

The English-Speaking Diaspora (18th-20th centuries)

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How the Atlas Turned Pink: Movement, Society, Art and Law of the English-Speaking Diaspora

Over a series of four lecture-classes, we will consider the historical cultural, social, and political influences of the English speaking-diaspora – from its stirrings in the 15th century, through the trans-global hegemony of the 19th century, and up to the present day. We will explore how this peripatetic society instituted laws and statutes, modelled on the British paradigm, and how they imposed such laws on themselves and upon the peoples, putatively in the name of ‘civilisation’.

During the course, we will:

- Investigate the spheres of influence that the English-speaking invaders wrought upon their new subjects; looking from Ireland to New Zealand, we will consider how and where the rule of the English-speaking invaders was accepted and how it was rejected
- Explore the elements of law that are common to, and drive, the legal systems in both the United States of America and Britain, and in doing so we will look at other nations where Common Law is practiced, and upon which societal structure is predicated
- Examine the rise in fortune and influence of the middle class, particularly its upward demographic in the 19th century
- Study the use of art, music, and architecture as civilising influences, as symbols of power, and as tools with which to suppress as well as advance

Each class will consist of a ‘lesson’, where, in turn, these elements will be unpacked and analysed; the second part of each class will be an exercise in societal modelling. Throughout the four sessions, the students, divided into groups of self-determining ‘colonies’, will begin to develop their own social mores and codes, and will be given a problematic to discuss and debate, and to formulate solutions.