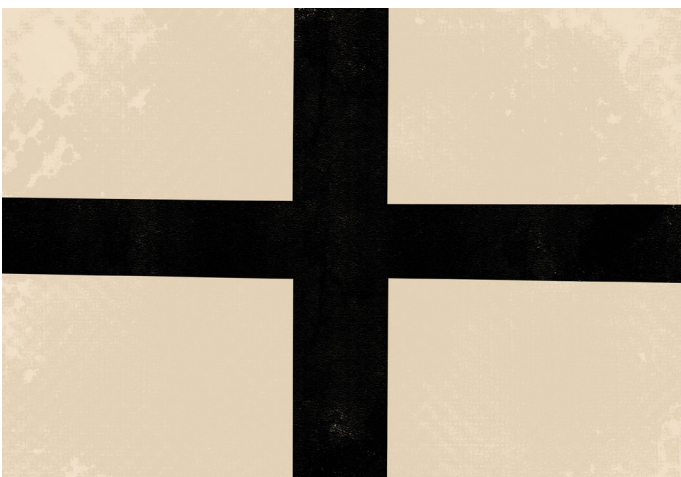


Cornish History

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Cornwall has a vibrant and complex history, dating back to the Middle Stone Age, when the first settlements of Celtic tribes, such as the Dumnonii, began. The Dumnoii were a Celtic tribe that inhabited Cornwall and Devon. They relied heavily on mining and trading tin, which is abundant in Cornwall. During the Roman occupation of England, the Dumnonii were left largely to themselves because Roman rule saw no value in Cornwall and therefore did not pursue any real invasion. After the Romans withdrew from England in the early fifth century, the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex slowly took over, resulting in the repression of Celtic tradition and language in Cornwall. Around this time, we see Christianity become more prominent in the area, with figures such as St. Piran becoming highly influential. Cornwall has always had a very strong seafaring culture, so it's not much of a surprise when, in the Tudor period, we see the height of piracy. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the crown would license many sailors as privateers. Privateers are essentially pirates who have been allowed to attack enemy ships, and with Cornwall right at the center of most trading routes, it was the perfect location. Eventually, privateers became full-on pirates, attacking any ships for profit. This was ultimately put to an end by the coastguard service, which was formed in 1822. During the

Industrial Revolution, Cornwall became popular for its natural tin and copper resources. By the nineteenth century, Cornwall was home to the world's most technologically advanced mining operations. This advancement grew the towns in Cornwall, created more effective transport within the region, and provided jobs for many Cornishmen. As demand for tin and copper diminished, the mines and engine houses were abandoned. Today, you can still see remnants of the mining industry echo throughout the region. During the World Wars, Cornwall, especially Falmouth became increasingly important, because of its coastal position and proximity to occupied Europe. The RAF (Royal Air Force) established airfields in the area, which became key in defending against German air raiders and the Navy often launched operations from the Cornish harbors. In preparation for D-Day, Cornwall hosted thousands of US troops and trained for storming up the Cornish coast, eventually launching from ports in Devon and Dorset. In recent years, Cornwall has become a tourist destination, attracting visitors worldwide to its beautiful natural landscape and rugged cliffs. Cornish nationalism began to grow with the resurgence of the Cornish language. In 2002, the UK Government officially recognised the Cornish people as one of Britain's Celtic nations, alongside the Welsh, Scots, Irish, and Bretons.



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