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# Objects of Empire at Walton Library

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## Books of the Exhibition

Fancy exploring Objects of Empire further?

We've picked out twenty titles which delve into this topic, from fiction to non-fiction, biography, kids novels and more – there's something for everyone.

Find all of these brilliant books in your local Surrey Library branch!



Click on each book title below for more information on the  
Surrey Libraries Catalogue website.



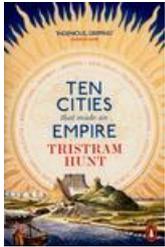
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## General Overviews

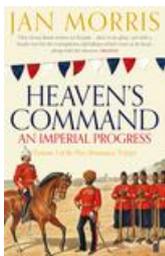
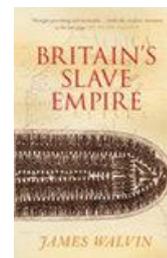


### 1) Ten cities that made an empire *Tristram Hunt*

Uncovering the stories and perspectives of the ten most prominent cities of the British Empire.

### 2) Britain's slave empire *James Walvin*

Highlighting Britain's heavy involvement in the trade of enslaved people across the globe, and how this influenced British culture and domestic life.



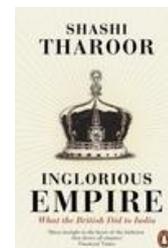
### 3) Pax Britannica trilogy *Jan Morris*

'Heaven's Command' is the first in a series of three fascinating books, tracking the progress of the British Empire from the reign of Queen Victoria.

## Britain's effects on its colonies

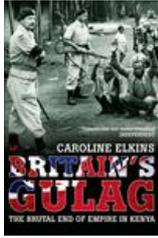
### 4) Inglorious empire: What the British did to India *Shashi Tharoor*

A novel which highlights the self-interested, destructive nature of the British Empire's presence in India.



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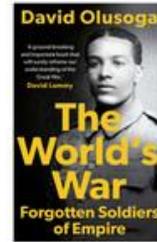


5) [Britain's gulag: the brutal end of empire in Kenya](#)  
*Caroline Elkins*

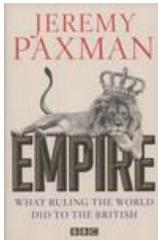
This book successfully breaks through popular narratives about the British Empire's decline across Africa, revealing its violent retreat from Kenya.

6) [The world's war: forgotten soldiers of empire](#)  
*David Olusoga*

Taking a less traditional approach to the First World War, David Olusoga tells its story through the lens of the Empire.



## The Empire's effects on Britain



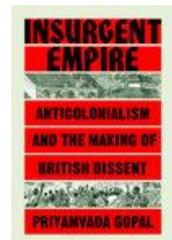
7) [Empire: What Ruling the World Did to the British](#)  
*Jeremy Paxman*

Outlining, through an engaging and witty narrative, the remarkable ways in which Britain's imperial past has affected - and still affects – life in Britain.

## Resistance to Empire

8) [Insurgent empire: anticolonial resistance and British dissent](#)  
*Priyamvada Gopal*

New to 2020, this excellent title explores the often-forgotten resistance movements organised by the colonised against their British colonisers.

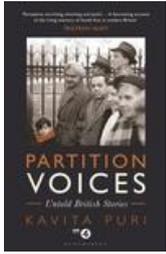


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## Primary Accounts

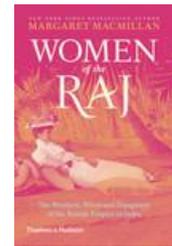


### 9) Partition Voices: untold British stories *Kavita Puri*

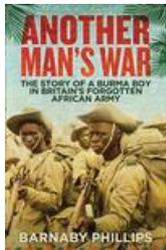
Exploring the fascinating stories of the forceful end of India's British Raj, from the first-hand perspective of people who lived through it.

### 10) Women of the Raj: the mothers, wives and daughters of the British Empire in India *Margaret MacMillan*

An eye-opening primary account of the women who played a role in everyday life in the British Raj, told through letters, memoirs and oral history interviews.



## Biography



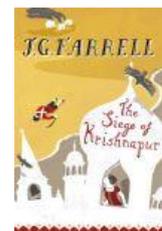
### 11) Another man's war: the story of a Burma Boy in Britain's forgotten African army *Barnaby Phillips*

The remarkable true story of Isaac Fadoyebo, who ran away from his West African village at the age of 16 to join the British Army's defence of the Empire in the Second World War.

## Empire in Fiction

### 12) The Siege of Krishnapur *J. G. Farrell*

Partially based on true events, this incredible fictional story adds much insight into the potential feelings of the communities in India on the advent of the Indian Rebellion of 1857.



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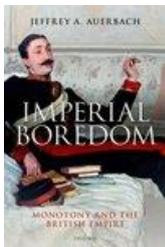
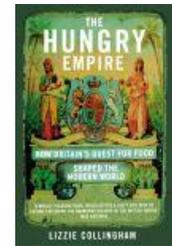
13) Burmese Days  
*George Orwell*

This classic fiction novel was published in 1934, and is set in British Burma on the eve of the downfall of the British Empire in India.

## Empire from new perspectives

14) The hungry empire: how Britain's quest for food shaped the modern world  
*Lizzie Collingham*

This interesting take on the British Empire explores its many aspects through the medium of food – from the meals which made their way to plates across the world to the global trade networks that got them there.

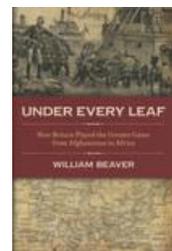


15) Imperial boredom: monotony and the British Empire  
*Jeffrey A. Auerbach*

An innovative new approach to the British Empire at its height, arguing that the experience of this global force was, if fact, chiefly characterized by boredom and monotony.

16) Under Every Leaf: How Britain played the greater game from Afghanistan to Africa  
*William Beaver*

Unveiling the incredible tale of Britain's first spies, based at the outposts of Britain's vast former Empire.



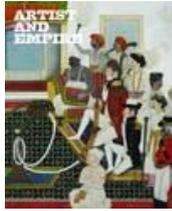
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## Empire through Art



### 17) Artist and empire *Alison Smith*

Published to accompany the exhibition held at Tate Britain in 2015-16, this brilliant title brings together some of history's top scholars to scrutinise objects and artworks linked to life under British rule.

### 18) Illustrating empire: a visual history of British imperialism *Ashley Jackson and David Tomkins*

This thought-provoking book approaches the British Empire from a different angle – that of the image, using propaganda, paintings and records to illustrate its history.



## Empire in Film



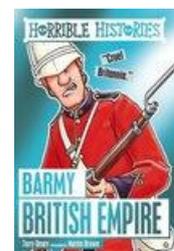
### 19) Victoria and Abdul: The true story of the Queen's Closest Confidant *Sharabani Basu*

The incredible true story, since adapted into film, of Queen Victoria's relationship with one of her closest confidants. This young Indian Muslim played a huge part during British India's most turbulent years.

## Empire for Kids

### 20) Barmy British Empire *Terry Deary*

This absorbing 'Horrible Histories' kids' title builds up a great basis of knowledge on the history of the British Empire for those new to the topic, packed full of amazing facts and cartoon sketches.



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