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Robbin Cook Chicken Masala speech

"Tonight I want to celebrate **Britishness**. As **Foreign Secretary** I see every day the importance of our relations with foreign countries to the **strength** of our economy, to the security of our nation, to the **safety** of our people against organised crime, even to the health of our environment. A globalised world **demands** more foreign contacts than even Britain has experienced in the past. I also know that we are likely to make our way more successfully in the world if we are secure in our British identity, and **confident** about its future. That security and confidence is important for the inner strength it gives us in our conduct of business with others. I want to argue the case why we can be confident about the strength and the future of British identity. Sadly, it has become fashionable for some to **argue** that

British identity is under siege, perhaps even in a state of terminal decline. The threat is said to come in two forms. First, the arrival of immigrants who, allegedly, do not share our cultural values and who fail to support the England cricket team. Few dare to state this case explicitly, but it is the unmistakable subliminal message. Second, the devolution of power to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which is seen as a step to the break-up of the UK. This evening, I want to set out the reasons for being optimistic about the future of Britain and Britishness. Indeed, I want to go further and argue that in each of the areas where the pessimists identify a threat, we should instead see developments that will strengthen and renew British identity."

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Is Multicultural Britain Dead ?



I he country where he immediately felt at home in 2005 is no more a melting pot, muses Siddhu Warrier.

For many **right-wingers**, the phrase 'the changing face of the UK' **conjures up** images of hordes of brown, black and yellow people, burgas, and general displays of un-Britishness (whatever that might be).

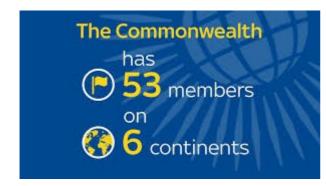
However, until recently, **the mainstream** generally **disavowed** this characterisation of the country and preferred to celebrate the concept of a modern, multicultural Britain.

The country I moved to in 2005 as a student was not a rainbow nation where people of each color stuck to their own. It was a veritable melting pot where, largely, people of different races intermingled quite comfortably. When I heard of friends in interracial relationships in the US being subject to uncomfortable stares, they appeared a world away. In fact, people of mixed ethnicity are the fastest growing group in the UK. There was recognition in the mainstream that the definition of what it meant to be British had changed, and Britain was all the richer for it.

However, a lot appears to have changed over the past few years.



Document 4



What is the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth was a result of the British Empire. It's made of states that were formerly **ruled** by Britain during the 19th and 20th centuries. As British control over the rest of the world **waned**, countries that gained independence became part of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Made up of 53 members on six continents, it has a total population of about 2.4 billion people - about

one third of the total global population.

10 The birth of the network as we know it today is often seen to begin with the 1949 London Declaration, issued two years after India and Pakistan gained independence from Britain.

The aim of The Commonwealth of Nations is to help member states **promote** democracy and rule of law, human rights, good governance and social and economic development.

As Britain prepares to leave the European Union, some Brexiteers think the Commonwealth could play an important future role in **trade links** in the UK.

And for many residents, the institution may need to do a bit more if it's to prove itself: in one 2010 **survey**, one quarter of residents of Jamaica said they believed the head of the Commonwealth of Nations was Barack Obama.