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THE SPREAD OF ENGLISH AROUND THE WORLD

Everyone knows that not so long ago Great Britain possessed the world's largest colonial empire. Its colonies were located on all continents, with the population larger in several times than its own inhabitants. In addition, Britain controlled almost all the main sea routes of its time: the Gibraltar or the Dardanelles, the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, where it was possible to replenish supplies of drinking water or coal. Britain also captured capes in important straits or in the middle of the oceans. Small settlements with a naval base were founded there. They were Malta, St. Helena, Aden, Singapore and many others. Having a favourable geographical position, some of them have become centers of the world trade. The closest competitor, France, was very far from it.

The British colonial system differed from the rest, and such a geocultural phenomenon as colonial English arose. Active work was carried out with the local population, especially with its educated and ruling layers. The elite of the conquered societies was educated at English universities, which contributed to both the spread of the English language in the colonies and the inclusion of their elite in the basics of European culture and technology. The army was also an important institution. The population of the colonies was actively used in the fleet: the African fleet of Great Britain was completed from the Indians, but the Indian one was consisted of the population from the African colonies. Naturally, all this contributed to the spread of English culture among the population of the colonies.

Missioners also played an active role in promoting English among the local population. Since most of the British colonies (except India and the Persian Gulf) did not belong to the Islamic world, it was much easier to spread Christianity there, in

contrast with most French colonies. Active educational activities of Protestant and Catholic missionaries introduced English language and European culture to the local population. At the same time, they actively pursued a resettlement policy, mainly related to sparsely populated areas: North America, Australia, New Zealand. Also in the African colonies, a layer of European and Indian population, which played a prominent role in the economy, was formed. Slaves from Africa and later workforce from British India were moved to the Latin America colonies. Torn from their roots, people mixed together and easily switched to English over time. The predominance of the British and Irish in the multinational stream of immigrants also contributed to the spread of the English language. Since the UK was a leader in world trade and engineering for a long time, English easily became the language of business, science and technology not only within the colonial empire.

There is another reason why English became so common in English colonies. It has a number of undeniable advantages over other languages. In one of the works devoted precisely to this issue, the English philologist Brakebush in his dissertation "Is English intended to become the universal language of the world?" summarizes the advantages of the English language: "English is simpler than all other languages of the world, in English there are a lot of monosyllables (short words are easy to remember and pronounce), the English syntax is an example of simplicity and transparency." In addition to the linguistic reasons for the upcoming spread of English, he identifies the bravest English army, the best fleet in the world, the British physical and mental superiority over other nations, and the special tendency of the British to firm religious beliefs and assertiveness. It should be noted that this is not only about the personal convictions of Brakebush, but about the typical arguments he collected in those times. Today's world leading position of English proves that his beliefs were right.

REFERENCES

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