – Malcolm X
- **Feature History** – The Civil Rights Movement Explained

For the film and fiction section of the Civil Rights course

Films and Television

- **The Birth of a Nation – Directed by D. W. Griffith (1915)**
A hugely influential but deeply racist silent film depicting the American Civil War and Reconstruction. It glorifies the Ku Klux Klan and is an important example of how film can shape historical interpretation and public attitudes towards race.
- **Roots – Based on the novel by Alex Haley (1977)**
This landmark television series follows several generations of an African American family from enslavement in West Africa through slavery, emancipation and Reconstruction. It transformed public understanding of the history of slavery in America.
- **In the Heat of the Night – Directed by Norman Jewison (1967)**
A murder mystery set in Mississippi during the Civil Rights era. The film explores racism, prejudice and justice through the relationship between a Black detective and a white police chief.
- **Malcolm X – Directed by Spike Lee (1992)**
A biographical film following the life of Malcolm X from his early years through his rise as a civil rights leader and his evolving political and religious beliefs.
- **The Wire – Created by David Simon (2002–2008)**
Although set after the period studied, this critically acclaimed series explores race, policing, poverty, education and inequality in modern America, highlighting some of the continuing issues surrounding civil rights and race relations.

Fiction

- **Uncle Tom's Cabin – Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852)**
A powerful anti-slavery novel that exposed the realities of slavery in the United States. It became one of the most influential books of the nineteenth century and helped shape attitudes towards abolition.
- **Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain (1884)**
A classic American novel following Huck Finn and the escaped enslaved man Jim as they travel along the Mississippi River. It explores race, slavery and morality in pre-Civil War America.
- **Gone with the Wind – Margaret Mitchell (1936)**
Set during the American Civil War and Reconstruction, the novel presents a romanticised view of the Old South. It provides an interesting opportunity to consider historical interpretation and changing views of race.
- **Beloved – Toni Morrison (1987)**
A Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the lasting physical and psychological impact of slavery during Reconstruction. It explores memory, trauma and freedom.
- **The Help – Kathryn Stockett (2009)**
Set in Mississippi during the early 1960s, the novel examines segregation and the lives of Black domestic workers during the Civil Rights Movement.
- **To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee (1960)**
A classic novel exploring racial injustice, prejudice and the legal system in the segregated American South during the 1930s through the eyes of a young girl.