

## **Benjamin Zephaniah**

***The British*** (from *Wicked World!* 2000)

Take some Picts, Celts and Silures  
And let them settle,  
Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.

Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years  
Add lots of Norman French to some  
Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings, then stir vigorously.

Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans, Dominicans,  
Trinidadians and Bajans<sup>1</sup> with some Ethiopians, Chinese,  
Vietnamese and Sudanese.

Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians  
And Pakistanis,  
Combine with some Guyanese  
And turn up the heat.

Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,  
Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some  
Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese  
And Palestinians  
Then add to the melting pot.

Leave the ingredients to simmer.

As they mix and blend allow their languages to flourish  
Binding them together with English.

Allow time to be cool.

Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,  
Serve with justice  
And enjoy.

Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain.  
Give justice and equality to all.

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<sup>1</sup> Shortened form of "Barbadians".