English speaking in United Kingdom. A conquered land. What we know as the English language was born out of foreign invasion and later spread across the world by invasion. From the fifth century AD onwards, waves of invaders from northern Europe came across the North Sea to England. On the fifteenth century onwards, the British Navy slowly became the dominant force on the world's seas. By Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, the British Empire had possessions in all five continents totalling about a quarter of the world's land mass and about the same proportion of the world's population. As the twentieth century progressed, a growing desire for independence spread among the countries of the Empire. Shakespeare's influence on the development of the English language and its unique and rich culture is hard to grasp; the man is said to have invented at least 1,700 words, including “alligator”, “puppy dog”, and “fashionable”, in addition to penning classics like Romeo & Juliet and Hamlet! Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 16th century the British had contact with many peoples from around the world. This, and the Renaissance of Classical learning, meant France has on the world, both in the past and today. Located in Western Europe, France is one of the world’s oldest countries, and its reach extends around the globe through science, politics, economics and perhaps above all, culture. The United States of America is a North American nation that is the world’s most dominant economic and military power. Likewise, its cultural imprint spans the world, led in large part by its popular culture expressed in music, movies and television.