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Bakalářská práce

**THE ISSUE OF IMMIGRATION IN BRITISH LITERATURE:
AN ANALYSIS OF SELECTED AUTHORS**

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Plzeň, duben 2015

Poděkování

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Bachelor Thesis is to provide a general overview of the controversial issue of immigration in relation to the United Kingdom, explore its impact on post-war British literature until present, analyse selected contemporary authors that write the books influenced by immigration or crisis of British society. Further, it will show the country facing the problems how to resolve a question of multicultural and national identity.

The initial part of the thesis concerns with a term 'immigration' commonly used not merely in present; it provides a clear definition, specifies the main categories of migrants and gives the most common reasons of their movement. It will be also necessary to mention the European Union as the UK is one the most important members of the institution and represents one of the dream destinations of the EU immigrants. It is therefore evident that the EU and its member states have to focus on immigration policy and also take preventive measures through concrete laws and policies to deal with a present deteriorating situation owing to a massive influx of immigrants, notably from Africa. The statistical reports demonstrating the increase of immigrants provided by Eurostat confirms this fact. The statistics will be paid attention in the thesis and used as a factual framework for further discussion on the topic. The growing number of immigrants shown in statistics is one of the reasons why immigration is such a discussed topic in political debates and widely reported in media.

Great part of the thesis will be also dedicated to the history of immigration to the UK, notably post-war immigration. We will describe the most discussed events, the great waves of migration and the dominant minorities emigrating from the areas of the Caribbean and South Asia. To include British immigrant literature in the context of the thesis, some of the selected authors and general description of their works and attitudes toward a receiving country will be quoted. Immigration cannot be covered only from the perspective of history but also from the current point of view, therefore a part of the thesis will concentrate

on attitudes of contemporary British society and the government that tries to solve the problem of immigration by various restrictions.

To understand the theme from a broader perspective, it will be also important to emphasize the development of British post-war literature and briefly outline major factors that have affected the text written during this period. The literature has mainly reflected social conditions and important changes in British society, including multiculturalism and national identities.

The final part of the thesis will present a more detailed review and an analysis of four deliberately selected authors. These writers come from diverse cultures and social backgrounds in order to be able to compare their literary works from the above-mentioned perspective. The immigrant perspective will be represented by two renowned authors and their significant works. The first is a British Indian novelist **Salman Rushdie** and his well-known book *Midnight's Children* (1981) and the second is a Trinidad-born writer, **Samuel Selvon** and his novel *The Lonely Londoners* (1956). To represent also the opposite attitudes towards immigrants and immigration, the remaining authors will be of British origin. **Dominic Sandbrook**, a British author and historian wrote his book exclusively about British and American themes. This fact indicates that his work includes many features of Britishness referring to national identity. Lastly, a slightly controversial writer discussed in the thesis will be **Irvine Welsh** and his novel *Trainspotting* (1993). In particular, the book applies the features of Scottish dialect to emphasize a class identity and language of youth subcultures. Finally, the comparison of the books will be given in the last part of the thesis.

2. IMMIGRATION TO UK

2.1. Definition of immigration

Immigration is a term connected with the arrival of people who want to live permanently in a country that is not of their origin. [1] Immigration can be divided into different categories according to the circumstances under which people decided to move and their mother country. People migrate for many reasons, including personal ambition, economic incentives, political persecution, family connections and government policies or legal status. Geography, colonial history and individual biography also play a major role in their moving. The main types of migrants are economic, political and environmental one. The form of migration referring to a family reunion is also included in the list. [2]

2.2. Immigration within the European Union

Nowadays, immigration remains a key issue for discussion not only in the media but it is also a very important matter discussed in political debates within the European Union. The EU member states receive hundreds of thousands of new incomers and the immigration figures indicate a significant increase compared to recent years. The European Union is interested in this matter through its institutions. The institution primarily concerned with immigration is *The European Commission*. It proposes concrete laws and manages a policy in this area. The policy is based on political principles, measures and a new strategy to make a common and comprehensive system for all aspects of migration. These principles are made to uphold human values such as protection, respect and tolerance. The aim of the European Union is to strengthen and develop the policy at all levels: *“Immigration, being a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, requires a mixture of policy actions covering a wide range of issues and fields: demographic constraints, economic needs, social expectations, health impacts, trade commitments, development needs, education opportunities, security*

dimension, etc.” [3] It is also responsible for coordination between its bodies and its member states in this field. [4]

According to statistics of Eurostat the United Kingdom as a member state of the EU is one of the countries with the highest number of people who has come to live there. [5] (See Appendix I)

3. HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION TO THE UK

3.1. Early immigration

Immigration to Great Britain is not controversial and emotive topic merely at the present period. The arrival of newcomers from overseas and regions of Europe is a long-term process. People of different ethnic, cultural, historical origin have been coming to the islands since Roman times (1st century BC). Among tribes which migrated there during the early centuries were for instance the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans and so on. The Middle Ages saw the numbers of African, Asian and Indian people. A significant increase was caused by the slave trade which began in the 16th century. Britain had the leading role in importing Africans to work in their colonies located predominantly in North America. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1833 and some slaves came and settled down in British continent. [6]

3.2. Immigration under British Empire and the Commonwealth

From the 18th until the first part of the 20th century, Great Britain represented one of the world's great imperial powers which dominated worldwide. Its overseas possessions included territories such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Caribbean, South Africa, Kenya and Hong Kong. (See Appendix III) The vast majority of immigrants came from former British

colonies and areas under its control. Their reason for immigration was not only a vision of better life, but they also changed the place where they had lived before because of a historic connection. The men had for example a duty to serve the British Indian army or the merchant navy during the war. As for the Caribbean, they worked as RAF (Royal Air Force) ground crew. [7] But they mainly expected that they could earn more money there than at home because they were coming from poorer regions of the world. The fact was that Great Britain was considered to be a country which offered an adequate working and living conditions. [8] Nevertheless, in the twentieth century Britain was rather a nation of emigrants. From the late Victorian era until the following century, more people left the country for a new life than immigrated in it. [9]

3.3. Irish Migration to the United Kingdom

Ireland rebelled (1919-1921) against the empire and it was divided into Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State. Irish independence in 1922 marked an important turning point in immigration to the United Kingdom. Migration was mainly connected with establishment of the Irish Free State. By the mid-1930s, people were forced to emigrate due to poor living standards and worsening economic situation. Great Britain provided them with job opportunities especially in the areas of domestic labour and the construction industry. In the late 1940s and early 1950s an Irish community was estimated to be about 700,000. [10] Today, according to The Guardian: “*As many as 6 million people in the UK have an Irish grandfather or grandmother,...*” [11]

3.4. Post-war British immigration and the first great wave

The most significant increase is noticed after the Second World War. Professor Goodhart distinguished two great waves of migration. First, from the late 1940s until the early 1990s, when non-European people from the Caribbean,

Africa and South Asia arrived to the country. Second wave lasted from 1997 and brought mainly white East Europeans without any historical connection to Britain.

In 1948 a number of the non-white people in the United Kingdom counted 30,000. This figure represented mainly people from former colonies that had come there after serving in the armed forces during both World Wars. They lived in large cities as London, Liverpool and Cardiff. [12] The first great arrival started when the ship called *SS Empire Windrush* with almost five hundred Caribbean migrants on board reached the coast at Tilbury Dock on June 1948. This event marked an important milestone in history of the British immigration. During the following years, the workers and their families were arriving from the West Indies, South Asia and East Africa and made a profound impact on present British life. This event affected indisputably the appearance of towns and cities, the British literature and the taste of British cuisine.

While the United Kingdom had to face up to the influx of immigrants, thousands of British emigrants headed towards the United States, Australia, southern Africa and New Zealand to find the opportunity to build more successful life and to get a well-paid job. Many of these people were well-educated and skilled professionals attracted by higher wages and better living conditions arrived to the old colonies, so there was talk about 'a drain brain'. Foreign countries provided them with freedom, leisure, affluence and status. The majority of these people belonged to middle- or upper-middle-class of Britons. [13]

3.5. British Nationality Act 1948

At the first half of the 20th century free movement throughout the empire and the Commonwealth was more possible than in the contemporary European Union. *“And that free movement for 400 million people was reinforced in 1948 by a new Nationality Act which granted colonial subjects (and ex-colonial*

subjects in recently independent India and Pakistan) exactly the same national status as native Britons – Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies (CUKC).” The purpose of the Act passed by a Labour government was to give officially the rights to be a citizen of United Kingdom to all people coming from regions under British administration. The result was the creation of a multiracial society because of relations between Britain and the white Dominions (Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa) were under strain and the government wanted to reinforce this decline. [14]

3.6. The 1958 riots in Notting Hill

It was evident that the British had to accept the birth of a new multi-racial society. But it should be noted that mostly London's inhabitants were concerned about the growing number of Afro-Caribbean people settling in the capital. Moreover, the increasing pressure of integration and transformation of migrants in white British society was obvious. The violent behaviour became stronger and it eventually exploded in 1958. The first serious race riot broke out over several nights in August in London. A district where violence took place is called Notting Hill. The local people, especially *Teddy Boys* [15] were beginning to display unfriendly and aggressive behaviour towards the black families in the area. A situation was deteriorating rapidly and the black people have suffered a series of racist attacks. There were hundreds of people injured and no one was killed. This event underlined the racial anxiety because from now white Britons as well as British press focused on black people as a source of criminality and disruptive elements in society. [16]

It soon became apparent that the theme of integration of immigrants was not possible to ignore. At that time, the books reflected a contemporary fear about black British people's lives. They realized how important it was to launch a campaign for wider rights and looked for the inspiration to the United States. The writers often revisited their origin countries in Caribbean and evaluated a place

of their exile. One of these writers was for example the Nobel Prize-winning novelist V.S. Naipaul. His personal life in England is described in *The Enigma of Arrival* (1987). Another book including theme of post-war Britain is *Half a Life*, published in 2001. [17]

3.7. Britain policy and law from 1960s

By 1960s, there was a long-term sharp rise in the number of people who had immigrated. This fact led to the demand for restriction that was from the side of ordinary Britons and also party activists (Tory party). When the news about preparation for *Commonwealth Immigrants Act* appeared, more people immigrated into Britain in a single year than had arrived in the previous years. According to figures that are available from Professor Sandbrook “*in 1961 alone, 49,000 people arrived from India and Pakistan, 66,000 from the Caribbean and a further 21,000 from Hong Kong, Cyprus and elsewhere, making it the largest mass migration in modern British history.*” [18]

These years signified a radical change of Britain's position of a global power. The country faced a turning point in its foreign policy and applied to join the European Community. And finally, the government achieved its objective to pass *The Commonwealth Immigrants Act*. This was the decisive step towards the end of imperial ties and focusing on regional interests rather than Commonwealth alliances.

At that time, there was no possibility for foreigners to become automatically British citizens. The Act imposed strict passport requirements for entrance, although this restriction was not considered to be so beneficial. Against all expectations, the number of immigrants after 1962 increased due to a liberal issuing of work permissions. The reason why they came in the United Kingdom now was a family reunion; it was mainly women and children.

Important change towards the restriction on immigration was further amendments related to the Act 1962 passed in 1968 and 1971. Following step forward in anti-discrimination laws was taken with the 1965 *Race Relation Act* and then in 1976. [19] As the above-mentioned “[...], after 1962 there was a big increase in family members (secondary immigration) and overall numbers actually rose somewhat through the 1960s and 1970s. But the restrictions did eventually start to effect numbers: in 1972 immigration from the New Commonwealth was around 70,000 and represented about three-quarters of the 93,000 total, inflow, [...]” [20]

Under the Thatcher government, another document concerning British nationality was passed. The 1981 *British Nationality Act* reclassified Citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies (CUKC) and also modified the application of jus soli [21] and jus sanguinis [22]. [23]

3.8. Enoch Powell's Speech

Another interesting fact concerning immigration in post-war era is a speech of Enoch Powell. He was a British politician. He served as a Conservative Member of Parliament. On April 20, 1968, he delivered a speech known as “Rivers of Blood” which was addressed to Conservative Party activists at Birmingham. His intention was to convince them of complexity of the immigration problems and proposed anti-discrimination legislation in multiracial Britain. It seemed that Powell wanted only to clarify the reasons for restrictive Conservative policy on this issue. He criticized especially black immigrants and the impact of their arrival on the white British people. His inflammatory speech was emotional and provoked a positive response by a few members of party. However, the speech caused a political outrage and he was immediately excluded from the Shadow Cabinet by the Tory opposition leader Edward Heath. In spite of his exclusion from the position, there was a support from the ordinary people.

The consequence was that the immigration debate and the anti-immigration feelings have been brought to the forefront of public attention. [24]

3.9. The end of the first great wave

The pioneer immigrants, African Caribbeans, Indians and Pakistanis have not represented the only group for a long time. The people from other countries started coming and among them, for instance black Africans, East African Asians, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis, Greek, Turkish Cypriots and Turks.

Secondly, after joining the United Kingdom the European Economic Community in 1973, the EEC nationals were given the right to reside in Britain and apply for a job there. It should be noted that this step was a contributing factor as well.

Finally, at the end of the first migration wave which means the late 1980s and the beginning of 1990s, the total number of the minority population was estimated to be about 3 million. At that time, there was recorded a significant increase of the Muslim community remarked also by Goodhart in his publication *The British dream*. They made effort to integrate with British society such as the other minorities. Of course, they had to face various obstacles that were created from the side of white people and the more dominant groups. [25]

3.10. The second great wave from 1997 to today

During following wave which began with Labour's election in 1997, Britain noticed historically unprecedented inflows, and the situation forced the government to bring numbers sharply down again. *“In the second-wave from 1997 to 2012 the total of non-British net immigration has been around 4 million – the annual inflow, which since 2004 has been averaging close to 500,000 a year, minus the outflow.”* [26]

At the beginning, the largest minority groups coming into the UK included people from the eastern part of Europe, especially from Poland. They were perceived as a dominant community due to their visibility but the reality was different. The facts showed that almost every settled immigrant moved from outside the European Union. According to Professor Goodhart, the vast majority of these people were from the typical post-colonial areas from Asia and Africa.

The decisive factors that influenced the immigrants to move from their origin countries were different. First, Britain offered plenty of employment opportunities. Second, this was the question of the low cost of long-distance international travel and also the agents and contacts which ensured the entering of people into country became more commonly used. From wider aspect, the independent world economic system and the abolition of the internal borders within the EU contributed enormously to free movement of people. Another point concerned the introduction of *the Human Rights Act* which tightened up the conditions of protection that a government gave to asylum seekers and refugees. But the major obstacles how to prevent the influx was a liberalisation of student visas and work permissions amount of which has risen rapidly. Besides these factors, the enormous influence had also the decision to open the British labour market to the workers from Eastern Europe and Baltic EU states. All had a great impact on British ordinary life and the government was not able to solve the problems related to the increasing number of the migrating population from different parts of the World. [27]

4. ATTITUDES OF THE CONTEMPORARY BRITISH SOCIETY

The contemporary attitudes towards immigration issue differ considerably in public. However, the government is rather focused on the advantages and disadvantages regarding the newcomers and also on the original British values. Another key point is how to reduce net migration to the acceptable levels. The

intention to reduce a number of immigrant met with the opposition of the European Union which had defined that the nationals of European Economic Area cannot be prevent from entrance by using immigration policy. After all, several restrictions were imposed on the amount of non-EU national who came to live, to work and to study there. The number European and non-EU national is compared in Appendix II. The applicants have to meet the increased skill and language requirements. From now on, there is not a possibility to work in the UK without a specific job offer. In addition, British nationals should have an annual minimum income of £18,600, if they wanted to bring a non-EEA national partner or £22,400, if they wanted to bring one child to UK and so on. The purpose of the governmental restriction is to reduce a number of applicants but the figures are constantly rising. With reference to The Migration Observatory, the increase is obvious: *“According to the most recent available data, net migration was an estimated 298,000 people during the 12 months ending September 2014. This compares to 244,000 in the year ending June 2010.”* [28]

5. THE LARGEST MINORITIES AND THEIR LITERATURE

5.1. Caribbean immigrants

The first colonies that were governed by British in the West Indies were set up in 1620s. [29] Those areas provided valuable sources of sugar and tobacco. The settlers began to use native people as slave labour and force them to work on the plantations. [30] In the twentieth century, most of the Caribbeans had to abandon their lands owing to the weakness of economy, which was affected by adverse weather conditions in 1944. Furthermore, it was an area of high unemployment and the British economy required a cheap labour after the war. *“The revival of the economy and the government's emphasis on full employment meant that by 1949 there were already severe labour shortages; a Royal Commission reporting in that year suggested that the country needed to attract 140,000 immigrants a year in order to meet the demands of capital, [...]”* [31] It

was evident that the Commonwealth provided a clever solution to get cheap workers. Thousands of West Indians, especially from Barbados, had been recruited specially for some of the biggest corporations and organisations, for instance London Transport, British Railways and the British Hotels and Restaurants Association. Also there was a demand for nurses. By 1958, only 125,000 workers came in order to perform these kinds of jobs.

One more factor was taken into account regarding the Caribbean immigration. Many of them would prefer to move to the USA but there was imposed a restriction on the amount of people who could settle there. *The Immigration and Nationality Act*, also known as *The McCarran-Walter Act* has been in effect since 1952. These restrictions considerably limited the possibility to stay there and many looked to Britain, which until 1962 granted the status of British citizenship to all Commonwealth citizen.

The Caribbean islanders soon discovered that they had an idealised view and naïve expectations of their newly adopted country. They encountered a number of difficulties like feelings of hostility, racist remarks and ignorance from the white British people. They were victims of racial discrimination at work and also in housing. They were forced to live in the areas of towns that were very poor and in houses that had an appearance of slums. [32]

5.2. Caribbean literature

From point of view of Caribbean and their attitudes towards Britain, there is an available literature, fiction or non-fiction, which describes their feelings after the arrival. Many of the poets and writers arrived because they saw a great opportunity to make a new start like large numbers of other settlers. The country offers a wide range of possibilities for study. **James Berry**, one of the Jamaican poets, remarked: “*London had books and accessible libraries.*” [33] It is obvious that London was a centre of the English literary scene and they intended to publish and gain recognition for their works there. The writers such as

Barbadians **George Lamming** and **Edward Kamau Brathwaite**, Trinidadians **Samuel Selvon**, **C.L.R. James**, and **V.S. Naipaul**, Jamaicans **Andrew Salkey** and **Stuart Hall**, and Guyanese **Wilson Harris** and **Edgar Mettleholzer** came to Britain to become successful. At the beginning, the main theme of the stories was their mother countries. Later, it was possible to recognize their transformation in British society because they started to be preoccupied with problems they were facing in 1950's Britain. The key issue discussed in their books concerned racial discrimination, poor living conditions, the open hostility and lack of dignified jobs. One of the novels that capture the mood of the newcomers is a book *The Lonely Londoners* (1957) written by **Samuel Selvon** and further discussed in Chapter X. [34]

5.3. Indian and Pakistani immigrants

In 1970s, the Caribbean was no longer the largest minority group and a position of the most numerous group was overtaken by Indian immigrants. South Asians came from different countries (India, Pakistan and Bangladesh) for different reasons like their Caribbean precursors. Many of the Indians became involved in the British political, economic and social life. The arrival of the Indians was a consequence of British rule in the Indian subcontinent, also called the Raj. [35] [36]

Since the 18th century, Britain possessed the colonies in Bengal and achieved there a dominant position because of *The English India Company*. The company traded with India, South East Asia and China. It became the most important territory of Britain's overseas possessions. The British Crown Rule was established in India in 1858. However, there was the Great Rebellion [37] which marked the nature of political, social and economic principles given by British. During two World Wars, India provided monetary and military support and then economic benefits because it represented a captive market for British goods and services. On the other hand, Britain encouraged a capital investment in Indian

infrastructure, the commercialisation of agriculture, an education and law system. Nevertheless, Indian gained its independence in 1947. [38]

The presence of Indian immigrants was already obvious after the Second World War. As it was noted earlier, the Sikh soldiers had served in British army. These migrants were employed in manufacturing, in textile industry and service sector during 1950s. After *the Commonwealth Immigration Act* (1962) was passed, most of them decided to settle down there. As with the Caribbean, they came to reunite with their pioneer family members. The various Indian communities (particularly Hindus and Sikhs) were spread across areas of west London and other cities such as Leicester, Birmingham, Bedford and so forth. Many of Indians came from the western part of India, Gujarat, and Hindus and Sikhs from a one of the most developed place of India, Punjab. Hindus and Sikhs had an identical cultural background and spoke the same language. [39] Their presence had a considerable influence on British society, particularly on English language. A number of words like *pyjamas*, *bungalow*, *dungarees* and *pukkah* occurred and have been commonly used up to now. [40]

Besides Indian immigrants, another group from South Asia was comprised of the Pakistanis who came from the rural areas of Kashmir and the Western Punjab. They were also employed as workers in the textile mills. The dominant position among British Pakistanis gained the Kashmiris, the numerically largest group. They were located especially in the cheap part of Bradford. [41]

5.4. Indian literature

Considering the Indian literature, one of the most important writers at the forefront of post-war British literature was **Salman Rushdie**. There appeared a new wave of creativity to compete with the pioneers of the 1950s to attract readers. The writers of this wave had reoriented their point of view from post-colonialism towards multicultural Britain. In the 1980s, **Salman Rushdie** became famous for his novels *Midnight's Children* (1981), further discussed in

chapter X, *Shame* (1983) and the powerful and controversial *Satanic Verses* (1988). [42]

6. BRITISH POST-WAR LITERATURE

The term “post-war literature” describes an English literature from the beginning of the Second World War in 1939 to the present. There exist some factors that have influenced the major texts of this period, for instance the Second World War, the decline of the British Empire, the welfare state, the liberalisation of sexuality and gender roles, immigration and devolution on contemporary meanings of English and British national identity. The styles that affected the forms of writing are notably the modernism, the post-modernism, the significance of women's writing and writing of ethnic minorities in Britain. Literature generally reflected the conditions of England.

The immigrant writers commonly used a dialect. As noted earlier, **Sam Selvon** deployed a modified language by using a Trinidadian dialect of English in his book *The Lonely Londoners* (1956). An Indian dialect of English is possible to be found in **Rushdie's** writing. The other writers preferred deployment of dialect to emphasize a class identity, political language or language of youth subcultures. [43]

7. AN ANALYSIS OF SELECTED AUTHORS

Following part of the thesis is focused on the analysis of four selected writers that are directly or indirectly connected with the issue of immigration, notably referring to the United Kingdom. Further, the chapter is aimed to introduce the authors from different levels of society, from different countries to compare their most significant literary works with regard to the immigrant experiences and, on the other hand, from the point of view of a national identity and Britishness.

Two of the authors represent writers that immigrated to Britain for the apparent reason, which is to live in better conditions and be accepted. They came from the former British colonies, so there was no language barrier. As other immigrants, their only problem was integration to the local community where they encountered a number of difficulties. Despite the initial difficulties, they were able to make a step forward to achieve a success and became renowned authors.

The other authors are writers that have a common relation to the United Kingdom. Their attitude towards their nationality is evident in the works. In general, they embody English and Scottish characteristics and represent typical examples of British culture. Although they come from diverse social backgrounds, their books are depiction of almost the same theme. They raised the issue of British society and its language, system, habits, behaviour or symbols, however from different perspectives.

7.1. Immigrant authors

7.1.1. Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie is one of the most world-famous British Indian novelist and essayist. His country of origin is India. He was born to liberal and prosperous Muslim parents in former Bombay (today Mumbai) on 19 June 1947. He was educated at school in Bombay, Rugby School in England and King's College at University of Cambridge. After obtaining a university degree, Rushdie lived shortly in Pakistan where has been employed in television before returning to Britain again. There, before becoming a writer, he started his career as a copywriter for the advertising agency. Rushdie's first novel was called *Grimus* (1975). However, since the publication of his second novel *Midnight's Children* published in 1981 his work started to be very highly regarded. After short period, the book was awarded the Booker Prize for fiction and other awards such as the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, for fiction, an Arts Council Writer's Award and the English-Speaking Union Award followed. It was his greatest success so far. In 1993, he received also a special prize known as 'the Booker of Bookers' which commemorate the 25 years of the Booker Prize. For the second time, *Midnight's Children* has been judged the best ever winner at the London literature festival in 2008. As much of his fiction, it is located on the Indian subcontinent. There is obvious a close connection to key events of British imperial history, notably he refers to a situation after gaining of Indian independence in 1947. As his previous book was successful, the fourth novel *The Satanic Verses* (1988) became one of the most controversial book have ever been published. Main reason of controversy is its theme concerning the life of Muhammad. In consequence of the publication, Rushdie was accused of blasphemy against Islam and sentenced to death by Iranian leadership. Then he had to be put under protection of the British government and police. In spite of this fact he continues to write and publishes books. In 2008, Salman Rushdie ranked among the fifty greatest British writers since the Second World War.

Rushdie brought a new perspective into a British post-war literature and also had a strong influence on the late twentieth century novel. His narration includes the elements of magical realism and historical fiction. The stories are always variation on the theme of relations between Western and Eastern civilizations and extensively on issues of empire. [44]

7.1.2. Midnight's Children

By the end of the twentieth century, British literature was influenced by many novels related to post-colonial migration. The stories were mainly about interconnection between different cultural worlds. Black British authors focused on exploring colonization as well as the Empire. These tendencies are shown in Salman Rushdie's writings, notably in novel *Midnight's Children*. [45]

A central theme of this book is transformation of India after gaining independence from the British Empire in 1947. It is an allegory for events before and after the partition. The novel represents an example of post-colonial literature and has the elements of magical realism. It consists of three parts. The story is narrated by its major protagonist called Saleem Sinai.

Saleem Sinai is born at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947. This was a very moment when India became an independent country. Soon, he discovered his ability of telepathy as well as a special power in his nose that should be very sensitive to smell. These telepathic powers linked him with other midnight's children all born in this initial hour in the same place and gifted with magical powers. Due to his ability, Saleem assembled a conference regarding midnight's children. This event may reflect India facing formation of a new state concerning the cultural, linguistic, religious, and political differences between diverse groups. The purpose of this conference is bringing together the children dispersed over a wide area and attempting to understand the meanings of their magical gifts.

At the same time, Salem's family has migrated and had to be confronted with wars in the subcontinent. He suffered loss a memory for a long time until he went into exile in the jungle of Sundarba where the memory is restored to its original state. Afterwards, he reunited with his childhood friend. He was also sent to prison, these passages referred to the real historical events such as the proclamation of Emergency by Indira Gandhi and to her son Sanjay Gandhi. It should be noted that every Salem's act is mirrored in events that are influenced by national affairs. The Emergency meant the end of the Salem as the midnight children. Finally, Salem made the chronicle written for his son that comprised his personal achievements and the development of his nation. [46]

Rushdie used technique of magical realism to express his liberal views and prove existing parallels between the narration and the India's history. The story is located in various places of Indian subcontinent, for instance Kashmir, Bombay, Agra and Dhaka, which should evoke a vastness of land and its people. [47] In addition, Rushdie applies a method called "the chutnification of history", it means that he has pushed the object in place of subject. He deals with this style for epitomizing language in his novel. The term "Chutney" signifies an Indian meal and by adding suffix "-fiction" a new English word is created. Finally, using this word he transforms English into the language having distinctive flavour. [48] It reflects the question of British identity that involves diverse worlds and cultures and the language is a result of mixing nationals together, the British against the Indians, Indians against the Pakistanis and so on. [49] There occur many borrowings such as from Hindi, Urdu, Gujarathi and Punjabi as well. Besides, extraordinary changes in word formation, there occur for instance his neologisms, when a Hindi or Urdu root morpheme is linked with the same but in English to form a new word such as *Paan shop*, *Chapathilike*, *Hot-channa* or *Indian fauj*. Rushdie transformed many words to enhance his language and underline the significance of identity formation. [50]

7.1.3. Samuel Selvon

Samuel Selvon was a writer born in 1923 in the South Trinidad. He studied at Naparima College in San Fernando. His father was a first-generation East Indian immigrant to Trinidad and her mother was a Scottish origin. Selvon served as a wireless operator in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. After post-war years, he started to pursue a writing of stories and poetry and published in the newspapers such as the Trinidad Guardian. His activity helps him to achieve success when he appeared on the BBC. In the 1950s, he emigrated in one of the Caribbean wave coming to England for a purpose of becoming famous. At the beginning, he lived under the poor conditions in a flat in Noting Hill as many other immigrants from the Caribbean. He always intended to write the stories referred to his previous home Trinidad with the experiences of immigrant life. In 1952, he wrote the first successful novel *A Brighter Sun*, set in Trinidad, which marked a turning point in his career to become a full-time writer. Following novels such as *The Lonely Londoners* (1956), *Moses Ascending* (1975) and *Moses Migrating* (1983) often deal with the subject of black immigrant life in the cities. He is considered to be an observer giving a detailed description and depicting this minority in his stories. This kind of book reflecting the stereotypes of the West Indian people are a short tale *Brackley and the Bed*. The tale represents a great example of using Selvon's transcription of the Caribbean idiom translated into written English. Typical features of his writing are informal expression and rather the oral strategies. The strategy is based on language usually spoken by ordinary people in places where they are gathering, for instance rum-shops and verandahs. His style is always very accessible to readers due to facility, humorous look at daily life, anecdotes and elements of self-parody. Selvon became widely regarded after publishing of the novel *The Lonely Londoners* where is obvious an appearance of a new multicultural dimension to the traditional British novel. A linguistic liberation is reflected in the combination of Standard English and a Caribbean creole that is encouraged by using of idioms. His importance was emphasized by receiving of numerous literary awards and by participation in the international conferences. Besides, he

also acquired doctorates from the universities of the West Indies and Warwick. [51]

7.1.4. The Lonely Londoners

The novel *The Lonely Londoners* is considered a pioneer text in Caribbean migrant writing, not merely for its subject but also due to using of a new literary forms and strategies. The significance of book consists in the depiction of Selvon's early immigrant experience in London. There Selvon encountered many of the West Indian migrants that became a subject of his central characters. Among these people, he noticed diversity of Caribbean language. This was one of the most important factors to influence his style of writing. He is characteristic of modification of Standard English by a West Indian dialect, notably in *The Lonely Londoners*. [52] He transformed English for his purposes by writing in phonetic West Indian Creole. The examples of several West Indian slang words are “rab”, “spade” and “fellow”. [53]

“And this sort of thing was happening at a time when the English people starting to make rab about how too much West Indians coming to the country: this was a time, when any corner you turn, is ten to one you bound to bounce up a spade.” [54]

Further, in the novel is obvious another language transformation, Selvon renames prime London places ‘the Water’, ‘the Circus’ and ‘the Arch’. [55]

The first part of the story introduces a major character in the book an older man Moses Aloetta who lives in London. At the beginning of the story, Moses meets a man called Henry Oliver who has just arrived from the Caribbean. This meeting is located at Waterloo station. At the same time, there is Moses's friend Tolroy who come together with his family arriving from Jamaica. After arrival, Henry Oliver is convinced of his expectation of a new adopted country but Moses knows that he is naïve. Oliver earns an epithet "Sir Galahad". Moses offers him a help with finding a flat and job but Galahad do not agree with his

suggestion. He is persuaded that there is not difficulty to find it by himself. But situation changes and Galahad becomes confused. Finally, he returns to Moses and find a job together.

The following section deals with a Nigerian immigrant Cap who comes to London for the purpose of studying law. However, he spends his money on cigarettes and women and gets in all sorts of troubles. He is another one who needs a help from Moses and he lends him a helping hand.

Meanwhile, Lewis from Tolroy's family finds the same job as Moses at a factory. He started to be convinced that his wife is unfaithful to him. This is a reason why he beats her and she leaves him. Another family member, Tanty, has a naïve vision of London but she manages to find a job in a local store.

Galahad is more successful than was expected. He gets a night job and meets a white girl who is prejudiced against his manners. Afterwards, Galahad's situation worsens and hunger forced him to catch a pigeon in the park. Moses and Galahad talk about the difficulty of living in London. They do not want to return back to their home countries but they speculate about mistaken notion of London as a place of opportunities.

The final part is more edifying, all of the male characters visit Moses every Sunday to discuss their situation concerning women, the difficulty of getting job and the suffering from a sense of alienation. The ending describes Moses thinking about his feelings of sublimity as well as about London as a cosmopolitan city. [56]

7.2. British authors

7.2.1. Dominic Sandbrook

Dominic Sandbrook is a renowned British author and historian. He was born in 1974 in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. He was educated at Birchfield School, then at Malvern College in Worcestershire and studied at Balliol College, Oxford, where he read History and French language. After receiving of Masters in history at the University of St Andrews he finished a PhD at Jesus College, Cambridge. His first book was published in 2004 and its subject concerned the political career of American senator and presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy. At this time, he was employed as a lecturer in history at the University of Sheffield. Nowadays, he is Visiting Professor at King's College London and also a freelance writer and newspaper columnist. He has written articles and reviews for the Daily Mail and the Sunday Times and in the past decade had published in a various British newspapers and magazines such as the Times, the Observer, Prospect, the Financial Times and so on, as well as some American and international papers. In addition, he became a columnist for the Evening Standard and the New Statesman and for BBC History Magazine. Besides being a writer he has appeared on television making a documentary series The 70s broadcast on BBC2 as well as documentaries about the German car industry (Das Auto), Britain in the Cold War (Strange Days) and the history of science fiction (Tomorrow's Worlds). For the BBC Radio 4, he has also presented many of programmes and projects.

As a writer, he published the following books *Eugene McCarthy* (2004), *Mad As Hell* (2011) pursued to The United States and these sequential ones describing a modern Britain *Never Had It So Good* (2005), *White Heat* (2006), *State of Emergency* (2010), *Seasons in the Sun* (2012). In 2007, a British book retailer Waterstones named him as one of their 25 Authors for the Future. [57]

7.2.2. *Never Had It So Good: A History of Britain from Suez to the Beatles*

If there is a quest to cover such a wide area as a history of Britain, Dominic Sandbrook created a book that incorporates all aspects of a social, cultural and political milieu. *Never Had It So Good* is a part of series studying particularly the issue of modern British history. It is obvious from the title that the book covers the first half of the period of the Sixties. This period is precisely described through significant and familiar turning points such as the age of the affluent society, the end of the British Empire, the rise of rock and roll music, the cult of the teenager. He explores in more detail the growth of a modern consumer society, the impact of immigration and the retreat from empire and the effect of following events on British society.

The immigration as an inevitable part of this period is defined very clearly in chapter "*The newcomers*". Sandbrook summarized a principal changes related to migrants moving to the UK and also the reactions of a contemporary British society to adaptation to a new situation. He is preoccupied with delineation of a major cause of massive of influx, living conditions, housing conditions, difficulty of getting job, behaviour of British nationals and racial discrimination and so on. To illustrate these points, it is supported by numerous stories of real persons who convey their experiences of living during the late fifties and sixties. He combines academic and applied knowledge with a dramatic writing to comprehend what was happening. [58]

7.2.3. Irvine Welsh

Irvine Welsh is an acclaimed but sometimes controversial Scottish novelist, playwright and short story writer. He was born in 1958 in the port area of Edinburgh, Scotland. His family moved to the prefabricated house in West Pilton, and then into the Moirhouse housing estate. Welsh was a student of Ainslie Park Secondary School until his sixteen and then finished a course of electrical engineering. He worked as an apprentice TV repairman and had a

various jobs. In the late seventies, he decided to leave his home for enjoying punk scene in London. After returning to home town in Scotland he was employed in the city council in housing department. He studied for an MBA degree Heriot Watt University.

In the nineties, Welsh invested a great effort in creating his first novel *Trainspotting* that was finally published in 1993 and he became a widely regarded writer. The novel has gained in popularity and received many of good reviews. Despite this fact, the book was rejected for a Booker Prize list and was criticized by some circles. It seemed to be rather a commercial success than a literary recognition. In 1996, a film adaptation of book was released, directed by Danny Boyle and written by John Hodge. The film had a worldwide success and became a phenomenon. The book achieved an extraordinary cult status after the film release. However, Welsh is still considered to be a very controversial figure.

After publishing of *Trainspotting*, other writings followed: *Ecstasy: Three Tales of Chemical Romance* (1996), *Filth* (1998), *Glue* (2001), *Porno* (2002), *The Bedroom Secrets of the Master Chefs* (2006), *Skagboyz* (2008) and the last novel *The Sex Lives of Siamese Twins* (2014). [59]

Regarding the central themes of his books, firstly a dominant role plays an addiction to drugs and secondly the question of class system and a national identity occurs. Related to his previous jobs and life, he describes the situation of the council housing scheme and refers to a particular social and cultural milieu. Moreover, the stories vividly depict scenes of the life such as hooliganism, sex, homosexuality, clubs, low-paid work, emigration, humour, prejudices and habits of the Scots.

7.2.4. Trainspotting

Trainspotting presented a Welsh's attempt to express his concern about the social landscape in which the addiction to drugs is not anything extraordinary. It pointed out the serious problem of class identity that is appeared within the

heroin subculture in Edinburgh. The book is divided into seven short stories written in Scottish dialect or British English. The action is located to various places associated with cities such as Leith or Edinburgh and set in the late 1980s. The vast majority of the stories is narrated by a major protagonist, Mark Renton and focused on a group of five addicts. This group consisted of predominantly young men reflected the decadence of modern Western society.

Mark Renton and his friend Spud used to gain the unemployment benefits to support their habit to take drugs. There appeared another character that represented their mate, Simon Williamson. Tommy has a girlfriend but she breaks up with him. Tommy's solution is using of heroin. Begbie, alcoholic sociopath, becomes concerned about unwanted pregnancy of his girl but he is permanently seeking for the drugs. Another fellow addict, Renton alongside Spud are caught stealing books. Spud is jailed and Renton undergoes a treatment. After getting clean, his brother is killed during a bomb attack. Renton moves to London where he meets an acquaintance named Kelly. Meanwhile, David is infected with HIV and plans a revenge on the man who is responsible for his suffering. In the course of action, another addict and Renton's friend called Matty dies. Shortly after that, Renton and Kelly split up and he decides to return home to Leith. His return home forces him to be confronted with his past. He meets his old dealer who is now an amputee and old friend Tommy who has been infected with HIV and dies. The conclusion of the story was expected, Renton steals a sum of money and escapes to Amsterdam for starting a new life. [60]

Regarding the language, the difficulty of this novel is to understand words what people said. The explanation of this problematic issue is that Welsh employs transformation of language by means a Scottish dialect and lexicon of subcultures. By using this strategy, he accomplishes to portray life without artificiality. There is a typical example of this transformation, the main character of the story Mark Renton's speech:

"Ah wanted the radge tae jist fuck off ootay ma visage, tae go oan his ain, n jist leave us." [61]

or his friend Begbie's violent language:

"Ah wis the cunt wi the fuckin pool cue in ma hand, n the plukey cunt could huv the fat end ay it in his pus if he wanted, like." [62]

7.3. Comparison of the selected authors

The analysis of the selected authors relating to the impact of immigration proved that British literature has been significantly affected by migrant experiences as it is obvious in **Selvon's** novel *The Lonely Londoners*. The story has traces of his personal experience after arriving in a new country as a part of the Windrush generation. His intention to alter the notion of Britain showing it as an unreal place of promise that brings a contrary view than immigrants expected. The country offered them isolation, feelings of loneliness, hostility, poor living conditions, low-paid jobs and so on. Selvon reflected this situation in his later outputs.

History of Britain associated with the Empire is the subject of **Rushdie's** novel *Midnight Children*. To emphasize the evolving British identity, multiculturalism and its influence on language, he combines diverse elements of various vocabularies to modify Standard English. His book focuses on his motherland and deals with India's transition between the old system and the new one. Method of combining mythic strategies with realism points out Indian people, culture and events following the end of the Empire that has left traces on the identities.

Dominic Sandbrook and his book *Never Had It So Good* represent the state of being British. His life and his work embody British identity; the central theme incorporated in his book is the UK and its history, society, culture, music

and politics. Further, he has written articles and reviews for various British newspapers and magazines. His close connection with BBC has been considerable in recent years. It is evident that the British national identity is one of his preferred subjects.

Work of **Irvine Welsh** is characterised by a raw portrayal of working-class people living in Scotland, particularly in Edinburgh and other port cities. There is sometimes violent depiction of local life; he does not deploy any artificial emotion and description. It is well known that he uses his native Scottish dialect and his style of writing refuses any polite conventions. Dialectal speech of his characters is phonetically transcribed. For his readers the meaning of words may look obscure. Perhaps it would be a reason why he is considered to be controversial author.

8. CONCLUSION

This thesis attempted to answer a question concerning immigration and its impact on British identity and literature. The ascertained facts proved that the influence of immigrants is considerable. The initial part dealt with the European Union and its attitudes towards immigration policy. The findings suggested that the issue of immigration is considered to be a very complex and multifaceted phenomenon due to continual influx of migrants from European or non-European countries. According to the Eurostat statistics, the UK is one of the most attractive destinations. It requires impose numerous restrictions and to take legal measures to reduce net immigration to acceptable level. Nevertheless, the European Commission is convinced that it is essential to cover a wide range of aspects. Careful consideration should be given especially to human aspect of immigrants, tolerance, respect and effort to integrate these people into society. However, neither the EU nor the UK has found a comprehensive solution to this crisis so far.

Despite the fact that the immigration was thought to be an unprecedented challenge to contemporary British traditional life and national identity, Britain had previous experiences of accepting foreigners. Throughout the history of the country the presence of immigrants was unavoidable due to former colonies and trade related to British Empire and then as a consequence of particular laws by the government. There were several attempts to limit the amount of immigrants but the efforts proved to be unsuccessful. The attitudes of present British society are very diverse. The negative attitudes find that immigration is a serious problem regarding unemployment (cheap labour), security (criminality) and social benefits (advantages). On the other hand, there are some economic benefits of immigration, for instance they pay more in taxes and contribute money to UK public finances and so on.

Related to evaluation of literature, it should be noted that immigration influenced British post-war literature in many ways as for example the immigrant

writers **Rushdie** and **Selvon** have demonstrated. They have contributed by numerous excellent books and affected English language and written texts by their dialects, experiences and attitudes towards an adopted country. This is reflected in the selected books and their plot overviews. Even Price's book *Culture wars in British literature* mentioned them as important authors that changed traditional style of writing and brought new extraordinary themes. **Sandbrook** and **Welsh** as British authors have made an effort to depict the traditional notion of Britain and outline a significance of national identity. In addition, they are able to describe a subject truthfully without artificiality and avoiding artistic conventions. From present perspective, Welsh achieved to create a cult novel that provoked different responses. Despite the fact that *Trainspotting* was published in 1993, it still attracts contemporary readers due to its central theme because the topic concerning drugs is a significant problem of current society.

The task for general public and government is to create rather a multicultural society and share cultural traditions and experiences than to show negative effects of immigration because it is unavoidable phenomenon in current British life.

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11. ABSTRACT

The issue of immigration has been a central theme of numerous political discussions and newspapers articles for the last couple of years. The reason for such an interest is the increasing number of immigrants moving to European Union. The United Kingdom, as a member state of the EU, is one of the countries with the highest figures in the immigration charts. Thanks to immigration in the twentieth century, Great Britain has become a multicultural society containing many cultures and minority groups. This thesis explores impact of immigration on the country, emphasizes its influence on British literature and analyses selected authors in relation to this phenomenon.

12. RESUMÉ

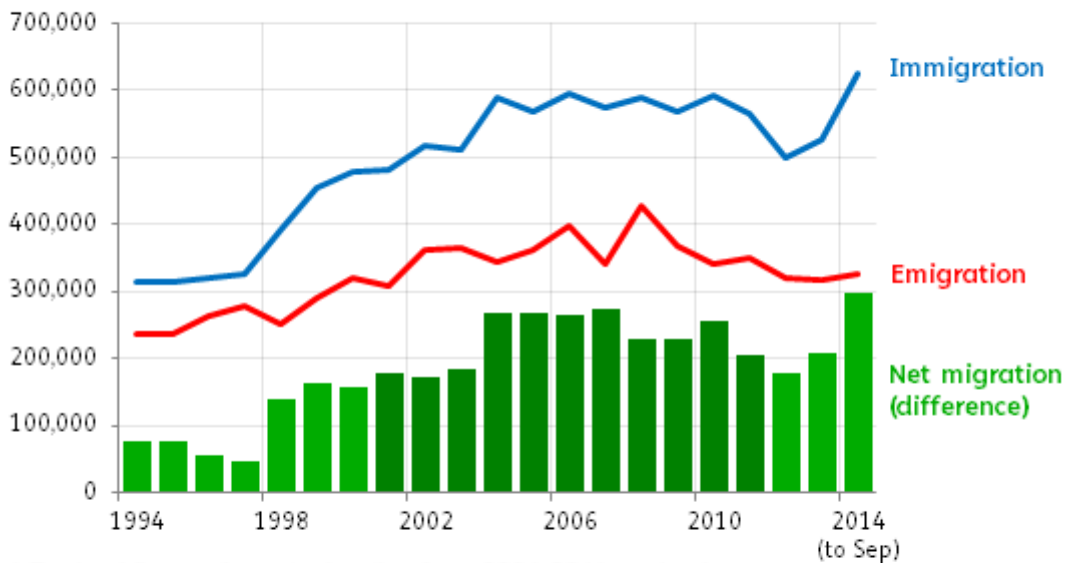
V posledních letech je imigrace jedním z předních témat mnohých politických diskuzí a novinových článků. Důvodem zájmu o toto téma je zvyšující se příliv imigrantů do Evropské unie. Velká Británie jako členský stát EU patří mezi země s nejvyšším počtem přistěhovalců. V průběhu 20. století se díky imigraci stala multikulturní společností. Tato bakalářská práce hodnotí vliv imigrace na britskou společnost jako takovou a zároveň na její literární tvorbu. Analyzuje zvolené autory a popisuje je ve vztahu k tomuto tématu.

13. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Migration to and from the UK

Migration to and from the UK

Long-term international migration in the UK



* Revised figures for net migration from 2001-2011, revised immigration and emigration figures are not available

Source: ONS long-term international migration, 2013, table 2.01a and migration statistics quarterly report, Feb 2015, table 1

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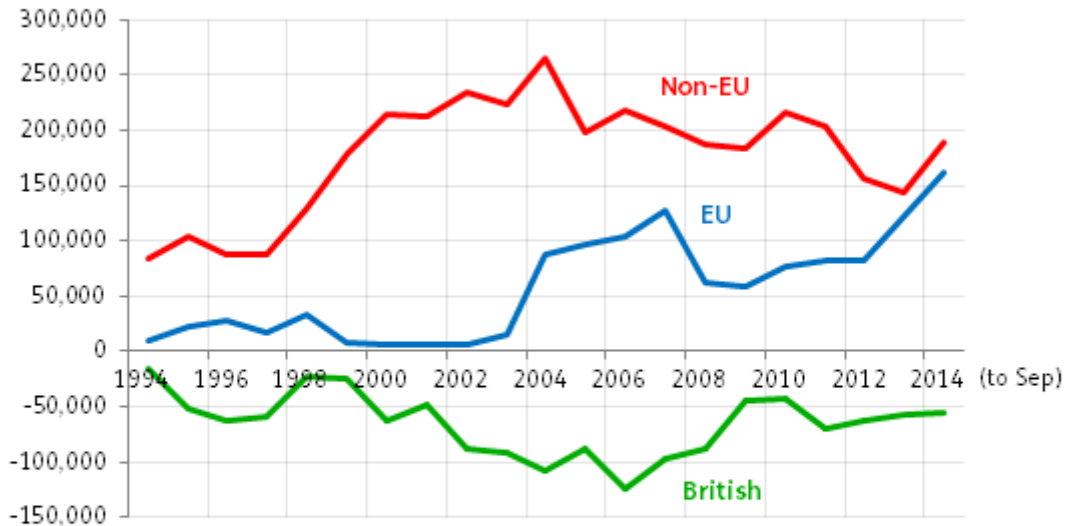
Table 1 – Blue line shows long-term (1994 to September 2014) immigration to UK. The figures have risen continuously. In comparison with the blue line, the red one related to emigration has not reached the same level, it has rather dropped.¹

¹ <http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/election-2015-briefing-uk-migration-policy-2010-general-election>

Appendix 2 – Migration by nationality

Migration by nationality

Long-term international net migration in the UK by nationality



* Figures from 2001-2011 undercount total net migration, these breakdowns by nationality haven't been revised

Source: ONS long-term international migration, 2013, table 2.01a and migration statistics quarterly report, Feb 2015, table 1

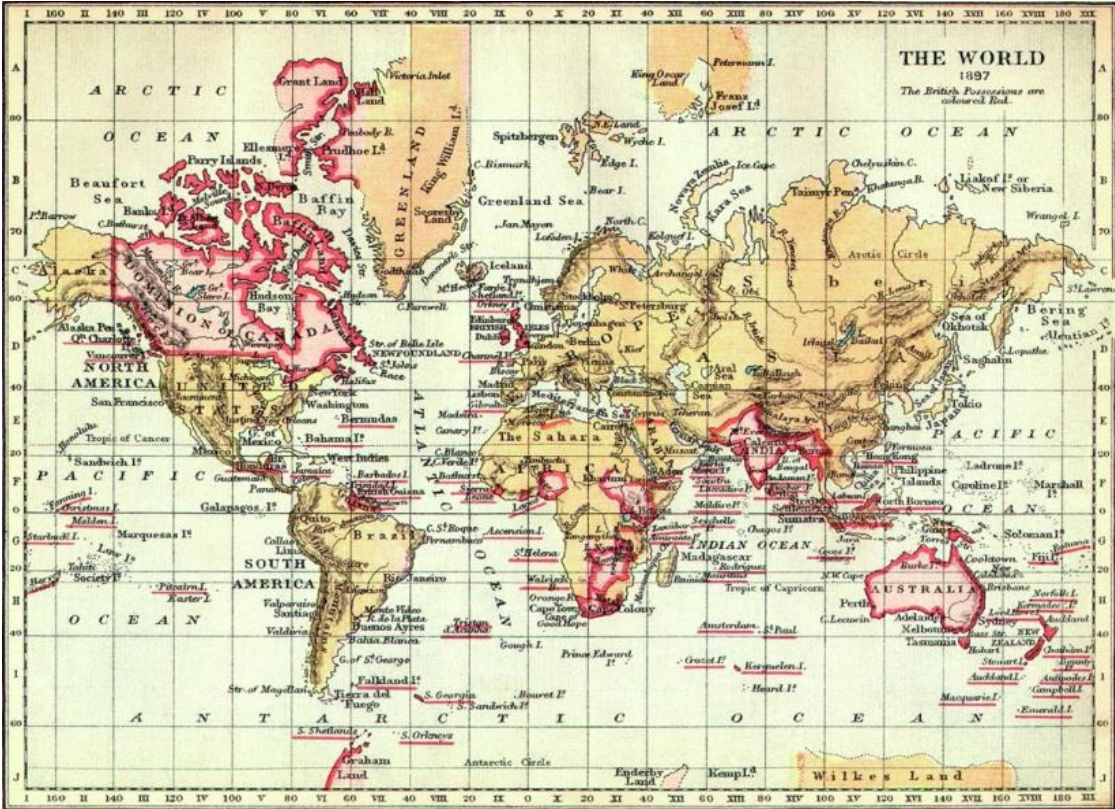
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Table 2 – Table shows long-term (1994 to September 2014) international net migration to the UK by nationality. Red line indicates non-European migrants and blue line shows migration of European citizens.²

² <http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/election-2015-briefing-uk-migration-policy-2010-general-election>

Appendix 3 – Map of the British Empire



Map - The map shows territory (marked in traditional pink) that was controlled by the British Empire in 1897.³

³ <http://www.britishempire.co.uk/maproom/pinkbits1897.htm>