Chapter 1: Celtic Scotland

There is evidence of human settlement in parts of present day Scotland that dates back to 6,000 BC. The inhabitants were hunters and fishermen. About two thousand years later, a second group arrived -- the Neolithic people.

The Bronze Age, from about 2,000 to 600 BC, introduced swords, knives, chisels, buckles, cauldrons and buckets. Such objects were used by the indigenous Picts and the Celts.

It is to the invading Romans that we owe our written history of Britain. In the fourth century, a Latin poem describes the people of Tartessos on the Atlantic coast of Iberia trading with the inhabitants of two large islands, Ierne and Albion (Ireland and Scotland), people who spoke a Celtic language.

In 55 and 54 BC following his success in subduing most of Gaul, Caesar turned his attention to the islands of Britain. However, the Roman armies were fully occupied in suppressing the revolt of the Gauls under Vercingetorix.

Under the Emperor Claudius, Rome again began to look to a land full of legendary mineral wealth as well as good grain-growing pastures. They didn’t find much resistance in the southeast. It was in the more mountainous areas, however, that the much sought-after minerals lay. And it was there that resistance was fiercest.

Agricola, the governor of the Roman province of Britain, invaded what is now southern Scotland in 81 A.D.

84 AD - MONS GRAUPIUS

Under Agricola, the Roman armies vanquished one tribe after another until a final, decisive battle at Mons Graupius in 84 A.D. This ended effective resistance.

The Romans gave the country the name Caledonia. Three fifths of Scotland are mountain, hill and wind-swept moorland, unsuitable for agriculture and therefore not interesting to the Romans.

It was no only the nature of the terrain that caused the Romans to abandon their attempts at conquest but also the unimagined terrors of this Celtic world. In 121 AD the Emperor Hadrian had this still-impressive wall built from Solway in the West Coast to Tyne in the east.

The troops of Rome withdrew south to the well known and much longer, stronger defensive barrier built by Hadrian. Trouble at home meant that by the end of the fourth century, the remaining Roman outposts in Scotland were abandoned.

At the time of the withdrawal, Scotland was divided between four different races. The Picts of Celtic, The Britons, the Teutonic Anglo-Saxons and the Scots.
Chapter 2: The Kingdom of Scotland

By the end of the seventh century, the four kingdoms were united in the Christian faith, but not much else.

A semblance of unity among the warring societies of the Picts, Scots, Britons and Angles did eventually arrive by the year 843, thanks to the determined efforts of Kenneth MacAlpin, King of the Scots.

In 1034, Duncan became King of a much-expanded Scotland. There was still no established boundary between Scotland and England.

Duncan met his fate at the hands of Macbeth in 1040; himself slain by Malcolm who became King Malcolm III. Malcolm married the English Princess Margaret, who had fled to Scotland at the coming of the Normans. She introduced many English fashions and customs to Scotland.

The Scottish king's constant excursions into Northern England brought him the enmity of the Norman William who forced him to pay homage at Abernethy in 1071. In 1093, Malcolm was killed.

Chapter 3: An Independent Scotland

Earl of Carrick, Robert Bruce was born in 1274. Two years before his birth, Edward Plantagenet had become King Edward I of England. The ruthlessness of Edward, who earned the title "the Hammer of the Scots," brought forth the greatness of Bruce. Bruce's astonishing victory at Bannockburn in 1314 over the much larger and better-equipped forces of Edward II ensured Scottish freedom from the hated English.

This new struggle for control of Scotland began when Alexander III died in 1286. Alexander's heir was his grandchild Margaret. English King Edward, with his eye on the complete subjugation of his northern neighbours, suggested that Margaret should marry his son, a desire consummated at a treaty signed and sealed at Birgham. Scotland was to remain a separate and independent kingdom, though Edward wished to keep English garrisons in a number of Scottish castles. On her way to Scotland the young Norwegian princess died. The succession was now open to many claimants, the strongest of whom were John Balliol and Robert Bruce.

King Edward supported John Balliol, who he believed was weaker and more compliant to the two Scottish claimants. Balliol was declared the rightful king in November 1292. In exchange for his support, Edward demanded that he should have feudal superiority over Scotland as well as active support in the war against France. Balliol refused to supply military service to Edward.

However, within a few months, the Scottish king was to disappear from the scene. His army was defeated by Edward at Dunbar in April 1296. He surrendered his Scottish throne to the English king, who took the stone of Scone, "the coronation stone" of the Scottish kings.
The rising tide of nationalist fervor in the face of the arrival of the English armies north of the border created the need for new Scottish leaders. A young Scottish knight, William Wallace found himself at the head of a fast-spreading movement of national resistance. At Stirling Bridge, he annihilated a large, lavishly equipped English army.

Bringing a large army north in 1298, the English king’s forces were more successful. At Falkirk, they crushed the over-confident Scottish followers of Wallace. Following the battle, a campaign began to ruthlessly suppress all attempts at reasserting Scottish independence.

Wallace never again commanded a large body of troops. He was captured in 1305 and brought to London to die a traitor’s death. It was time for Robert Bruce to lead the fight for Scotland.

In 1306 he declared himself King of Scots. Edward sent a large army north, defeated Bruce executed many of his supporters and forced the Scottish king to become a hunted outlaw.

The indefatigable Scottish leader bided his time. After a year during which two of his brothers were killed, Bruce came out of hiding. He won a first victory in 1307. From all over Scotland, the clans answered the call and Bruce’s forces gathered in strength to fight the English invaders, winning many encounters.

Chapter 4: Turmoil After The Bruce

May 1328 brought about a peace treaty signed at Northampton by the weary, helpless English king that recognized Scotland as an independent kingdom and Robert Bruce as king. The Declaration of Independence signed at Arbroath was the culmination of Bruce’s career. He died one year later.

King Edward III, the new English king, planned to intervene in the affairs of Scotland by enlisting the support of many disaffected nobles whose lands had been forfeited in their earlier fight against Bruce. Once again an English army was on the move in Scotland.

King Edward’s armies won a strategic battle at Halidon Hill. Worse, however, for Scotland’s newly won independence was the defection of large numbers of Scottish nobles and clergy to the winning side, with the result that the Lowlands were quickly overrun and garrisoned by the English. These garrison towns then quickly filled up with English settlers, merchants and clergy, completely transformed the social structure (and the language). It was up to Bruce’s grandson, Robert Stewart to restore the political situation.

Under Stewart, the English were defeated. This time Edward signed a 10-year truce.
In 1371, the Scottish Parliament gave the throne to Robert Stewart, who became Robert II, the first Stuart King.

Scotland advanced markedly in educational terms during the fifteenth century with the founding of the University of St Andrews in 1413, the University of Glasgow in 1450 and the University of Aberdeen in 1495, and with the passing of the Education Act 1496.

In 1468 the last great acquisition of Scottish territory occurred when James III married Margaret of Denmark, receiving the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands in payment of her dowry.

After the death of James III in 1488, his successor James IV married Henry VII’s daughter, Margaret Tudor, thus laying the foundation for the 17th century Union of the Crowns. James IV’s reign is often considered to be a period of cultural flourishing, and it was around this period that the European Renaissance began to infiltrate Scotland. James IV was the last Scottish king known to speak Gaelic.

**Chapter 5: The Two Crowns**

In 1512, under a treaty extending the Auld Alliance, all nationals of Scotland and France also became nationals of each other’s countries. A year later, James IV was required to launch an invasion of England to support the French when they were attacked by the English under Henry VIII. The invasion was stopped decisively at the battle of Flodden Field during which the King, many of his nobles, and over 10,000 troops — *The Flowers of the Forest* — were killed.

James V married the French noblewoman Marie de Guise. His reign was fairly successful, until another disastrous campaign against England led to defeat at the battle of Solway Moss (1542). James died a short time later. The day before his death, he was brought news of the birth of an heir: a daughter, who became Mary, Queen of Scots.

From 1554, Marie de Guise, took over the regency, and continued to advance French interests in Scotland. French cultural influence resulted in a large influx of French vocabulary into Scots. But anti-French sentiment also grew, particularly among Protestants, who saw the English as their natural allies. In 1560 Marie de Guise died, and soon after the Auld Alliance also died, with the signing of the Treaty of Edinburgh, which provided for the removal of French and English troops from Scotland. The Scottish Reformation took place later the same year, when the Scottish Parliament abolished the Roman Catholic religion.

Meanwhile, Queen Mary had been raised a Catholic in France. In 1561 she decided to return to Scotland to take up the government in a hostile environment. Despite her private religion, she
did not attempt to reimpose Catholicism on her largely Protestant subjects, thus angering the chief Catholic nobles. Her six-year personal reign was marred by a series of crises. Mary was imprisoned and in July 1567 she was forced to abdicate in favour of her infant son Prince James. In 1568 she took refuge in England. In England she was tried for treason and executed on the orders of her kinswoman Elizabeth I.

James VI of Scotland had plans to become King of England upon the death of Elizabeth. In order to carry out his intentions, it was in his best interests to stay a Protestant and to remain on good terms with the English Crown. This alliance was so strong, in fact, that when his mother, Mary, was executed by Elizabeth in 1587 James brought forth only a formal protest.

Elizabeth's reign finally ended. The mighty Queen was laid to rest in March 1603 with James of Scotland declared as rightful heir. He returned only once to Scotland. He greatly favored a union of the two kingdoms. Although the Estates passed an Act of Union in 1607, it took 100 years before a treaty was signed.

It was English prejudice against a people they considered uncivilized and warlike that probably prevented the early union. They had no wish to merge their identity with what they considered to be an inferior nation.

In retrospect, we can only puzzle at this "English" attitude. After all, it was Scotland who led the way in the literary renaissance that accompanied the reigns of the early Tudors.

The King increased the powers and numbers of Scottish bishops. In 1617, he journeyed north to further implement his religious policy that was systematically ignored throughout Scotland.

Chapter 6: The Stuart Cause

James was too anxious to incite change and he did not take into account the anti-Catholic sentiments of much of the British nation. His efforts to win widespread support for his policies were totally unsuccessful.

James fled to France in 1688. William and Mary, in a joint monarchy, became rulers of Britain.

It was quickly apparent that William's success in England did nothing to ensure the compliance of Ireland and Scotland. The cause of the exiled Stuarts became known as Jacobitism. William succeeded in having the Jacobites driven from Ireland and Scotland.

In 1689, the first battle was fought against the new King William in
Scotland. A series of losing skirmishes resulted in most of the Highland chiefs swearing allegiance to William in late 1691.

Chapter 7: The Union of 1707

The Union of England and Scotland took place in 1707. Neither side was completely happy with the Union. The Scottish people, in particular, had to balance the loss of their ancient independence against the need to open themselves up to a wider world and greater opportunities. The English gained needed security, for no longer could European powers use Scotland as a base for an attack on its southern neighbour.

Scotland kept its legal system, but gave up its Parliament in exchange for 45 seats in the House of Commons and 16 seats in the House of Lords. The act proclaimed that there would be "one United Kingdom by the name of Great Britain" with one Protestant ruler, one legislature and one system of free trade.

Trying to restore the Stuarts would have meant replacing a Protestant monarchy with a Roman Catholic dynasty and it was far too late for that. Despite the nostalgia and the romance attached to the exiled Stuarts, and their wide support in Scotland, it was unthinkable for most Britons to contemplate their return. The majority of the nation's people were not in the mood for what surely would be a bloody and prolonged civil war.

The Act of Union had settled the boundaries of a state known as Great Britain whose people, despite their differences in traditions, cultures and languages, were held together simply because they felt different from people in other countries.

Chapter 8: Charles Edward and the 45

Despite having endured so many years of ill fortune, the Jacobite cause was still powerful enough to be considered the greatest threat to Britain in mid-century. In 1723, an English newspaper had argued that the people of the Scottish Highlands "will never fail to join with foreign Popish powers, so they always have been, and infallibly will be instruments and tools in the hands of those who have a design to enslave or embroil the British nation.

As if to fulfill this prophesy, Charles Edward seized his opportunity. At a time when English king George II was away in Hanover and the bulk of the British Army was fighting in Flanders and Germany, the Stuart prince landed in the Hebrides in July 1745. He was encouraged by promise of support from France. By September, Charles had rallied thousands of Highlanders. They took the city of Edinburgh and defeated a small British force.

Flushed with victory the Scottish army marched south to England, but they only reached as far as Derby in the Midlands.
Even in the Scottish Lowlands, support had not been forthcoming. Interests of commerce overrode those of patriotism.

Chapter 9: After Culloden

The island of Britain had suffered a tremendous shock by the near success of the Jacobite rebellion.

Great relief at the suppression of the rebellion found expression in the first public appearance of the new British anthem "God Save the King."

Legislation of 1746 and 1747 was passed to weaken the independence of the Highlands. Public executions of those loyal to the Jacobite cause impressed upon the Scottish people the need to toe the line.

The lands of the Jacobite chiefs were forfeited and a determined effort was made to end the clan system once and for all.

The Disarming Act of 1746 forbade the carrying and concealing of arms. The wearing of Highland clothes or plaid was prohibited.

The great Civil war that had taken place in Britain in the middle of the 18th century, resulting in the defeat of the Highland clans at Culloden, brought to an abrupt end centuries of a way of life that we can call Celtic, for after Culloden and the defeat of Jacobitism, a social system we can simply call British was imposed on the Highlands.

Chapter 10: Scotland Resurgent

Scotland now was now fully accepted in, and for its own part, fully accepted the Union. It was ready to play a major role in the expansion of the British Empire. The tiny North Atlantic island of Britain found itself at the head of a vast, world empire in which the Scots played a leading role.

Chapter 11: Transformation

A prime reason for English mistrust and dislike of the Scots was envy. By the middle of the 18th century, Scotland had begun its transformation into a great industrial power. Glasgow began a period of phenomenal growth, fuelled enormously by the flourishing tobacco trade with the American colonies.

When the successful American Revolution ended the tobacco trade, linen took its place dominating the Scottish economy for a century.
A newer and more promising source of profit was cotton, and by 1786, the New Lanark Mills were the largest in the world and cotton had become Scotland's largest industry. Another war in America, the Civil War of the 1860's that ended slavery, put an end to the import of cotton from the southern states. Money made in cotton was transferred to heavy industries. At the end of the century, Scotland led the world in engineering and shipbuilding and had invested enormously in iron, steel and coal.

The rapid growth in Scottish industry had been set in motion as early as 1757. For this was the year that James Watt was given a workshop at the University of Glasgow to try out his experiments. His discovery of the separate condenser for the steam engine in 1765 changed the world forever. To the illustrious name of James Watt, we can add that of bridge and road building genius, Thomas Telford to attest to the enormous influence that Scotland's finest had on the Industrial Revolution that was to so quickly transform the world.

Charles Macintosh, born in Glasgow in 1766, invented a method for waterproofing garments.

John Loudon McAdam's name is known throughout the world as the father of modern road building; he invented the Macadam road surface that facilitated travel and communications and opened up so many areas to so many influences. The success of his road building program in Scotland led to his methods being adopted in many other countries, most notably, the USA.

James Neilson, in 1828 invented the process of heating the air before it was blown into a blast furnace. It led to a 30-fold increase in the production of iron. One of the most famous iron works was the Carron Works whose light cannon or "carronades" became a standard weapon of armies worldwide. The Carron Works also produced everything from pots and pans, ploughs and spades, grates and stoves, railings and gates.
Chapter 12: Scots Wha Hae ("Scots, Who Have) is a patriotic song of Scotland which served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country, but has lately been largely supplanted by Scotland the Brave and Flower of Scotland. The lyrics were written by Robert Burns in 1793, in the form of a speech given by Robert the Bruce.

One of the most noticeable and surprising features of the unsuccessful referenda of the 1970’s in both Scotland and Wales was the lack of confidence in both people’s assessment of their futures as independent nations. The Acts of Union of 1536 and 1707 must have been devastating blows to those who saw Wales and Scotland as separate cultural entities with different histories, traditions, values and political aspirations from those of England. In Scotland, with all that went on following the 1707 Act, when so much self-confidence and self-respect was lost, it is remarkable that a resurgence of patriotic pride took place at all. That it did, in a movement that finally came to full fruition in the Referendum of 1997, is due, in no small part, to three of the country's finest writers, Robert Burns, Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.

**Robert Burns**: his influence seems to have been far greater outside his native country than at home. To Scots, Burns above all is the one who restored pride and a sense of worth to a people sadly treated by history. His poems describe the joys and sorrows of country life, the pleasures of love, drink, the hypocrisy of so many religious leaders and of the ambiguities of nature. Above all, Burns was the poet of the common man.

**Sir Walter Scott** gave back to the Scottish people their history; to the world, he gave a picture of a romantic, exciting and patriotic Scotland.

Chapter 13: The High Road to Independence

The movement that would culminate in Scotland's winning back its own Parliament in the referendum of 1997 did not completely grind to a halt: even during the war it continued its slow, but steady pace.

In the second half of the 19th century, widespread social discontent led to the need for increased worker participation in the way they wished the country to be governed.

Robert Owen vision encompassed such revolutionary ideas as the improvement of factory conditions, the shortening of work hours and the education of factory children.

Owen’s Grand Consolidated Trade Union was begun in 1834 as the culmination of his attempts to organize labour by providing a peaceable outlet for the aspirations of the workers.
The 1830’s produced turmoil all over Britain. Industry had developed far too quickly for accompanying social progress. Both Scotland and Wales became centers of British radicalism; fertile breeding grounds for the working-class movement called Chartism, from The People’s Charter (universal male suffrage, vote by ballot, equal electoral districts, annual parliaments, abolition of the property qualifications, and payment for members) in May 1838. As earlier attempts to form unions had failed, much of the workers' energy was thus channelled in the Chartists, who sincerely believed that they could bring about a democratic parliament.

The year 1850 saw the passage of an Act declaring that property qualifications were no longer necessary for a seat in Parliament. Thus, the Government had conceded the first great democratizing point of the Charter.

In 1867, the Great Reform Bill added nearly one million voters to the register, almost doubling the electorate. The increased numbers of Scottish voters meant the addition of seven additional seats being granted in Parliament.

Chapter 14: Scotland between the Wars

The War was over, and one thing seemed inevitable in the midst of all the patriotic fervour: the continued success of Scottish schools, colleges and universities had been slowly strengthening latent feelings of nationalism.

The entire world has heard of, loved and identified with the story of "Peter Pan", written by Scots writer J. M. Barrie in 1904.

From the mid-19th century on, Scotland’s majestic scenery had become a magnet for hordes of tourists that would arrive in the vogue for travel to "romantic, wild places."

Of particular interest is the creation, in the 1920’s, of a new "language" derived from a mixture of archaic words and Scots vernacular that is called "Lallans." Writings in this new medium were considered the hallmark of the "Scottish Renaissance" of the first half of the century. It became especially known in the works of Hugh McDiarmid.

McDiarmid and others were very concerned with the integrity of Scottish culture, with the revival of an authentic Scottish language. 
both Lowland Scots and Gaelic, in short, with the rediscovery of a genuine national identity. For these writers, it wasn’t economics or politics that concerned them, but culture and ideology.

However, economic hardship was more instrumental in the formation of The Scottish Nationalist Party in 1928. Perhaps Scotland was paying too much into the national Exchequer and receiving too little back.

**Chapter 15: After the War, Steps towards Independence**

The loss of Empire and the period of austerity and gloom that lasted for years meant that the Empire was disintegrating rapidly.

All over the globe, former colonies were seeking and gaining independence. The birth of new nation states overseas now raised the question of nation states at home.

Westminster’s promises began to fade rapidly in the light of harsh economic competition from abroad; nationalist feelings and the accompanying demands for recognition began to emerge once more.

After World War II, Scotland’s economic situation became progressively worse due to overseas competition, inefficient industry, and industrial disputes. This only began to change in the 1970s, partly due to the discovery and development of North Sea oil and gas and partly as Scotland moved towards a more service-based economy. This period saw the emergence of the **Scottish National Party** and movements for both Scottish independence and more popularly devolution. However, a referendum on devolution in 1979 was unsuccessful as it did not achieve the support of 40% of the electorate (despite a small majority of those who voted supporting the proposal.)

On 11 September 1997, the Blair Labour government again held a referendum on the issue of devolution. A positive outcome led to the establishment of a devolved Scottish Parliament in 1999.

In 2007, the Scottish National Party (SNP) won the Scottish parliament elections and formed a minority government. New First Minister, Alex Salmon, hopes to hold a referendum on Scottish independence before 2011. If a referendum is held, an opinion poll in late 2007 suggested the result could be close as support for independence had reached 40% with just 44% supporting retention of the Union.

**Chapter 16: The Scots abroad**

From very early on, the Scots have been a nation of emigrants. Harsh conditions in a poor land ensure that people on the verge of famine seek a better life elsewhere.

In addition to Canada, Australia and New Zealand, countries referred to in Britain as "down under" profited enormously from the arrival of Scottish immigrants.
Sources:

http://www.britannia.com/celtic/scotland/history_scotland.html


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scots_Wha_Hae