

CONFLICT OVER THE UNION IN SCOTLAND

HAS THE UNION BEEN GOOD OR BAD FOR SCOTLAND?





The Union was a corrupt deal by desperate Scottish nobles

Fareweel to a' our Scottish fame,
Fareweel our ancient glory;
Fareweel ev'n to the Scottish name,
Sae fam'd in martial story.
Now Sark rins over Solway sands,
An' Tweed rins to the ocean,
To mark where England's province stands-
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!

What force or guile could not subdue,
Thro' many warlike ages,
Is wrought now by a coward few,
For hireling traitor's wages.
The English stell we could disdain,
Secure in valour's station;
But English gold has been our bane-
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!

O would, or I had seen the day
That Treason thus could sell us,
My auld grey head had lien in clay,
Wi' Bruce and loyal Wallace!
But pith and power, till my last hour,
I'll mak this declaration;
We're bought and sold for English gold-
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!

Source 1: The poem
'Such A Parcel Of
Rogues In A Nation' by
Robert Burns, 1791



The Union was a corrupt deal by desperate Scottish nobles

Source 2: Extract from "How the Act of Union came about through a corrupt fixed deal in 1706" by Hamish MacPherson, 27 September 2020

The fix was simple and was based on money and privilege. The Commissioners met in London at the Cockpit and carved up responsibilities among themselves for creating a treaty of Union. Apparently the whole 62 met just once face to face. For Scotland, the Dukes of Queensberry and Argyll led the way – and they were ardently for the Union. No wonder – Queensberry was given a small fortune for his work while Argyll was given an English peerage...

But there was much more on offer to secure the votes. The UK Parliament website states: "Honours, appointments, pensions and even arrears of pay and other expenses were distributed to clinch support from Scottish peers and MPs."

Devine agrees: "The promise of favours, sinecures, pensions, offices and straightforward cash bribes became indispensable to secure government majorities."

The debate that began on October 3, 1706, was therefore a waste of time. Even though the majority of Scots opposed the incorporating Union, and there were riots in the streets against it, the Scottish Parliament had been bought and sold by English gold. It really was a fix.



The Union was agreed through a democratic process

Source 3: List of votes cast by the Scottish Parliament to pass the Act of Union in 1707. 110 voted in favour and only 67 against

This belongs to MINUTS 60.

IN the Parliament the 16 of January 1707, a Vote was put, *Approve of the Act Ratifying and Approving the Treaty of Union of the two Kingdoms of Scotland and England, Yea or No, and it carried Approve:* And the List of the Members Names as they Voted, *Approve or No, (ordered to be Printed)* is as follows.

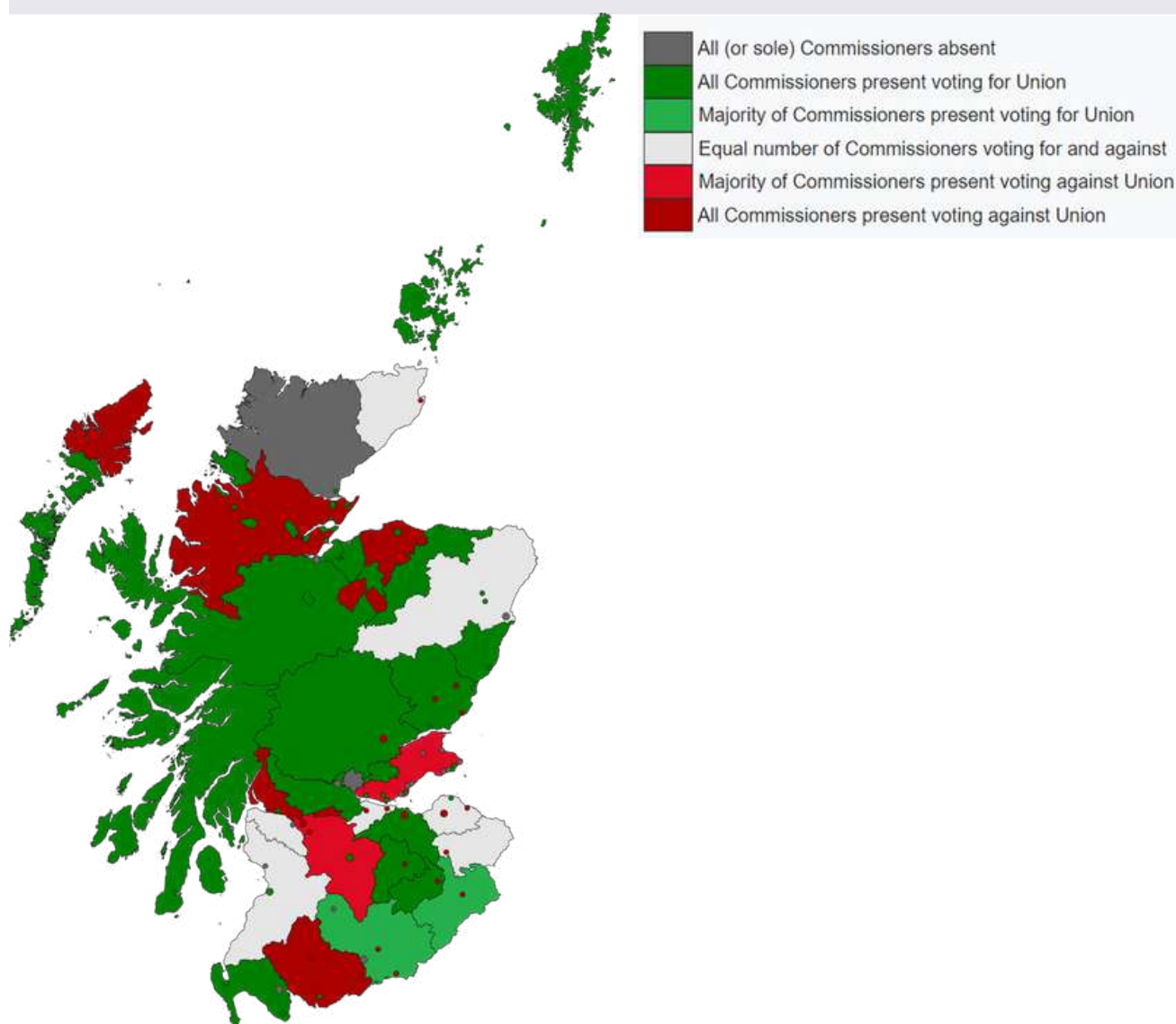
APPROVERS			NOES		
<p><i>Of the Nobility.</i></p> <p>The Lord Chancellor allowed to be Printed amongst the Approvers by special Order of Parliament.</p> <p>Marquis of Montrose P.S.C.</p> <p>Duke of Argyll</p> <p>Marquis of Tweeddale</p> <p>Marquis of Lothian.</p> <p>Earls</p> <p>Mar. Sec.</p> <p>Sutherland</p> <p>Roths</p> <p>Morrison</p> <p>Glencairn</p> <p>Abercorn</p>			<p><i>Of the Nobility.</i></p> <p>Delorain</p> <p>Hay.</p> <p>Viscount Duplin.</p> <p>Lords</p> <p>Forbes</p> <p>Elphinstoun</p> <p>Rofs</p> <p>Torphichen</p> <p>Frazer</p> <p>Banff</p> <p>Elibank</p> <p>Duffus</p> <p>Rollo</p> <p>Lord Register</p> <p>Lord Justice-Clerk.</p>		
<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>Sir Robert Dickson of Inverack</p> <p>William Nisbet of Dirletoun</p> <p>Jo. Cockburn younger of Ormiston</p> <p>Sir John Swintoun of that ilk</p> <p>Sir Alexander Campbell of Cefnock</p> <p>Sir William Ker of Greenhead</p> <p>Archibald Douglass of Cavers</p> <p>William Bennet of Grubbert</p> <p>Mr. John Murray of Bowhill</p> <p>Mr. John Pringle of Haining</p> <p>Will. Morison of Prestoungrange</p> <p>Alexander Horie' urgh of that ilk</p> <p>George Baillie of Jerviswood</p> <p>Sir John Johnston of Westerhall</p> <p>William Douglass of Dornock</p> <p>Mr. William Stewart of Castle-Stewart</p> <p>Mr. John Stewart of Sorbie</p> <p>Mr. Francis Montgomery of Giffan</p> <p>Mr. William Dalrymple of Glenmuir</p>			<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>Mr. Robert Stewart of Tillicoultry</p> <p>Sir Robert Pollock of that ilk</p> <p>Mr. John Montgomerie of Wrae</p> <p>John Halden of Glenagies</p> <p>Mongo Grahame of Gorthy</p> <p>Sir Thomas Burnett of Leyes</p> <p>Will. Seton younger of Pitmedden</p> <p>Alexander Grant yor. of that ilk</p> <p>Sir Kenneth Mackenzie</p> <p>Mr. Aeneas M'leod of Cadboll</p> <p>Mr. John Campbell of Mammore</p> <p>Sir James Campbell of Auchinbreck</p> <p>Ja. Campbell yor. of Ardinglafs</p> <p>Sir William Anstruther of that ilk</p> <p>James Halyburton of Pitcur</p> <p>Alexander Abercrombie of Glasloch</p> <p>Mr. James Dunbar yor. of Hemprigs</p> <p>Alexander Douglass of Eagleshaw</p> <p>John Bruce of Kintola.</p>		
<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>John Strimfour</p> <p>Lieut. Coll: Jo: Areskin</p> <p>John Muir</p> <p>James Scott</p> <p>Sir John Areskine</p> <p>James Spile</p> <p>Mr. Patrick Moncrieff</p> <p>Sir Andrew Home</p> <p>Sir Peter Halket</p> <p>Sir James Smollet</p>			<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>Thomas Sharp of Houstoun</p> <p>John Murray of Strowan</p> <p>Alexander Gordon of Pitlurg</p> <p>John Forbes of Culloden</p> <p>David Beathun of Balicur</p> <p>Major Henry Baltour of Dunboig</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Hope of Rankelior</p> <p>Mr. Patrick Lyon of Auchterhouse</p> <p>Mr. James Carnegie of Phinhaven</p> <p>David Grahame younger of Fintrie</p> <p>William Maxwell of Cardinefs</p> <p>Alexander Mekye of Palgoun</p> <p>James Sinclair of Stempster</p> <p>Sir Henry Innes younger of that ilk</p> <p>Mr. George Mackenzie of Inchcoulter</p>		
<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>William Alvis</p> <p>Mr. James Bethun</p> <p>Mr. Rorie M'kenzie</p> <p>John Urquhart</p> <p>Daniel Campbell</p> <p>Sir Robert Forbes</p> <p>Mr. Robert Douglass</p> <p>Mr. Alexander Maitland</p> <p>Mr. George Dalrymple</p> <p>Mr. Charles Campbell.</p>			<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>Robert Inglis</p> <p>Alexander Robertson</p> <p>Walter Stuart</p> <p>Hugh Montgomery</p> <p>Alexander Edgar</p> <p>Alexander Duff</p> <p>Francis Mollison</p>		
<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>Valter Scott</p> <p>Robert Scott</p> <p>Robert Kellie</p> <p>John Hutchefon</p> <p>Archibald Shells</p> <p>Mr. John Lyon</p> <p>George Brodie</p>			<p><i>Of the Barons.</i></p> <p>George Spence</p> <p>Sir David Cuninghame</p> <p>Mr. John Carruthers</p> <p>George Home</p> <p>John Bayne</p> <p>Mr. Robert Frazer.</p>		

Sie Subscribitur Seafield Cancellar. I. P. D. P.



The Union was agreed through a democratic process

Source 4: Map showing how the Commissioner's in the Scottish Parliament voted on the ratification of the Treaty of Union





Scots were uneasy about the Union from the start

Source 5: Summary of a letter about the Union written by the Scottish Earl of Mar, 1 May 1707

On 1 May 1707, the day the union came into effect, the Earl of Mar received news about the mood in Edinburgh and of comments about those in power receiving new jobs and titles. He was told that the bells rang out a solemn tune in the city that morning. 'The first tune of our musick bells this day was 'Why should I be sad on my wedding day.'



Scots were uneasy about the Union from the start



Source 6: 19th Century picture of soldiers firing on rioters during the insurrection against the Union in Glasgow in 1706. From Cassell's Illustrated History of England, volume IV



The Union provided political stability

Source 7: A pamphlet produced by Scottish Protestants outlining their fear and opposition to Jacobite activity, 2 November 1715

WE the Ministers and Elders of the Provincial Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, being deeply impressed with the Divine Goodness, brightly displayed in the late happy Revolution, begun and carried on by King WILLIAM of Glorious Memory, and in bringing our only Lawful and Rightful Sovereign King GEORGE to the peaceable Possession of the Throne of His Royal Ancestors, notwithstanding of the many open and secret Practices that have been used of late Years to defeat His Succession, cannot sufficiently adore that kind Providence, which so often, and so seasonably interposed to save this Nation from Popery and Slavery. And being sensibly touched with the present most horrid Rebellion against the King's Person and Government, begun, and carried on by Papists and some who have professed themselves Protestants; whereby our Holy Religion and Liberties are threatened with utter Ruin, and our Country with Blood and Confusion, judge it our Duty, as Watchmen, in the Fear of the LORD, to declare before the World, and unto you our Flocks our Abhorrence of the Principles and Practices of these Rebels; and to warn you all of the Sin and Danger of abetting and encouraging their wicked and pernicious Designs. It is with just Resentment we observe, That any who bear the Name of Protestants, should be engaged in a War against a Protestant Prince, whose Illustrious House hath been noted for Their Zeal for the Protestant Religion; The Succession of which Family we cannot but look upon us as the best Security, next to the Divine Protection, to our Religion, and whatever else is dear and valuable to us: Are not all the reformed Churches of CHRIST in Europe GREAT Debtors to the Divine Mercy, for a Prince of the reformed Religion on the Throne of these Nations, and the Settlement of the Succession in His Royal Family, being Protestants? Should we then, who are more immediately concerned in this Blessing, be unthankful to GOD for it, of all Men we would be most inexcusable, and would provoke a Holy and Righteous GOD to deprive us and our Posterity of the Purity of Religion, transmitted to us, at the Expence of the Blood of our Godly Ancestors; These Things we have always endeavoured both in our Judicatories and upon all proper Occasions, to possess you with just Sentiments of. We think it is our Duty to warn you our daily Hearers of the Danger you are in of Popery, in Case of the Accession of a Popish Pretender to the Throne of these Kingdoms, and of the Influence this Rebellion hath to forward it: We ever look'd upon the Pretender and Popery as inseparable; and the Reformation of the Church of Scotland in the utmost Danger under the Reign of a Popish King: These Things are so evident ...



The Union provided political stability

Source 8: Extract from an anti-Jacobite broadsheet (newspaper) about the Jacobite plot to assassinate King William III in 1696, noting the role of Providence (God's will) in protecting the King

*The Triumphs of Providence over Hell, France & Rome, In the Defeating & Discovering of the late Hellish and Barbarous **PLOTT**, for Assassinating his Royall Majesty **KING WILLIAM** 3rd, lively Display'd in all its Several*



Who come to this Result, That nothing can
Succeed of their Attempts by Night or Day,
Until they take King WILLIAM's Life away:
Which to effect, some barbarous Villans be
Sent to Assassinate his Majesty.
This Council (that for Lucifer did pimp)
Was by themselves Characterized **L I M P**:
A proper Term! For those who thence did Roam,
Caught by the Hangman, came but *Limping home*.



The Union and Empire brought few economic benefits to Scotland

Source 9: Quote from Scottish Nationalist Robert Freebairn in 1715

Before the Union we have no Taxes but what were laid on by our own Parliaments, and those very easie, and spent within our own Country. Now we have not only the Cess Or Land Tax, the Customs conform to the *English* book of Rates, near the Triple of what we formerly pay'd, and Excise, both most rigorously exacted by a Parcel of Strangers sent down upon us from *England*; But also the Malt-Tax, the Salt-Tax, the Leather-Tax, the Window-Tax, the taxes upon Candles, Soap, Stearch ... And which is the heaviest Burden of all, we are for ever deprived of our own Parliament and Officers of State, being reduced in a Manner to a Province, and must every year send up great Sums of Money to *London*.



The Union and Empire brought few economic benefits to Scotland

**NO WONDER SHE'S
LAUGHING.
SHE'S GOT
SCOTLAND'S OIL.**



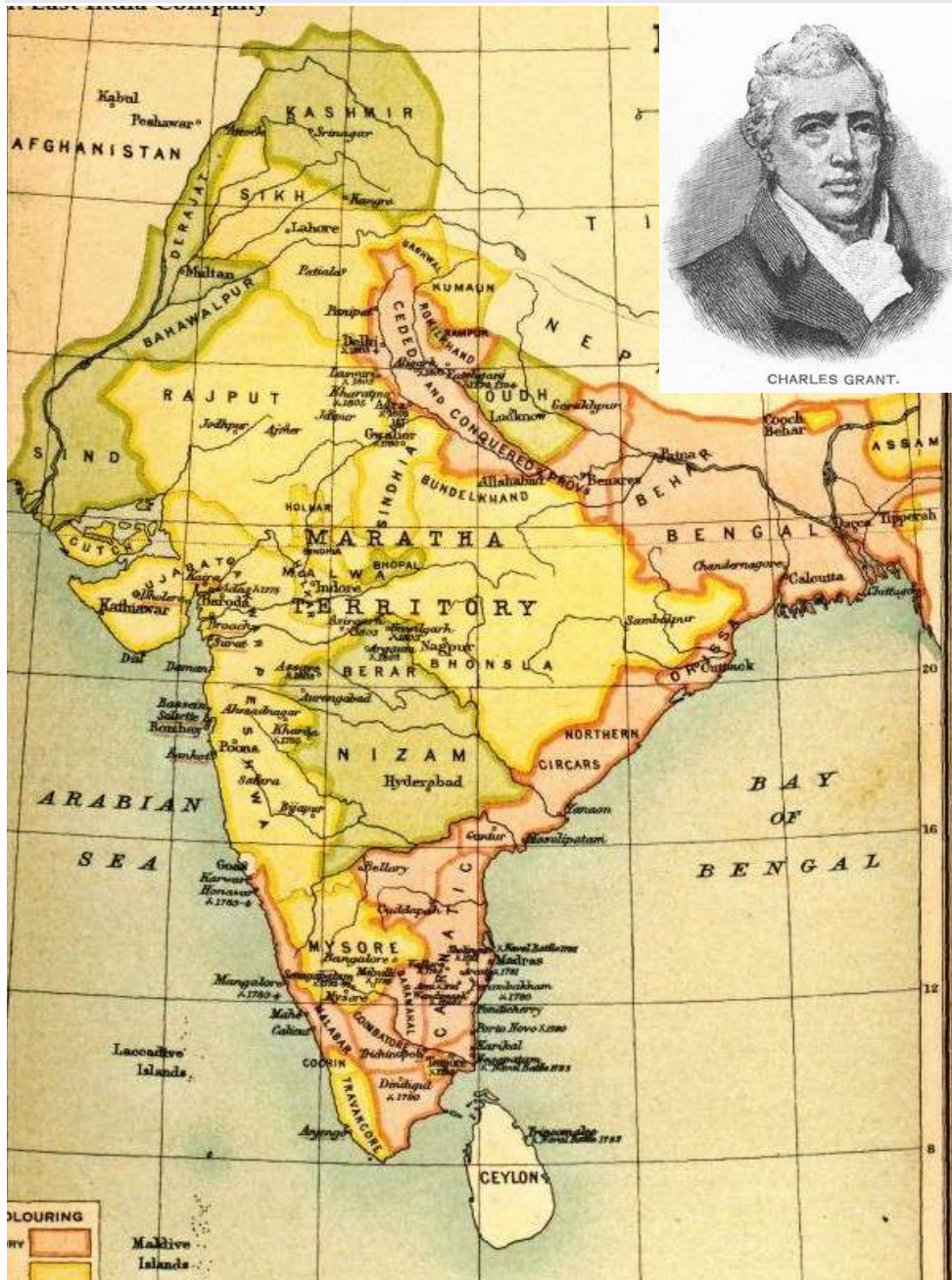
STOP HER-JOIN THE SNP

Source 10:
Scottish National
Party (SNP)
poster criticising
Thatcher's policy
on Scottish oil,
1982



Scotland has enjoyed the influence and status of a superpower

Source 11: Map of India in 1805 with areas under the control of the East India Company shaded in pink. Charles Grant, a Scot, became the chairman of the East India company in 1805





Scotland has enjoyed the influence and status of a superpower

Source 12: Top ten most powerful countries in the world in 2023, selected by Forbes Magazine India

Power Rank & Country	GDP (as of December 2023)	Population*
#1 United States	\$26.95 trillion	339.9 million
#2 China	\$17.70 trillion	1.42 billion
#3 Russia	\$1.86 trillion	144 million
#4 Germany	\$4.43 trillion	83.2 million
#5 United Kingdom	\$3.33 trillion	67.7 million
#6 South Korea	\$1.71 trillion	51.7 million
#7 France	\$3.05 trillion	64.7 million
#8 Japan	\$4.23 trillion	123.2 million
#9 Saudi Arabia	\$1.07 trillion	36.9 million
#10 UAE	\$509.18 billion	9.51 million



It silenced Scottish voices in politics

Source 13: Seats in the House of Commons after the 1707 Act of Union



■ England and Wales ■ Scotland



It silenced Scottish voices in politics

Source 14: Collection of quotes from Scottish political opponents to the union in 1707

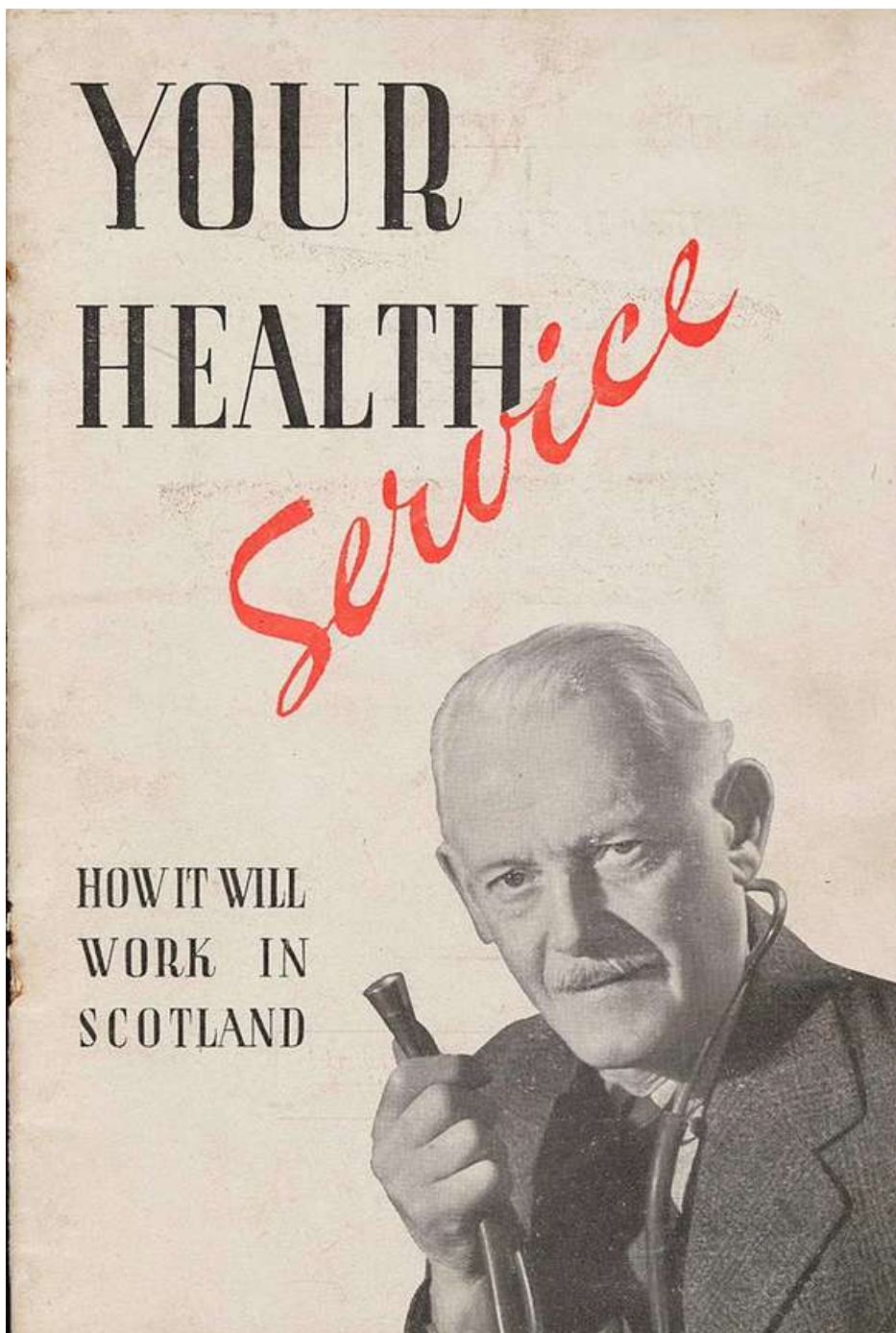
“It is much easier to corrupt 45 Scots at London, than it is to corrupt 300 at Edinburgh.”- Alexander Fletcher of Saltoun

“The Parliament of Scotland comes to be totally annulled, and the Parliament of England to continue just as it is, and always was, with some very inconsiderable accession of a few Scotsmen.” Robert Wylie

“England boldly tells you that you’ve no right to choose a successor to her present Majesty; nor the liberty to make good laws for the security of your most valuable interests.”- William Forbes



Westminster has always treated Scotland favourably



Source 15:

Cover of the pamphlet "Your Health Service: How it will work in Scotland", 1948 outlining the new Westminster funded NHS system providing free healthcare for Scotland



Westminster has always treated Scotland favourably

Source 16: Extract from Latest figures detail UK Government's record funding of £41 billion a year for the Scottish Government, HM Treasury, 15 December 2021

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

Funding for the Scottish Government is the highest it has ever been, at a record £41 billion a year.

The block grant settlement comes on top of significant direct UK Government investment in Scotland. We are committed to levelling up right across the UK, and are working with the Scottish Government and local councils to improve communities the length and breadth of Scotland. We recently announced a £191 million boost for Scottish community projects, on top of the £1.5 billion we are investing in City Deals in Scotland.

For almost two years, the UK Government has been focused on protecting people's lives, livelihoods and jobs. We will continue to tackle the pandemic while building a brighter future with a strong economy for people in every part of the UK.'



Economic alignment with England caused the tragedy of the Highland Clearances

Source 17: Extract from an article in the Cork Examiner describing the conditions faced by people forced to emigrate from the Highlands, 18 February 1853

A revolting instance of the barbarous and cruel folly of our quarantine laws, is afforded by the case of a ship which put in lately to Queenstown, having on board 700 emigrants from the Isle of Skye, some of them attacked with small-pox. These unhappy creatures, unable to understand a word of English, have been condemned to the strictest exclusion from the land, and to remain shut up with sickness in the narrowest space sufficient for them if well, the living and dead being confined together in a sort of Mezentian union, and the terrors of disease being exaggerated, while those who are in health are not allowed to escape from it. Until the deaths, and the vaccination of all the survivors without distinction, opposed a limit, the human freight must have continually rotted away. The



Economic alignment with England caused the tragedy of the Highland Clearances

Source 18: The Dress Act 1746, also known as the Disclotting Act, came into force on 1 August 1746 and made wearing "the Highland Dress" — including the kilt — by men and boys illegal in Scotland north of the Highland line. It was seen as an attempt to erode Highland identity and tradition

That from and after the first day of August, One thousand, seven hundred and forty-seven, no man or boy within that part of Britain called Scotland, other than such as shall be employed as Officers and Soldiers in His Majesty's Forces, shall, on any pretext whatever, wear or put on the clothes commonly called Highland clothes (that is to say) the Plaid, Philabeg, or little Kilt, Trowse, Shoulder-belts, or any part whatever of what peculiarly belongs to the Highland Garb; and that no tartan or party-coloured plaid of stuff shall be used for Great Coats or upper coats, and if any such person shall presume after the said first day of August, to wear or put on the aforesaid garment or any part of them, every such person so offending ... For the first offence, shall be liable to be imprisoned for 6 months, and on the second offence, to be transported to any of His Majesty's plantations beyond the seas, there to remain for the space of seven years.



The Union was a lifeline to a bankrupt country

Source 19: Records of estates held by merchant traders in Glasgow. These merchants benefitted from the enormous trade network of the British Empire and made fortunes in silk, tobacco, and cotton

TABLE 1.4
ESTATES AROUND THE GLASGOW AREA IN THE EIGHTEENTH
CENTURY
AND THEIR MERCHANT OWNERS

ESTATE	MERCHANT OWNER
Bedlay	James Dunlop
Belvidere	Samuel McCall
Craigton	James Ritchie
Dalbeth	Thomas Hopkirk
Daldowie	George Bogle
Drumpellier	Andrew Buchanan
Dougalston	John Glassford
Easterhill	Archibald Smellie
Elderslie	Alexander Speirs
Garnkirk	James Dunlop
Germiston	Laurence Dinwiddie



The Union was a lifeline to a bankrupt country

Source 20: Banknote issued by the Royal Bank of Scotland from its first year in operation. It thrived in the prosperity of Scotland's industrial revolution





England provoked the Jacobites and oppressed Scots

Source 21: Extract from the Thurrock.gov.uk about Jacobite prisoners at Tilbury Fort, Thurrock

The Scottish History Society has published, in three well-documented volumes, "Prisoners of the '45", which lists 3,470 people known to be in custody. Some had played prominent parts in the Rising, others were accused of nothing more serious than that they had been heard to "wish the rebels well" or to have drunk the Prince's health. Such charges, however, could mean transportation, even death. Prisoners at Tilbury were selected for trial on the basis of every 20th man, this was decided by 'lotting', utilising a beaver hat containing 19 white slips and 1 black slip of paper.

It is recorded that one hundred and twenty prisoners were executed: four of them, peers of the realm, were executed on Tower Hill including the 80 year old Lord Lovat, who was the last person to be beheaded in public in England, beheading being a privilege of their rank: the others suffered the barbaric ritual of hanging, drawing and quartering. The remainder were dealt with in various ways: 936 were transported to the colonies, there to be sold to the highest bidder: 222 were banished, being allowed to choose their country of exile: 1,287 were released or exchanged: others died, escaped, or were pardoned and there were nearly 700 whose fates could not be traced.



England provoked the Jacobites and oppressed Scots

Source 22: Jacobite poster showing the Execution of the Jacobite Earls of Kilmarnock and Cromarty, and Lord Balmerino, 1746





The Union protected Scots' religious freedom

Source 23: Extract from the Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church Act 1707

Our Sovereign Lady and the Estates of Parliament considering that by the late Act of Parliament for a Treaty with England for an Union of both Kingdoms It is provided that the Commissioners for that Treaty should not treat of or concerning any alteration of the Worship Discipline and Government of the Church of this Kingdom as now by Law established Which Treaty being now reported to the Parliament and it being reasonable and necessary that the true Protestant Religion as presently professed within this Kingdom with the Worship Discipline and Government of this Church should be effectually and unalterably secured Therefore Her Majesty with advice and consent of the said Estates of Parliament Doth hereby Establish and Confirm the said true Protestant Religion and the Worship Discipline and Government of this Church to continue without any alteration to the people of this land in all succeeding generations And more especially Her Majestie with advice and consent foresaid Ratifies Approves and for ever Confirms the fifth Act of the first Parliament of King William and Queen Mary Entituled Act Ratifieing the Confession of Faith and settleing Presbyterian Church Government with the haill other Acts of Parliament relating thereto in prosecution of the Declaration of the Estates of this Kingdom containing the Claim of Right bearing date the eleventh of April



The Union protected Scots' religious freedom

Source 24: Extract from 'Scottish Presbyterians and the Act of Union 1707' by Jeffrey Stephen, 2007

With the exception of the usual suspects in and around the presbyteries of Lanark and Hamilton, there was a distinct lack of participation by the [Scottish] church in anti-union activity. The widely recognised and most active leaders of the anti-union brigade within the church all came from these presbyteries. The rest of the church is noticeable by its silence. Neither the commission nor the church at large was at the forefront of articulating anti-union sentiment. While three presbyteries addressed against the union, the majority refused, despite efforts to encourage and organise addressing....