

What was the political response to immigration?








As discussed at the end of last lesson, there was a sense that the politicians were afraid to deal with the problem, or even accept there was a problem. The politicians had to balance many interests

- The economy: employers depended on immigrant labour
- The voters: The politicians had to keep their voters happy, most British were anti immigration
- Immigrants themselves: Immigrants needed protection of the law as well as white communities
- Preventing racial tensions in Britain's cities

At different times, policy was driven by one or other of these demands.

Stick your table of government measures in your book, we'll then go through them, be prepared to offer your opinions... Think carefully as we go through them as you'll need to rank them in order of best to worst at the end of this task

Date	Government measure	Key features
1962	Commonwealth Immigrants Act 62	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A voucher system was introduced so only immigrants with a valuable skill or could do a job were there was a shortage would get a voucher• Some say this was aimed at keeping out the unskilled workers of Asia and West Indies• In order to get in before this law started there was a rush of 130,000 immigrants in 1961
1965-66	Race Relations Act 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was now illegal to discriminate against any person based on their race• The Race Relations Board was set up to hear complaints of discrimination• The Board in reality, had no powers to enforce its decisions
1968	Commonwealth Immigrants Act 68	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Close connection' qualification was introduced, it was no longer enough to have a passport you had to be born in Britain or have parents / grandparents who were born in Britain• This was particularly aimed at stopping the Kenyans coming after being kicked out of Kenya
1968	Race Relations Act 68	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discrimination in areas of housing and work was now also illegal.• There was still some indirect discrimination eg claiming another candidate had more experience
1976	Race Relations Act 76	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racially offensive music or publications became illegal.• Tribunals were set up of a job applicant felt they had been discriminated against or for workers who felt they were being discriminated• A commission was set up to investigate and combat racism

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Rank these laws 1-5 for best to worst and justify your reasoning for the best Act



Do we think the government response was:

Good

Bad

Ok

Do we think this would please:

The Majority

White people

Black People

Would it be enough to appease the extreme political parties like that led by Oswald Mosley

Yes

No

1968 – Enoch Powell and his Rivers of Blood!

Ten years after Notting Hill came an equally controversial moment in our race relations story. Despite the government's legislation, New Commonwealth immigration increased. It had also changed, more and more people by the end of the 1960s were coming to settle forever not just work short term. Wives and families also began moving to Britain to join their men.

As a result, the National Front was set up in 1967. The National Front was an extreme right political party solely focused on ending immigration and sending home all previous immigrants. Even some respected main stream politicians supported the views of the National Front meaning their messages were heard on a larger scale.



Enoch Powell



Who was Enoch Powell?



So what did he say that was so controversial?...

- Former Cabinet Minister, tipped to be a future Prime Minister
- Conservative MP for Wolverhampton
- Had been Minister of Health overseeing the arrival of 18,000 Indian doctors, making the NHS possible
- He delivered a speech in 1968 that effectively ended his career.
- Despite this personal damage, many held him up as a brave prophet, 75% of people in Wolverhampton said they agreed with him
- In London, dock workers stopped work and marched in support of him

As you watch this clip, as you are hearing it for the first time, react naturally to it and write down what you think, who is he attacking, what are his arguments? Has he gone too far?

Enoch Powell – Rivers of blood speech clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCprV87m5Ag>

(a) A week or two ago I fell into conversation with a constituent, a middle-aged, quite ordinary, working man employed in one of our nationalised industries. After a sentence or two about the weather, he suddenly said: 'If I had the money to go, I wouldn't stay in this country. I have three children, all of them been through grammar school and two of them married now, with family. I shan't be satisfied till I have seen them all settled overseas. In this country in 15 or 20 years' time the black man will have the whip hand over the white man.'

I can already hear the chorus of criticism. How dare I say such a horrible thing? How dare I stir up trouble and inflame feelings by repeating such a conversation? The answer is that I do not have the right not to do so. Here is a decent, ordinary fellow Englishman, who in broad daylight in my own town says to me, his Member of Parliament, that his country will not be worth living in for his children.

(b) In 15 or 20 years, on present trends, there will be in this country three and a half million Commonwealth immigrants and their descendants. That is not my figure. That is the official figure given to Parliament by the spokesman of the Registrar General's Office. Whole areas, towns and parts of towns across England will be occupied by sections of the immigrant and immigrant-descended population.

The natural and rational first question with a nation confronted by such a prospect is to ask: 'How can its dimensions be reduced?' The answers to the simple and rational question are equally simple and rational: by stopping, or virtually stopping, further inflow, and by promoting the maximum outflow.

(c) While, to the immigrant, entry to this country was admission to privileges and opportunities eagerly sought, the impact upon the existing population was very different. For reasons which they could not comprehend ... on which they were never consulted, they found themselves made strangers in their own country. They found their wives unable to obtain hospital beds in childbirth, their children unable to obtain school places, their homes and neighbourhoods changed beyond recognition, their plans and prospects for the future defeated; at work they found that employers hesitated to apply to the immigrant worker the standards of discipline and competence required of the native-born worker; they began to hear, as time went by, more and more voices which told them that they were now the unwanted.

The sense of being a persecuted minority which is growing among ordinary English people in the areas of the country which are affected is something that those without direct experience can hardly imagine.

(d) As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see the River Tiber foaming with much blood.

Extracts from Enoch Powell's speech of 20 April 1968. The speech has become known as the 'Rivers of Blood speech'.

The Speech did just what Powell had hoped for the immigration debate – it caused a mighty stir. It galvanised opinion and action on either side.

Stick your copy of the speech's extracts and highlight further evidence of his views, who he was attacking, what were his main points

Reactions to the Rivers of Blood Speech



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...



Thoughts?...





POWELL FOP P.M!

How does this link into my prior knowledge

Questions I have

What I can infer

What I see



A photograph published in the London Evening standard, 1 May 1968



What is the cartoonist's point or message here?

Is this in support of Powell or against him?

Pow! Wham! A cartoon by Leslie Illingworth that appeared in the Daily Mail on 24 April 1968

What is the cartoonist's point or message here?

Is this in support of Powell or against him?

Is it a reliable representation of the reaction to Powell's speech?



A cartoon published in the Daily Mail, 24 April 1968