BRITISH HISTORY

British turning points

1066

Norman Conquest

William of Normandy wins at Hastings and begins Norman rule, bringing new landowners, castles and language to England.

1215

Magna Carta

Barons force King John to seal a charter that limits royal power, an early step towards the idea that even kings must obey the law.

1649

Execution of Charles I

After the Civil War, Parliament puts the king on trial and executes him. England becomes a republic for a time.

1807

Slave Trade Act

Parliament abolishes the slave trade in the British Empire. The 1833 Act later abolishes slavery in most of the Empire.

1918

Votes for some women

The Representation of the People Act gives the vote to some women over 30 and to all men over 21.

1945

End of the Second World War

Fighting ends in Europe in May and in Asia in August, after six years of war.

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