

Section 14.—Area and Population of the British Empire.

Since the War the boundaries of the British Empire have been contracted by the voluntary retirement from Egypt in 1922 and expanded by the addition of various territories under mandate as a result of the Treaty of Versailles. The increases of territory were mainly in Africa, where the Tanganyika Territory, Southwest Africa, and portions of the Cameroons and Togoland, with an aggregate area of 736,000 square miles and an estimated population of over 5,000,000 (1921) came under Empire control. In Asia, the territories acquired by mandate from the League of Nations include Palestine and Transjordan, with 1,335,821 inhabitants on an area of 25,802 square miles. In the Pacific, the territories added to the Empire include Western Samoa, the Territory of New Guinea, the Bismarck archipelago and part of the Solomon islands, all of which were formerly German possessions. According to the most reliable estimates, the total area of these regions is 92,141 square miles and the population 445,650.

Statistics of the areas and populations of the territories included in the British Empire in 1931 are given in Table 51, together with comparative figures of population for 1921 and 1911.

51.—Area and Population of the British Empire, by Continents and Countries, 1911, 1921 and 1931.

NOTE.—The source of the following figures is the "Statistical Abstract for the British Empire, 1931" except in the case of Canada, where the data are the latest census figures, and Transjordan, see footnote 23. Totals have been adjusted as far as possible.

Country or Continent.	Area in Square Miles.	Populations.		
		Census of 1911.	Census of 1921.	Census of 1931.
Summary by Continents.				
Europe.....	120,791	45,549,583	47,443,549	49,369,087
Asia.....	1,988,429	323,386,386	329,361,760	364,566,164
Africa.....	3,833,275	38,244,040	49,783,112	56,447,532
North and Central America and West Indies..	3,991,262	9,197,207	10,845,161	12,760,033
South America.....	95,098	299,316	301,122	314,034
Oceania.....	3,288,928	6,187,152	7,331,210	9,013,298
Totals (approx.)^{29, 30}	13,318,000	422,863,684	445,065,914	492,470,148
Details by Countries.				
United Kingdom.....	93,991	45,222,000 ¹	47,123,000 ^{1,2}	46,042,000 ³
Self-governing Dominions—				
Canada.....	3,694,900 ⁴	7,206,643	8,787,949	10,376,786
Australia ⁴	2,974,581	4,455,005	5,435,734	6,448,707 ⁶
New Zealand ⁵	103,415	1,008,468	1,218,913	1,442,746 ⁶
Union of South Africa.....	471,917	5,973,394	6,928,580	8,132,600 ¹⁷
Irish Free State ⁷	26,601	3,139,688 ⁷	2,971,992 ⁷	2,957,000 ⁸
Newfoundland (including Labrador).....	275,134	242,619	263,033	281,549 ⁶
Labrador.....	232,400	3,949	3,774	4,264 ⁶
India—				
Provinces.....	1,004,220	244,221,377	246,946,793	270,561,353
States and Agencies.....	711,032	70,888,854	71,939,187	80,838,527
Totals, India.....	1,805,252	315,110,231	318,885,980	351,399,880
Jersey.....	45	51,898	49,701	50,455
Guernsey and adjacent islands.....	30	45,001	40,529	42,606
Gibraltar ⁸	1.9	19,120	18,061	17,405
Malta ⁸	122	211,564	212,258	241,621
Cyprus ^{9, 10}	3,584	273,964	310,469	347,959
Gambia.....	4,002	146,101	210,530	199,520
Sierra Leone.....	31,000	1,403,132	1,541,311	1,672,057
Gold Coast ¹¹	78,450	1,503,911	2,110,454	2,869,750
Nigeria ¹¹	338,438	17,126,983	18,631,442 ¹²	19,158,338
Ascension.....	34	400 ⁶	250 ⁶	158
St. Helena ⁸	47	3,477	3,666 ⁶	3,995

For footnotes see end of table, p. 167.