



WALES

In the early 1500s, Wales was divided into two parts. Part was already controlled by England, but the other part was controlled by Marcher Lordships (Lords who had been given land by William the Conqueror to hold back the Welsh). The power of these Lords grew over time, and they acted like Princes with their own law courts and private armies.

The problem for the English was not the Welsh themselves, but the Marcher Lords. If Wales was not totally under English control it could be used by other countries to attack England.

The 'solution' to the problem was:

Act of Union of England and Wales - 1536

- All Wales divided into shires with English law courts. Marcher Lordships abolished.
- Wales to send MPs to Parliament at Westminster.
- Welshmen were to become Justices of the Peace

Date	Event
1536	Act of Union between England & Wales
1603	Union of English & Scottish crowns
1707	Act of Union between England & Scotland
1715	Jacobite revolt crushed
1745-6	Jacobite rising defeated
1800	Act of Union of Ireland & Britain
1918-21	Civil War in Ireland
1921	Anglo-Irish Treaty (Northern Ireland & Irish Free State [EIRE] created)
1985	Anglo-Irish agreement
1990s	Continuing debate about future of UK
1999	Elections to new Parliaments of Wales and Scotland



IRELAND

England had been worried about Ireland for hundreds of years. Ireland could be used as a base by England's enemies – France and Spain.

By 1485 England had tried many times to take over Ireland but failed. Henry VII claimed to be the King of all Ireland, but only controlled the area around Dublin known as 'the Pale'.

After 1485, England tried different ways of taking over Ireland:

1. Force and Terror.
2. Driving Irish Catholics away from their land and replacing them with Protestant English and Scottish.

Every method England attempted was extremely expensive.

During the 1600s Ireland was eventually taken over by the English. By 1690 Catholics held only 20% of the land and were very poor. The government passed laws against the Catholics – preventing them from voting or having jobs in government. The Act of Union of 1800 between Ireland and Britain signified that Ireland was completely taken over.



In 1485 Scotland was a separate country. Since the 1300s there had been occasional fighting between England and Scotland. Scotland was friendly with England's old enemy – France. This was shown by members of the French and Scottish royal families getting married. England was naturally worried...

Queen Elizabeth died in 1603. King James VI of Scotland was the closest relative, so he also became King James I of England. However, even though both countries shared the same monarch, there was no change in the situation. Both countries retained their own Parliaments and laws.

In the early 1700s, the English Parliament was very concerned. They had removed the threat of a catholic King of England by inviting William and Mary to rule, but they were worried that the Scottish Parliament seemed to favour James II's catholic son as their King. Between 1701-1713 England was at war with France, and there were great fears that James II would land in Scotland accompanied with a French army and claim the throne of Scotland for his son.

England had to decide:

1. Total separation of England and Scotland
2. The joining of England and Scotland – Union

The second choice was picked, as it appeared to make England the most secure. In 1707 an act was passed joining the two countries:

Act of Union of England and Scotland - 1707

- Scotland given complete freedom to trade with England and her colonies.
- Scotland to send 45 MPs to Parliament at Westminster.
- Scottish Parliament to be closed.
- England gives Scotland nearly £400,000 to pay off her debts.

REACTIONS TO THE UNION OF ENGLAND & SCOTLAND

"We are bought and sold for English gold."
Scottish Popular song.

"I never saw a nation so wild at this Union."
Daniel Defoe, an English agent in Scotland, 1709.

"Have we not bought the Scots, and a right to tax them? Scotland is now but a country of England."

English MP, 1708.

SCOTLAND