



*“As English
as tea and
scones”*

Reproduction of an original poster advertising
Horniman's tea from the Horniman Collection.

"As English as tea and scones". Many things are described as quintessentially English, such as fish and chips, red telephone boxes, bowler hats and rainy days.

Despite its global origins, tea has become embedded within the British national identity. Stuart Hall wrote about himself and others that moved to Britain as part of the Windrush Generation as *'the sugar at the bottom of the English cup of tea'*.

Is British colonial history a quintessential part of our culture?

Tea leaves a lot about
history of England
other than war -
looking from it, not
having shame? still a
sense of pride

leaves us key

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It's interesting to speak on this as an 'outsider' to British culture, of course I'm affected by British Colonialism as an American, and it's easy to argue / see the concept of westward expansion as a direct succession of British colonial expansion in the name of civilization, assimilation and control. It is not only quintessential to modern British identity, but absolutely married to the flag of it. There is a joking insult in the U.S. of calling

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Absolutely.

As a non-British person, I think knowing and admitting ~~to~~ your own country's previous wrong-doings is the only way the nation can move forward.

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It's hard to separate colonialism from a colonised country. My first language is English. I studied in a convent. I often reflect on ~~how~~ ~~my~~ my blindspot as my education ~~has~~ is inherently responsible for what I might be in denial of - a colonised mind.

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Very much so, but it can be difficult to talk about a single culture when actually we're thinking about a wider, global history. It's sometimes easier to think or talk about Big Ben or the queen than some of the more ~~un~~ uncomfortable aspects of British history.