

**WALES:
MINORITY
LANGUAGE
MINORITY VOICES
MINORITY NATION**

Socio-Linguistic Colonialism in Cymry



HELLO!

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**WELCOME
TO WALES**

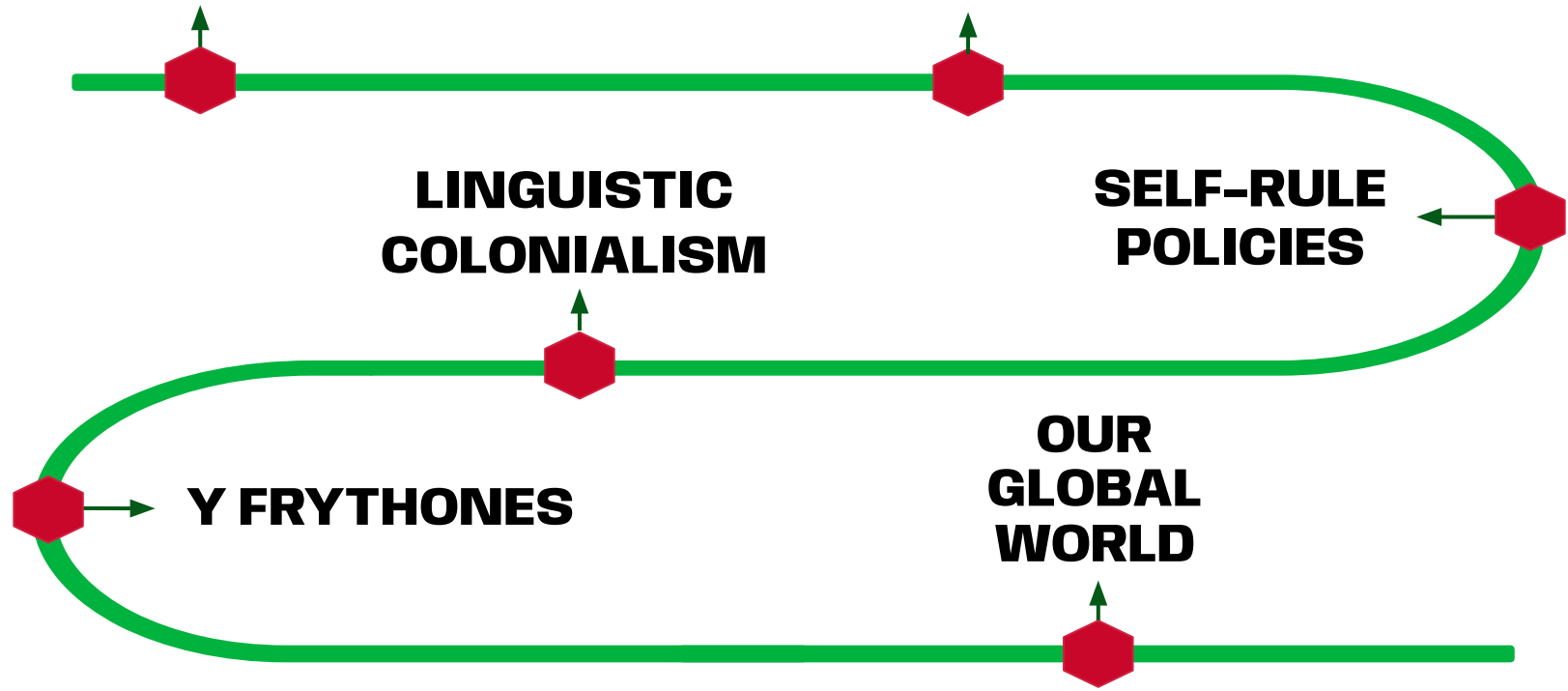
**WHAT IS
CYMRY?**

**LINGUISTIC
COLONIALISM**

**SELF-RULE
POLICIES**

Y FRYTHONES

**OUR
GLOBAL
WORLD**





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WELCOME TO WALES

What is Cymry?

Wyt ti'n Siarad?

cymry

cymru

cymraig

cymraeg

COME-ree

COME-ree

come-RAY-G

come-RYE-G

Wales

Welsh people

Welsh (nationality)

Welsh (language)

Proto-Celtic

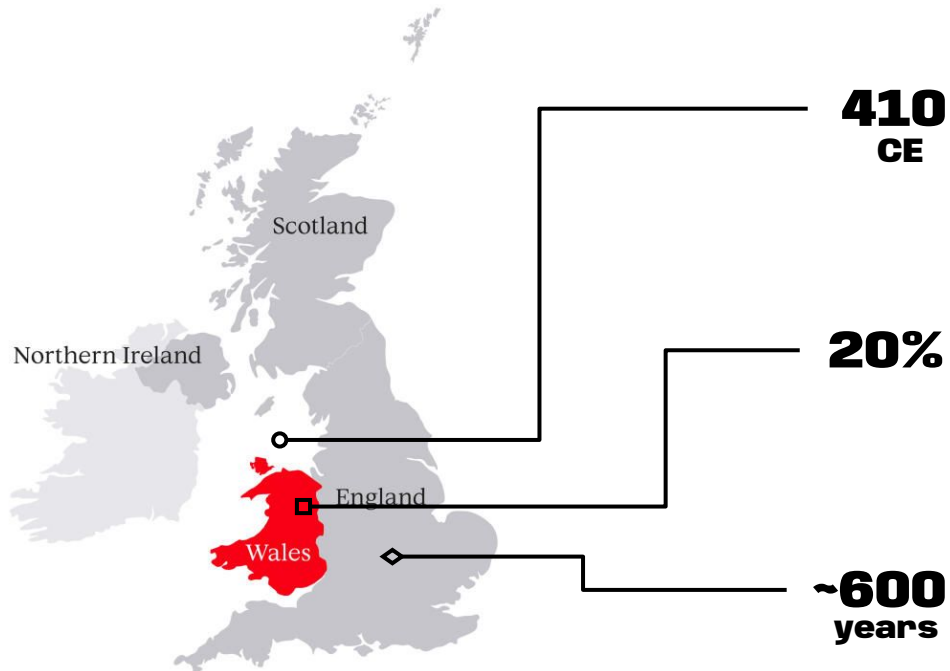
“kom” (with) + “mrogis” (country)

Middle Welsh

Cymry (Wales) + eg (tongue)

The town of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch appreciates the effort.

A WELSH OVERVIEW



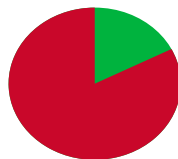
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WELSH IDENTITY

Cymru has been Cymreig since the Roman departure

20%



CYMRAEG SPEAKERS

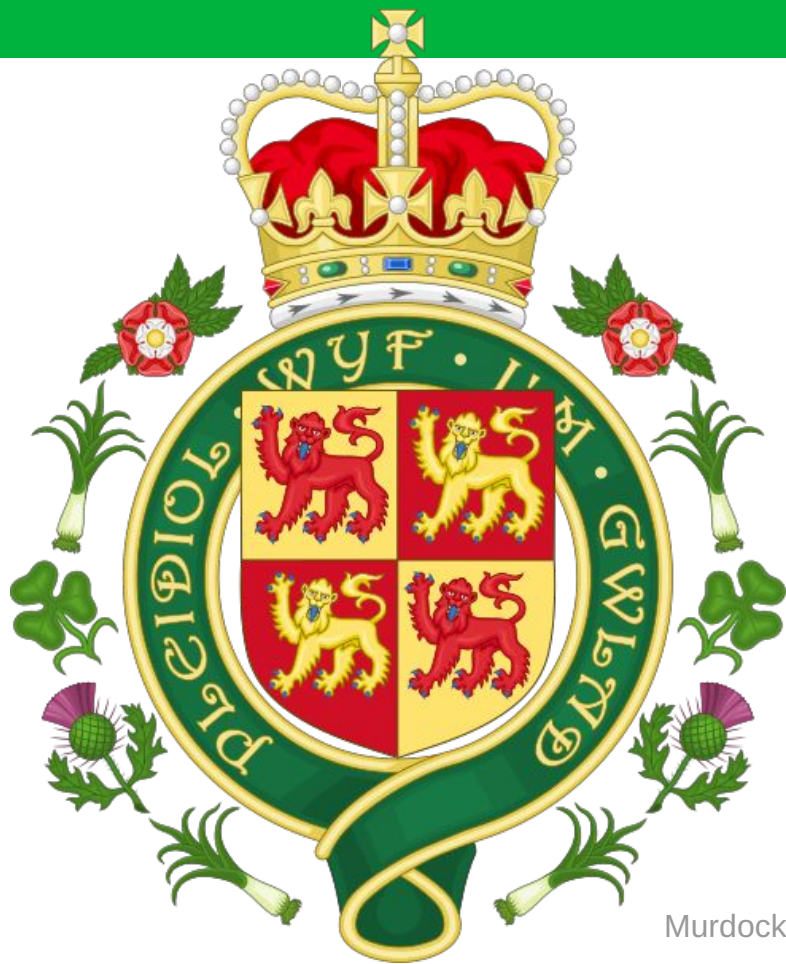
This rate has remained stable since the 1990s

~600
years



OF ENGLISH RULE

Wales has fought England for most of England's existence



02

SELF-RULE POLICIES

Combatting Linguistic Colonialism

POST-COLONIAL STAKEHOLDERS

WHO HOLDS POWER?

WHAT CAN POWER DO?

Global Advocates (EU)

Interregional advocacy for minority states are as geopolitically important as native self-representation

“Quasi-Federal” UK

“Longstanding social and economic disparities cannot be adequately addressed” by imperialist strategies
(Heley 2012)

Welsh Senedd

“Ensur[ing] the inclusion of previously excluded or minority groups in their decision-making processes”
(Bristow et al. 2008)

ROAD TO DECOLONIZATION



- Limitation of English influence over Cymry through anti-discrimination legislation
- “Spatial governance” and local decision-making
- Economic, academic, and legal affirmative action
- Promotion of degraded Welsh culture by the Senedd in all sectors of society



- Democracies rely on equal representation for their people, who therein govern themselves
- The smaller the minority, the greater the need for equal representation, but by nature, a lack thereof
- Stereotypes and prejudices encourage minority groups to assimilate as much as possible



- Cymraeg isn't and shouldn't be similar to the English language
- Language connects people to citizenship and a legal identity
- The Senedd hasn't addressed the systemic root problem: Cymraeg is not spoken if English is an option
- Access = value = equality

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF WALES



PROVISIONING EDUCATION

Example: Cymraeg in schools

Legislating for the teaching of Cymraeg and the space for people to learn Cymreig culture has been achieved

PROVISIONING REAL USAGE

Example: Cymraeg in courts

Legislating use of Cymraeg in valuable domains, like the judicial system or commercial industry, is yet to come



The equality...

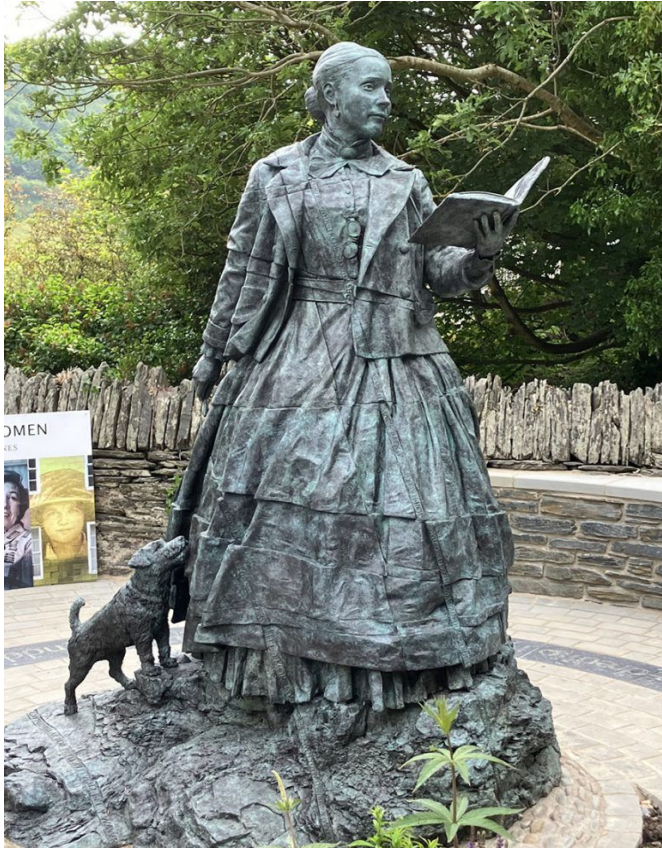
SERVICE

English

Cymraeg

...of free choice.





03

Y

FRYTHONES

Underpinning Welsh Feminism

CBHC / RCAHMW 2023

THE FEMALE BRITON

Welsh women are integral upholders of Welsh identity.

- In the home, women pass on their native culture
- Men and boys have more opportunities and thus can better integrate into non-Welsh communities
- Contemporary women and girls are more likely to speak and use Cymraeg
- Minoritized language = minoritized socio-economic status

No one can better attest to this than the women of **Y Frythones** and their spiritual descendants.



My heart is all exposed to you,
And I know that you see in it
The lovely image of yourself
Which is clearer minute by minute:
**Well, be assured it'll always be here,
Until life itself flows from me;
And then the sweetest pleasure of all
Will be to look upon you everywhere.**

"My Friend" (1870)

Mae'm calon oll yn olau i ti,
A gwn y gweli yma
Dy anwyl ddelw di dy hun
O'r bron yr un eglura':
**Wel, dyna i gyd, bydd yma o hyd,
Nes llifo'm bywyd allan;
A phleser cu fy mywyd i
Fydd syllu arni'n mhobman.**

"Fy Ffrynd"

CRANOGWEN
(SARAH JANE REES)
1839-1916

IN THE SAME BASKET

Women in Cymry have been marrying their language, gender, and nationality for centuries. A Cymraig identity, as told by its most familiar custodians, is a geographic, linguistic, and gendered identity. There can be no post-colonial Welsh legislation without this in mind.

*"I am counting the days
until returning to Wales."*



04

A GLOBAL WORLD

The Duty and Opportunity to Legislate



Language on the Move 2017

IT MATTERS.

In our globalizing world, minoritized groups are encouraged to assimilate. But the premise of a post-colonial state relies on culturo-linguistic equality, which itself is reached through economic and legislative effort.

The duty to represent and legislate for minority rights springs from the human desire for survival and morality, but in practice, it means economic, academic, legal, musical, religious, historical freedom and well-being.

Language is just one canary in the coal mine.



Bydda i'n dy weld di cyn bo hir
I will see you before long



HIRAETH

n. longing, homesickness, nostalgia, wistfulness; what is Cymry without it?

What is any culture without it?

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