

## What is the point of the Commonwealth today?

### Video transcript: The Commonwealth through the years

Queen Elizabeth II: The Commonwealth is an example of multilateralism at work, allowing its members whatever their size or level of development, to have their voices heard in the concert of nations.

(BBC News, 2003)

(Music: Her People Rejoiced, 1953)

Tim Kingsley: The Commonwealth brings together people of many cultures, faiths and backgrounds. High profile royal visits to Commonwealth countries through the years have attracted huge crowds and provided many memorable moments.

(Most Honorable Chiefly Woman: The Queen in the Pacific, 1972)

The Queen in her role as the head of the Commonwealth has always embraced local cultures on her visits to Commonwealth nations, as she demonstrated when addressing the Maori tribes of New Zealand.

(Her People Rejoiced, 1953)

Queen Elizabeth II: *Speaking Maori*

(The British Empire: Echoes of Britannia's Rule: Oh the Jubilee, 1972)

Tim Kingsley: But like many families, the Commonwealth family has experienced his fallouts over the years, experiencing periods of controversy and disharmony.

Richard Dimbleby: Today, May the fifteenth 1961, the Union of South Africa is just fifteen days away from declaring itself an independent republic outside the Commonwealth.

(Panorama, 1961)

James Robbins: Commonwealth leaders woke up in Abuja stunned and bewildered by the speed of overnight events. They had confirmed Zimbabwe's suspension, then Robert Mugabe's instant retaliation, pulling his country out of their club.

(BBC News, 2003)

Bob Wellings: These Aboriginals camped in a Brisbane park are not here to see the Games. They're here because they want to own and control the land on the reserves in which they live.

(Newsnight, 1982)

James Robbins: For many here in the Commonwealth, this summit faces even bigger issues with rich and powerful states accused of ignoring the weakest in the world.  
(BBC News, 2003)