Knowledge organiser: Britain after WW2

Date	Key dates for the post-war period
1942	Beveridge Report published. This identified the Five Giants (problems) that the government needed to solve
1944	Butler Education Act - this increased the school leaving age to 15 and brings improvements and changes to education in Britain
1945-1951	Post-war Labour government introduces "cradle to grave' universal welfare reforms
1948	The National Health Service is introduced
1948	The British Nationality Act passed - this meant that every Commonwealth citizen, and their dependant family members, had the right to settle anywhere in the Commonwealth.
1948	SS Empire Windrush landed at Tilbury docks in London (the first of many ships which brought immigrants to the UK after WW2)
1951	Festival of Britain - was a national exhibition and fair that reached millions of visitors throughout the UK in the summer of 1951
1954	End of rationing in Britain
1955	Conservatives win an election promising rationing will not return. Austerity was now over.
1958	First Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) London to Aldermaston march (a group against the use of/having nuclear weapons)
1958	Notting Hill race riot in London
1961	Contraceptive pill free on the NHS for married women (it would not be available for single women until 1974)
1965	The Murder Act passed - this ends the use of the death penality in the UK
1965	Race Relations Act - made racism in public places illegal and created a new offence, 'incitement to racial hatred'. There would be other Race Relations Acts in 1968 and 1976 focusing on discrimation in housing, employment and education
1967	The Abortion Act is passed
1967	National Front founded - a right wing group which campaigned to have immigrants sent home
1967	The Policy and Economic Planning report into racial discrimination
1968	Enoch Powell, "Rivers of Blood" speech - a controversial and racist speech which expressed concern about immigrants in the UK
1967	Sexual Offences Act - this legalises homosexuality (being gay)
1968	Women strike for equal pay at the Ford factory in Dagenham (this became law in 1970 with the Equal Pay Act)
1969	The Divorce Act is passed (making it easier to get a divorce)
1971	First International Women's Day
1973	Britain joins the European Economic Community (this would evolve into the European Union)
1975	The Sex Discrimation Act is passed (illegal to discrimate against women in the workplace)

Key concepts

The establishment
The privileged elite of people who ran the country had been to the same public schools like Eton College, the same universities like Oxford and Cambridge. People in the 1950s and 1960s began to question why these people were running everything.

Feminism
Traditional views saw women as wives and mothers, sometimes unskilled workers but never as bosses or professionals. As more women went to work there was a movement to make women more equal to men not only in terms of equal pay, but in terms of opportunities open to them.

Austerity
To solve the UK's debt problems from the war the government had to bring more money into the country, while at the same time spending less money itself. They did this by selling British food and materials to other countries to make money. This meant that there were less in the UK which led to rationing.

Immigration
When the Second World War ended in 1945, it was quickly recognised that the reconstruction of the British economy required a large influx of immigrant labour. The Royal Commission on Population reported in 1949 that immigrants of 'good stock' would be welcomed 'without reserve', and potential newcomers from the Caribbean and elsewhere soon became aware of the pressing needs of the labour market in the UK.