

## **Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP)**

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## Abstract

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<b>Programme Level: Higher National Diploma in Tour Guiding</b>			
<b>Research/Project Title:</b>  <b>Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP)</b>		<b>Number of words excluding abstract, references and appendices: 5929</b>	
Research Background			
<p>The research will first determine the visible Top Visual Priorities that the British carried out in Valletta. This research will try to elicit the British influence in Valletta so that it will help guides experience, enhance, and entertain better their clients/tourists about the above era.</p> <p>Mainly based on architecture, styles, and social influences during the British period, this project will also include some extraordinary traditions such as gastronomy and entertainment, the meaning and traditions now embraced by the local cuisine in Valletta. The experience of Strait Street, street names and the British influence on Band clubs and social clubs will also be explored.</p>			
Research Methodology			
Secondary Data			
<p>External Data: Available documentation on the top visual priorities identified and information. Books, Journals, the Internet will be referred to.</p>			
Primary Data			
<p>Observational research of the TVP identified to determine and enhance the audience in their visual experience from a personal perspective.</p> <p>The researcher will carry out a quantitative questionnaire among Valletta interested persons (2,300) to determine which visual priorities during the British Period they prefer most.</p>			

A Qualitative Analysis with two book writers on the subject to determine their perceptions on the subject.

Significance of this research

The General findings will be included with four important attributes of each TVP to each British Influence identified so that it can be addressed by the guides. The findings will suggest ways that guides can carry out during their tours including the most relevant information.

It is expected that the conclusion will identify the list of TVPs.

**Keywords**

British, Influence, Valletta, Visual, Guides, Priorities

## Declaration of Authenticity



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**Programme** : Higher National Diploma in Tour Guiding

**Research Title** : Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual  
Priorities (TVP)

### Declaration:

I hereby declare that this research study is based on the outcome of my research. I, as the author, declare that this research study is my composition which has not been previously produced for any other qualification. All translations were carried out by the author.

The research study was conducted under the supervision of Ms Caroline Muscat

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Date

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Student's Signature

## **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to family, friends and tutor who supported me and encouraged me throughout this assignment.

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# **1. Introduction**

Valletta has earned the title of UNESCO's World Heritage Site in 1980. It is often perceived by most people that Valletta was thoroughly built by the Knights of St. John. That statement is true enough, but the impact left by the British during their reign of Malta and Gozo is quite significant and is normally left unnoticed. UNESCO (ICOMOS, 1979) mostly acknowledges the period of the Knights of St. John and practically ignores the impact of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by the British. One does not even find St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral mentioned in the list on the UNESCO's website (UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1980). So, this essay will try to identify the British influence in its widest perspective of Political, Socioeconomic, Natural, Technological, Cultural and Demographic (Kotler et al, 2013) impact <sup>i</sup>.

The study is important for the tourist industry because it will fill a historical gap, normally left unnoticed about the British impact on Valletta. Licenced guides should benefit if they are focusing their tour in Valletta based on the British period.

This long essay will initiate the research through what we refer to as Secondary Research. This Secondary Research, according to Kotler et al (2013) is divided into internal and external research. While internal research is mainly available through lecture notes, one finds volumes in external research. Books, Journals, and the Internet fill us with information that must be determined in this project. Then the essay intends to look for gaps in the events. These gaps will be analysed through Primary Research, which is based on observational research, qualitative and quantitative analysis to identify specific areas of British influence on Valletta.

## **1.1 Research Background**

This essay shall initiate research on the macro-environment chronologically as much as feasible. This will include British Architecture in Valletta which resulted in tangible visuals. The author will be eliciting historical facts from the past under the British era, which are then

commemorated by certain areas of historical value cast in stone. Non-tangible history related to the era, such as social aspects will be included.

This should be enough to elicit the information and gather data which is available on the British Influence on Valletta. Historical relevance will be included in the endnotes as long as this is not directly related to main occurrences or additional information during this period but are relevant to the story to understand the background of what happened.

## **1.2 Research Aim, Objectives and Hypothesis or Question**

The research aim is to determine the background and the influences that Malta's capital city, Valletta embraced during the British Military period.

The objective is to determine the Top Visual Priorities (TVP) to cater for the British interested tourists to experience the influences on Valletta. These will be listed in Appendix 1, in a way that will enhance the guides guiding this period.

The hypothesis question will also determine how much recognition exists from locals who are interested in Valletta so that the background knowledge of these people about Valletta during the British period will be determined.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Brief Historical Background**

The literature review regarding the historical background of these British events is focused on various books<sup>ii</sup>.

The British Military Period started with its neo-classical style regarding architecture to prove British presence, as we shall see, and this had an objective of defence resulting in a fortress island cast in stone of the period. The objective of living changed from the Knights period who considered Malta as their home, while the British considered Malta as an island fortress. We shall delve into the history<sup>iii</sup>, the objective of the monument and/or building and the style behind it.

### **2.2 Development of the British Political Strategy: Malta**

The literature review here is indebted to Napoleon.org (2022), to determine how history developed and the transition from the French to the British Colony. Napoleon developed a strategy to disarm the Knights of St. John, a good 10 years before he was here in Malta. He followed the same strategy as Henry VIII who also disowned British Knights. This is developed more in Endnote<sup>iv</sup>.

It is thus important to understand why the Maltese did not accept the Knights of Malta, (as they were now practically bankrupt) again in Malta when the Island was offered to the Knights of Malta after the treaty of Amiens tackled below (Francis Farrugia, 2006).

#### **2.2.1 French Invasion**

This area is well analysed by Joseph F Grima, (2022) in his article with dates and information regarding the topic with extracts from Jones J.R. (1980) and William Hardman (1909) and developed in Endnote<sup>v</sup>. Once the Siege of the French was over, Malta passed on under British rule.

Mallia-Milanes (1988) duly notes that “*the British had not come to Malta in search of new markets like other colonies*”, but to take advantage both military and strategic, over their enemies in the Mediterranean<sup>vi</sup>.

### 2.2.2 Treaty of Amiens

The Treaty of Amiens was an effort to settle things between Britain and France. Farrugia (2006) writes about this event concerning the following Paris Treaty developed by Salvino Busuttil (2022) together with the Oxford Reference (2002). This background s developed more in Endnote <sup>vii</sup> .

To commemorate the introduction of the British Colony of Malta, a TVP was constructed, and a portico was added to the front of the Main Guard in Valletta (Appendix 7.1.1), which is the first architectural intervention by the British Empire in Valletta. It stated the following, translated into English:

*“To Great and Unconquered Britain, the love of the Maltese and the Voice of Europe Confirms these islands. AD 1814”* (vassallomalta.com, 2014).

This leads us to the Bathurst Constitution. On the same emblem, there is the statement in French,

*“Dieu et mon Droit”, “God and my right”* – the motto of the British monarch.

The French language was at the time considered a mother language of the highest order, Micallef Eynaud, (2010) <sup>viii</sup>.

### **2.2.3 The Bathurst Constitution**

The Bathurst Constitution<sup>ix</sup> transformed Malta into a British Crown colony, mainly that Britain had total control of the legislation and administration, which is different from having a constitutional and representative government. Micallef Eynaud (2010) writes that Sir Thomas Maitland referred to as King Tom<sup>x</sup> lies at rest (Appendix 7.1.2) at the Barrakka Gardens in Valletta, and became the first Civil Governor on 23 July, 1813 (Kliemustorja,2021)<sup>xi</sup>. He published a proclamation by King George III which read:

“Henceforth to recognise the people of Malta and Gozo as subjects of the British Crown and as entitled to its fullest protection”, (Testaferrata Moroni Viani Martin, 2009).

Micallef Eynaud (2010) continues to develop various achievements by Sir Thomas Maitland. The instructions to King Tom (Micallef Eynaud, 1010) by the British Military Government were published by Luther Jörg (2010).

Quite near to the monument of Sir Thomas Maitland at Barrakka Gardens, we also find a pedestalled monument to his Military Secretary Clement Martin Edwards (1816), (Appendix 7.1.3), in front of the Barrakka lift. Edwards had secured the respect and esteem of all good men as stated on his monument (H. Donald Simpson, 1957).

The political stance leads us to the area of the economy which is interlinked to social conditions. One must understand the socioeconomic with political factors of Malta (De Gruyter, 2010) including corruption (Salvino Busuttil, 1965). As the Governor was only answerable to the King-in-council, the British influence on Valletta is understandable. Endnote <sup>xii</sup> gives more information on this area.

### **2.2.4 The Development of the Neo-classical and other architecture in Valletta**

One cannot say that neo-classical architecture was introduced in Malta by the British Military. The last building by the Knights of Malta, the Bibliotheca in Valletta (Appendix 7.1.45), which dates to the period 1786-1796, two years before the French took over, is also of this style. The architect Stefano Ittar built the Bibliotheca in a neo-classical style (Thake,

2013). The building served its original purpose from 1813. Martin Morana (2021), in his article about neo-classical architecture, mentions main TVPs, amongst which we find, monumental mausoleums to record various governors, such as the one in lower Barrakka Garden in honour of Sir Alexander Ball (Appendix 7.1.4), designed by Architect George Pullicino. Monuments at Upper Barrakka were also designed by Pullicino, as was the one of Colonel Henry Anderson Morshead in the saluting battery (Appendix 7.1.5).

At Upper Barrakka we also find a monument dedicated to Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor, and Maltese Prime Minister (Appendix 7.1.39) and in Hastings Gardens for Francis Edward Rawdon 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Hastings (Appendix 7.1.6). On the northern side, there used to exist a 23-metre Doric fluted column, with an urn on top to commemorate Sir Frederick Cavendish Ponsomby (Appendix 7.1.7). Today only its base remains as it was hit by a lightning strike. In the internal courtyard close to the regimental barracks at lower Fort St. Elmo (Appendix 7.1.8), with a crescent-shaped roofed arcade to compliment an ornate fountain of neo-classical style designed by Architect Giorgio Pullicino. Vincenzo Dimech designed the neo-classical doorway to the entrance of the University of Malta in Merchants Street Valletta (Appendix 7.1.9) with Doric fluted columns, and there is also the Anglican Cathedral of St. Paul Pro-Cathedral in Valletta (Appendix 7.1.10) by Architect William Scamp with Corinthian capitals in the interior. The Royal Opera House (Appendix 7.1.12), designed by Edward Middleton Barry (Appendix 7.2.7) architect of Covent Garden in London, is also identified in the same article.

It is understood that the British interest in Classical Greek style which became known as neo-classical architecture developed after Lord Elgin (Lino Bugeja, 2015), without knowing, boosted the new Doric style, when he transported Parthenon marbles from Athens to the marina in Valletta while they were being transported to London <sup>xiii</sup>. Lino Bugeja (2015) also determines Palazzo Buttigieg Francia (wrongly referred to as Palazzo Ferreria), (Appendix 7.1.13) built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, which was a former foundry of the Knights before being demolished and was carried out under the British Government, the Garrison Church (1857) at the entrance to Barrakka (Appendix 7.1.14), now the Malta Stock Exchange, whose architect, Giuseppe Bonavia, also designed St. Andrew's Scots Church on South Street (Appendix 7.1.15) in neo-gothic design during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The main gate in Valletta was originally known as Porta San Georgio (Appendix 7.1.16), and renamed Porta Reale, which is referred to in Maltese as *Putirjal* and Kingsway in English. At the height of the British Colony in Malta, in 1853 a new gate was constructed by Col. Thompson of the Royal Engineers. The fourth gate was also built during the British period and inaugurated in 1964. Today we have “a gate with no gate” by the famous architect Renzo Piano (vassallomalta.com, 2015).

## **2.3 Development of the British Socio-Economic Strategy: Malta**

Salvino Busuttil, (1965) wrote about the Maltese Economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Similar to the Political, the Economical had a great influence on Valletta. Now, the focus was military security for the British Empire. War influenced the economic cycle. This area only makes sense if one understands the political cycle which we discussed above. Pre WWII and post WWII, there were practically five areas of income where Maltese people were employed: the Public Service, the Navy, the Army, Dockyard and Strait Street (Cini George, 2010)

### **2.3.1 Socio-economy under Sir Alexander Ball: Malta**

Sir Alexander Ball was referred to as the father of the Maltese for showing empathy and siding with the Maltese requirements and development. For this research, Micallef Eynaud (2010), vassallohistory.com, (2014) and Salvino Busuttil, (1965) are referred into endnote <sup>xiv</sup>, to understand this development. Although not directly related to Valletta, it is important to understand the background to determine the respect that the Maltese had for this first administrator who was never referred to as “governor”.

William Eton was a public servant who created an understanding of Maltese discontentment which led to the Sette Giugno revolt in 1919 with Salvino Busuttil (1965) describing the event. Endnote <sup>xv</sup> gives a brief understanding of the facts that influenced a revolution in Malta at the time.

The Maltese economy was not doing well at the time. Francis Rawdon-Hastings, Governor of Malta between 1824-1826 (Appendix 7.1.6), who succeeded Maitland (Hastings Gardens to remind us of this British Governor) tried his best to repeal the strict quarantine regulation



that resulted in an economic disaster in Malta. Vessels were forbidden to enter Maltese ports during the plague. Salvino Busuttil (1965) records that in 1821, the economy in Malta hit rock bottom, with beggars roaming everywhere by the hundred.

### **2.3.2 A state of poverty never experienced elsewhere: Valletta, Malta**

This sad situation of beggars is embraced in the *Nix Mangiari Stairs* (Appendix 7.1.17) (Drury Melanie, 2021) which for many decades during the early British period were filled with Maltese beggars, as Giovanni Bonello (2014) states, begging sailors taking this short cut shouting '*Nix Mangiari*' meaning "*Nothing to eat*" <sup>xvi</sup>.

On Hastings' death, Major General Sir Frederick Cavendish Ponsomby (Appendix 7.1.7) as Edward Said, (2018) states, took over. Nevertheless, with England contributing only 150,000 British pounds, the situation got out of hand. The local situation of the time is tackled in Endnote <sup>xvii</sup>. Salvino Busuttil (1965) also contributes to this fact and gives a detailed account.

A significant advancement was made under Sir Richard O'Ferall, Malta's first Civilian Governor and a Roman Catholic. Salvino Busuttil (1965) states that sailors and soldiers gave themselves to pleasure, with a lot of spending and so the standard of living began to rise. This area is developed in Endnote <sup>xviii</sup>. This has a Top Visual Priority in Strait Street in Valletta (Appendix 7.1.18), a pinnacle of nightlife in the Mediterranean for entertainment at the time<sup>xix</sup>. George Cini (2010) makes a distinctive contribution through interviews of people who roamed Strait Street (referred in Maltese as 'Sada Stretta').

At the end of the Crimean war, in 1865, the cotton trade withdrew from Malta and farmers reverted to cultivate their fields, while the commercial activity of the harbour and docks attracted labour power to the area. The City, *il-Belt*, was the centre of commercial and political activity. This is developed more by Salvino Busuttil in Endnote <sup>xx</sup>.

It emerged that Algeria welcomed many Maltese migrants who made their fortune there. Also, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century there was the development of a drainage system (Appendix 7.2.1) in the three cities with a combined effort between the Government of Malta and the War Office of the Admiralty. There was an issue with payments. This area, which is indirectly

linked to the objective of this long essay is developed by Salvino Busuttil (1965) in Endnote xxi.

### **2.3.3 Infrastructure in Malta**

We also have the introduction of electric lighting (Appendix 7.2.1) in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Valletta. This was introduced in 1882 in the Royal Opera House and a year later at Piazza San Giorgio (Enemalta, 2022)<sup>xxii</sup>.

According to Carmel Cassar (1988), until 1860, villagers had only wine shops to go to for entertainment. That year, a band club opened in Rabat which the non-religious of the time frequented. Soon, rivalries evolved in towns and villages by siding a band with a particular saint or another. Originally, they played in operas, very popular at the time, sacred music and oratories in churches. Jeremy Boissevain (1988) writes about the British who introduced rivalry of parties to divide the Maltese. These rivalries encouraged feasts of two saints in villages and the political parties to promulgate the “divide and rule” principle. The evidence lies in the names of the band clubs... ‘Prince of Wales’, ‘Queen Victoria’ and in Valletta one finds ‘King’s Own Band Club’ (Appendix 7.1.19) <sup>xxiii</sup>.

## **2.4 The British influence on Malta in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.**

We now come to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century under British rule. This century had major events, among which are the building of the breakwater, the Sette Giugno revolt, and the two great World Wars, WWI and WWII that left their mark on Valletta.

### **2.4.1 Breakwater in Valletta**

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, we have the commissioning of the breakwater in 1903. Carmel Cassar (2010) writes that there was a lot of work in Malta with the building of the breakwater, and the Colony had to import workers (Anne Zammit, 2017) from Sicily and Spain <sup>xxiv</sup>. This created a visual and still can be viewed at the entrance of the port with the ‘Bridge to Nowhere’ (Appendix 7.1.20). The original bridge was destroyed and had to be rebuilt in 2012 (Times of Malta, 2014) <sup>xxv</sup>.

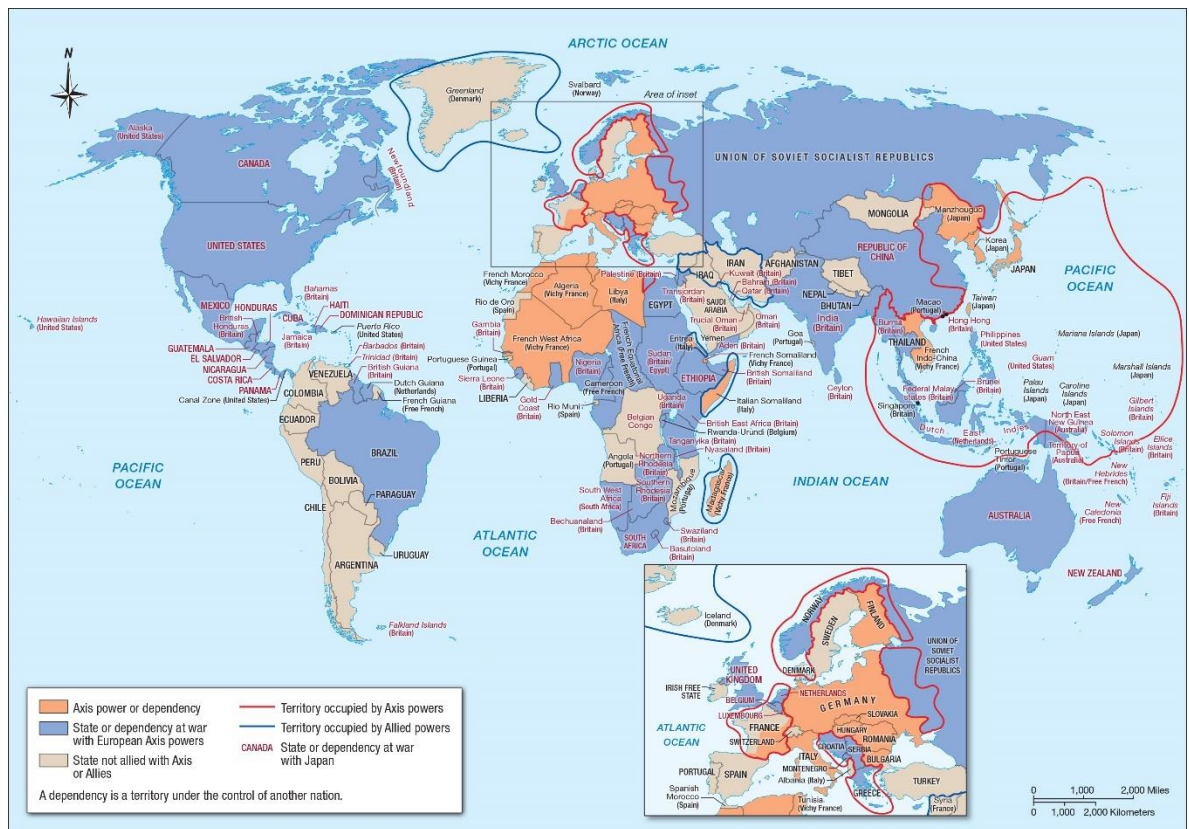
### **2.4.2 World War 1**

Malta was not directly involved in WWI but was greatly affected and practically benefitted by the crises and the threat and fear of war, more so because Malta was under the British Colony. Michael Galea and Charles Debono (2014) describe a background of understanding which is included in Endnote<sup>xxvi</sup>. It was a situation where that while wages stayed practically the same, the prices of cereals increased and any rise in wages was offset with a rise in food consumption (Clare Arthur G, 1988). Malta was still pro-Italian by WWI. We have the story of Enrico Mizzi (Appendix 7.1.21) who suggested an Italo-Maltese Federation which led to a court martial and deportation later<sup>xxvii</sup>. Frendo (1988) also writes about Manwel Dimech (Appendix 7.1.22), (whose statue is in front of Castille)<sup>xxviii</sup>.

The economic situation of Malta in 1919 was not good, and the local political leaders convoked 'L'Assemblea Nazionale di Malta' to petition for self-government and draft a Constitution<sup>xxix</sup>. Joseph Bezzina (1988) describes that ultimately six people died during the initial uprising and another later, and 50 others were injured. This is represented in the Sette Giugno monument in front of the Grand Master's Palace in St. George's Square in Valletta (Appendix 7.1.23) to commemorate this event (Micallef Decesare Amy, 2021) <sup>xxx</sup>.

### **2.4.3 Second World War (WWII) in Malta**

To the question of 'why was Malta heavily bombarded in WWII?', the following map gives a clear view of the occupancy of the allies (England and their allies) and axis (Germany and their allies) in the Mediterranean in 1941. The brown is the areas held by the axis and the blue are the allies.



(Facing History and Ourselves, 2022)

From the map, one can deduce that the Axis forces occupied nearly all Mediterranean land that touched the Mediterranean, except for tiny Malta in the middle and Egypt<sup>xxxi</sup>. Greece was disputable. Matthew Camilleri (2020) describes the issue in detail.

Among the important buildings that suffered in Valletta is the Auberge d'Auvergne, where today there are the Law Courts (Appendix 7.1.24) and the Auberge de France where today there is the General Workers Union (Appendix 7.1.25), with a plaque to commemorate this at the entrance of the building. St. Elmo's bridge also suffered substantial damages. Adjacent to the Royal Opera House, stood the station of the tram (Appendix 7.2.9) which was also bombarded during World War II. This was converted into a space known as Freedom Square, after which this area now houses the Maltese Parliament. Victor Denaro (2022) writes about all the above and more<sup>xxxii</sup>. Il Casa del Comun Tesoro (Appendix 7.1.26) of the order, which today houses the Malta Union Club, the Casino Maltese (on top of Café Cordina) also suffered damages and some staff were killed in 1942. Next to Auberge de France, there were side buildings which were also destroyed<sup>xxxiii</sup>. On the sides of the front of St. John's Co-cathedral, one finds two fountains which were built during the British period

(Appendix 7.1.41). The square in front of St. John's Co-cathedral's main door was also hit by a bomb and destroyed, creating the Piazzetta in front of it (Appendix 7.1.27). Part of the Grand Master's Palace (Appendix 7.1.28) and the Market received direct hits, (Appendix 7.1.32) in Merchants Street. The street was designed by Hector Zimelli using cast iron pillars and a glass skylight with girders to have a similar impact to the Crystal Palace, built in Hyde Park London (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022).

Republic Square was in rubbles except for Queen Victoria's monument (Appendix 7.1.28)  
<sup>xxxiv</sup> a memorial which stood strong and tall.

Quality of living changed with the economy of the people, not of the state. The poor areas were 'inherited' by the British and there were always some depleted areas during some time or another. An area which was synonymous with poverty is "Il Mandraggio" (Appendix 7.1.29) in Valletta. An article by Denis Darmanin (2015), gives an overview of the origins and development of Valletta's Mandraggio<sup>xxxv</sup>. Everyone used to talk about the black market. So, the Victory Kitchens (Appendix 7.1.30) were created. They were clean and supervised and rationed the people of the island with coupons to help them with a little nourishment for living. A promotional sign of this Victory Kitchen is still visible on Melita Street, Valletta.

Chevron (2020) identifies the main sites amongst which we find Victoria Gate (Appendix 7.1.31) and other areas already mentioned<sup>xxxvi</sup>. CultureMalta (2006) identifies the Chamber of Commerce '*Camera del Commercio*' (Appendix 7.1.11) designed by Giuseppe Bonavia, which at one time housed the Stock exchange (il-Borsa).

One must understand that after taking over from the French in 1800, the British were here to safeguard their interests, and so their objectives resulted in these inputs around Valletta and Malta in general.

This research aims also to discuss the architectural styles used during this period. Liz Ayling (2016) mentions Strait Street (Appendix 7.1.43) with its entertaining lifestyle during the British period, and signs of the Victory Kitchen (Appendix 1.7.30) which show a reminiscence of it in Melita Street, corner with Merchant's Street. Ayling also mentions the Lascaris War Rooms in Valletta (Appendix 7.1.33) and the old British-made vehicles and the red post office<sup>xxxvii</sup> boxes (Appendix 7.1.49). Today, part of St. Elmo's Cavalier houses the National

War Museum (Appendix 7.1.34) focusing on both World Wars and their impact on Malta during the British colony. The Museum also houses the George Cross, awarded for the bravery of the Maltese people. Ayling also hints to the British Military pill boxes<sup>xxxviii</sup> overlooking the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour (Appendix 7.1.35) and St. Sebastian Street.

Another area of interest is the history of street names. Since the Knights of St. John, Valletta had four rulers - the Knights, the French, the British and the Maltese. Main street names changed according to the rulers, for example the main street of the capital of Malta was named Strada San Giorgio under the Knights (Chetcuti, 2014), Rue Nationale under the French, Kingsway under the British and Republic Street under the Maltese (Appendix 7.1.44). In her article, Chetcuti (2014), writes that Laparelli (whose statue with Gilormu Cassar is next to the Parliament), used to refer to streets as Strada, never Vie, so Strada Reale, Strada Sant'Ursola, Strada Forni, Strada Stretta<sup>xxxix</sup> etc. Interesting to know that Piazza San Giorgio was renamed by the French as Place de la Liberté and Palace Square under the British. The Maltese refer to it as the *Pjazza Main Guard* but its official name is St. George's Square (Appendix 7.1.36).

#### **2.4.4 Observational Research: Plaques fixed to the Grandmasters Palace**

The Grandmaster's palace hosts several plaques related to the British period, which highlight the most important events achieved by the Maltese. Mercieca, (2007), identifies five marble plaques out of seven related to the British period to commemorate (in both the national languages of Malta: Maltese and English), the Islands' most important history and particular events. Two plaques are related to WWII<sup>xl</sup>. The related Independence Day (21<sup>st</sup> September 1964) from the British, when Malta became Republic with its own Constitution on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1974, and ultimately, when the British forces left Malta, Freedom Day<sup>xli</sup> on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1979 (Appendix 7.1.37). Other plaques in the same area are unrelated to this period.

#### **2.4.5 Technological development during the British period which influenced Valletta**

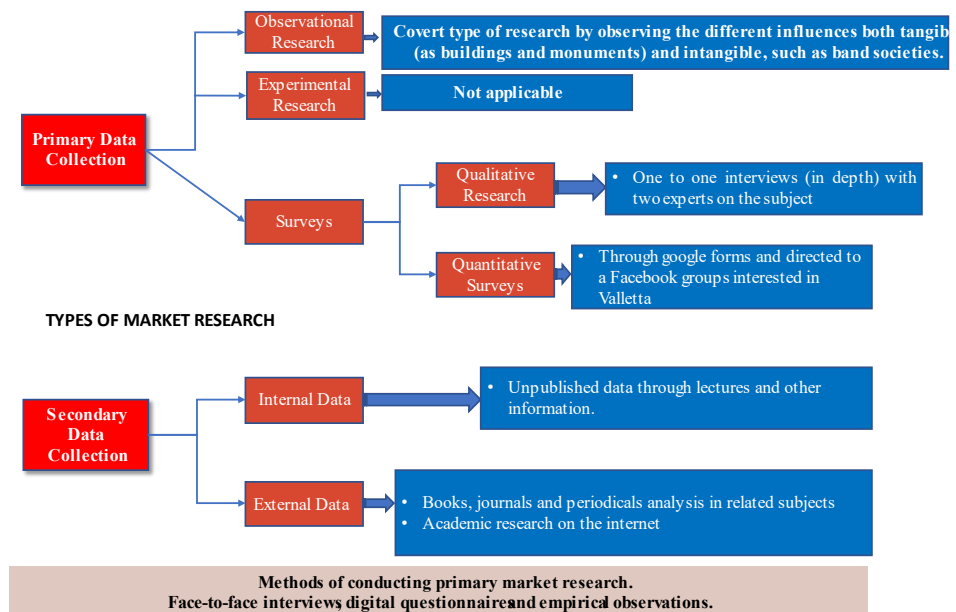
Technology always developed during a war or crisis. Development of technology on land, sea, and air affected Valletta. The development of the train and tram during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century resulted in a station at the entrance of Valletta, where the new Parliament building

now stands. Development of technology at sea resulted in the building of the breakwater and a chain that crossed the harbour from Valletta to Kalkara so that U-boats and vessels did not filter through the main harbour entrance<sup>xlii</sup>. Vassallomalta.com (2014) writes about this chain which used to block the Grand Harbour. We have a visual of it as one goes down a flight of steps opposite to the Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) in Valletta (Appendix 7.1.38) <sup>xliii</sup>.

This will lead to an understanding of the methodology of this research project.

### 3. Methodology

The following research diagram will present a visual plan of how the research was conducted to determine the influence of the British period (1800-1979) on Valletta.



The purpose of this part is to describe the research process for the reader to evaluate the design, procedure, and findings of the research project.

The empirical experience of Valletta monuments will be highlighted as we develop the research in the literature review. The secondary data collection was conducted with various libraries at ITS, the Central Bank of Malta Library, the University of Malta, the National Library of Malta, and online libraries such as Academia.edu and Britannica. Books were collected according to their relevance to this topic.

Qualitative research was conducted with two persons who are an authority on the subject and teach the same area with various institutions. Secondary internal research was determined from the lectures carried out related to the subject matter.

The above diagram indicates the planned research in a thorough manner. It is self-explanatory to the Primary and Secondary research conducted.

### **3.1 Outline**

The following is an outline of the Methodology of this research project:

Review of Data Collection Methods.

This long essay initiated by conducting Secondary Research on the subject. This is attested in the Literature Review<sup>xliv</sup>.

A qualitative review with two experts on the subject was carried out. Through the discussions, it transpired that several priorities were identified and included in Appendix 1<sup>xlv</sup>.

A quantitative review was conducted through Google forms for interested persons. A total of 4,053 members of different Facebook groups as identified in Appendix 2c were asked. The questions were about specific buildings and monuments that the experts identified as ones which people do not know about and probably had a different perspective. This proved difficult for people to respond to, and even some of the respondents stated that they carried out some research before replying, not through perception. So, the answers provided were not their life perception on the British influence on Valletta, but they arrived at an answer



through their research. This qualitative research was communicated for 10 consecutive days in August and re-communicated again in October 2022.

The criteria for the sample selection were Facebook groups that are interested in what is happening in Valletta. Additionally, both qualitative interviewees were born and raised in Valletta, and are experts on the subject.

It transpired that what experts stated was confirmed, as people were unaware of the influence of certain buildings and monuments in Valletta during this British period, mainly that people were *uneducated* on the subject in the sense that it is not taught at school.

The quantitative research was presented in full anonymity of the questionnaire to gather more answers. Still, full anonymity did not prove successful indicating that most of the people did not know most of the questions.

#### **4. Results, Analysis and Discussion**

The above literature review identified the Top Visual Priorities which are mostly determined in the Buildings and Monuments erected during the British era together with Top Non-Visual Priorities related to the British influence on Valletta<sup>xlvi</sup>.

The objective of using endnotes was carried to explain in detail, information which is not directed related to the title, but indirectly related to understanding the background of Politics, Culture, Economy, Technology, Cultural and Social aspects of the British influence and the reasons behind them. This will help the guide to get a holistic perspective of the British influence on Valletta.

#### 4.1.1 Findings: tables and figures

The research objective was to determine from experts (qualitative research) and the general public (quantitative research), including observational research, in order to have a holistic view.

From the feedback received, many of the respondents carried out individual research to answer the questions.

The questions were distributed among the following sites:

<b>Title of Group on Facebook</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>No of members</b>
Mandraggara Beltin	2022	1038
Il Belt Valletta, Niesha u Grajjietha	2022	491
Belt Valletta	2022	2506
<b>Total</b>		<b>4035</b>

A larger number of respondents was expected. Only 21 replies from a total of 4,035 members were received.

Another research was conducted regarding some members of the groups as to why there was no interest from members who form a group for this specific reason. Responses received were that the questions were too difficult, or they just did not know, or they did not bother to answer.

This proves what the experts stated that this is an issue that we do not teach this period to our students, and communication or promotion of this period is practically non-existent. Therefore, such a low turnout is understandable.

The quantitative research was conducted through Google Forms as per underneath. The objective was to determine the 'PERCEPTION' under which administration carried out the buildings/monuments:

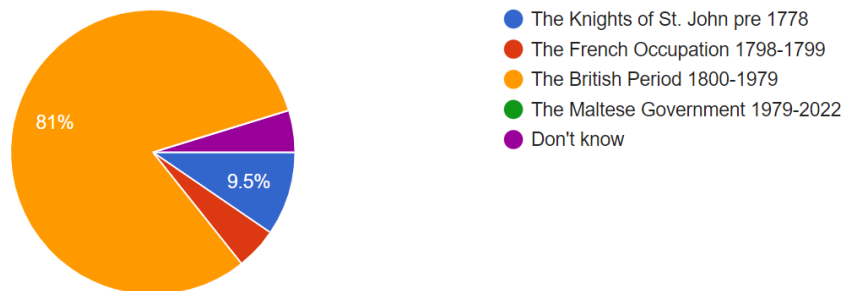
Forty-nine TVPs (7. Appendix 1) were identified in this research and fourteen Top Non-Visual Priorities (7 Appendix 2) were also listed as identified in the proposal of this long essay, resulting as follows:

### Quantitative Research

Question 1: Under which administration was Palazzo Buttigieg Francia (also sometimes wrongly referred to as Palazzo Ferreria), in front of the Royal Opera House built?

Five answers were given to choose one as below:

21 responses

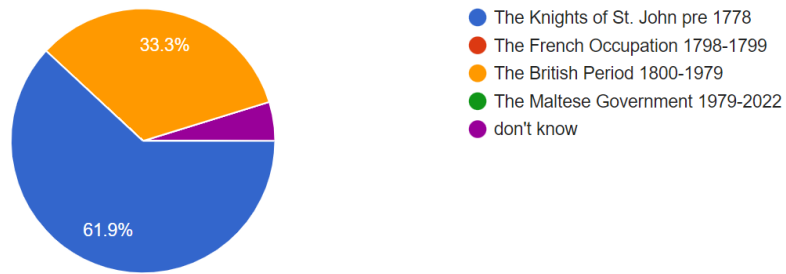


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Question 2: Under which administration were the two fountains found on the side of St. John's Cathedral built?

Five answers were given to choose one as below:

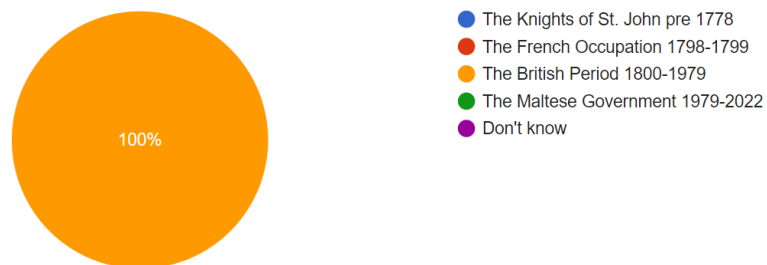
21 responses



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Question 3: Under which administration was the old Opera House built?

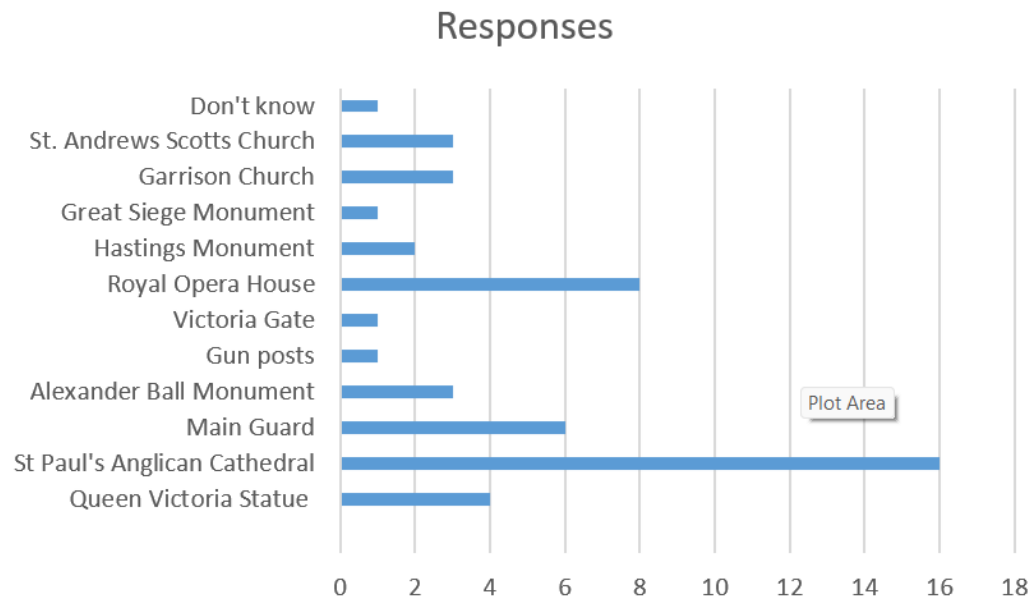
Five answers were given to choose one as below:



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Question 4: This was an open-ended question.

***Which three buildings or monuments do you personally consider as Top Visual Priorities in Valletta from the British period? 20 responses but not all responded with three buildings/monuments.***

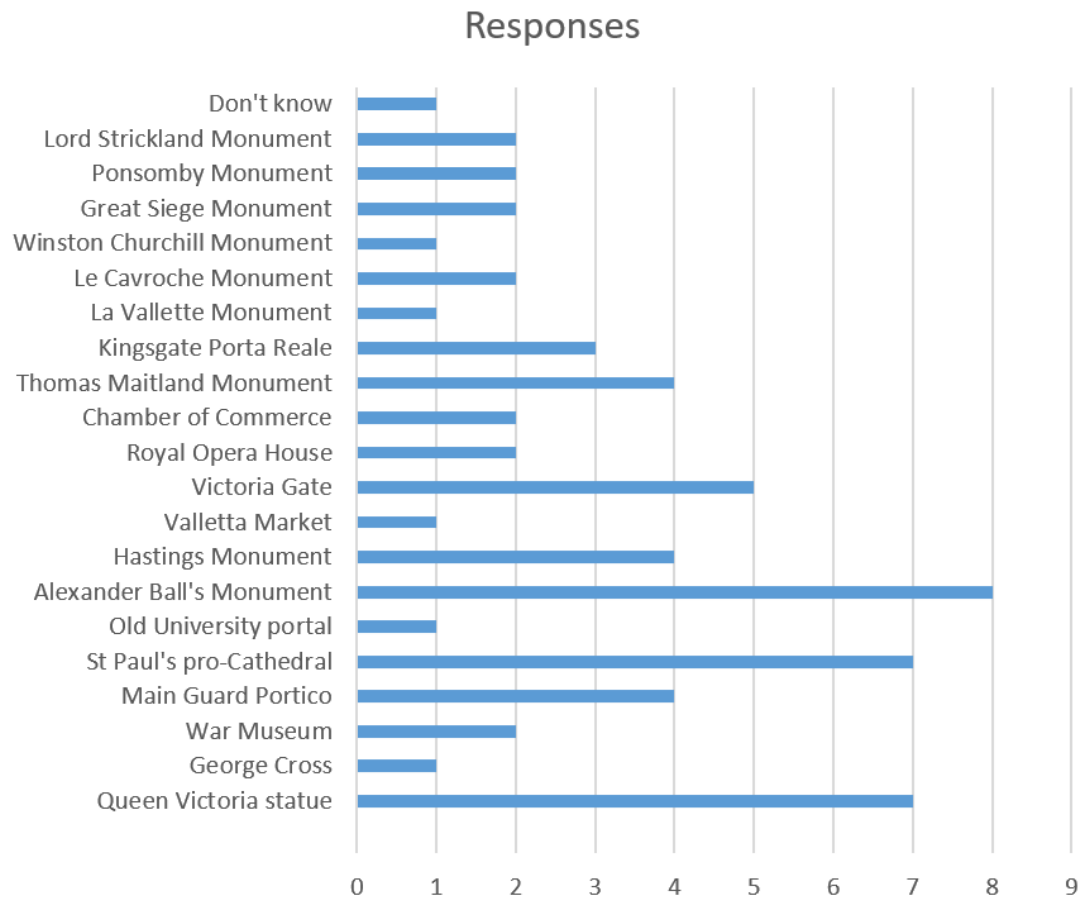


The above replies are all listed in the TVP's list in Appendix 1.

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#### Question 5:

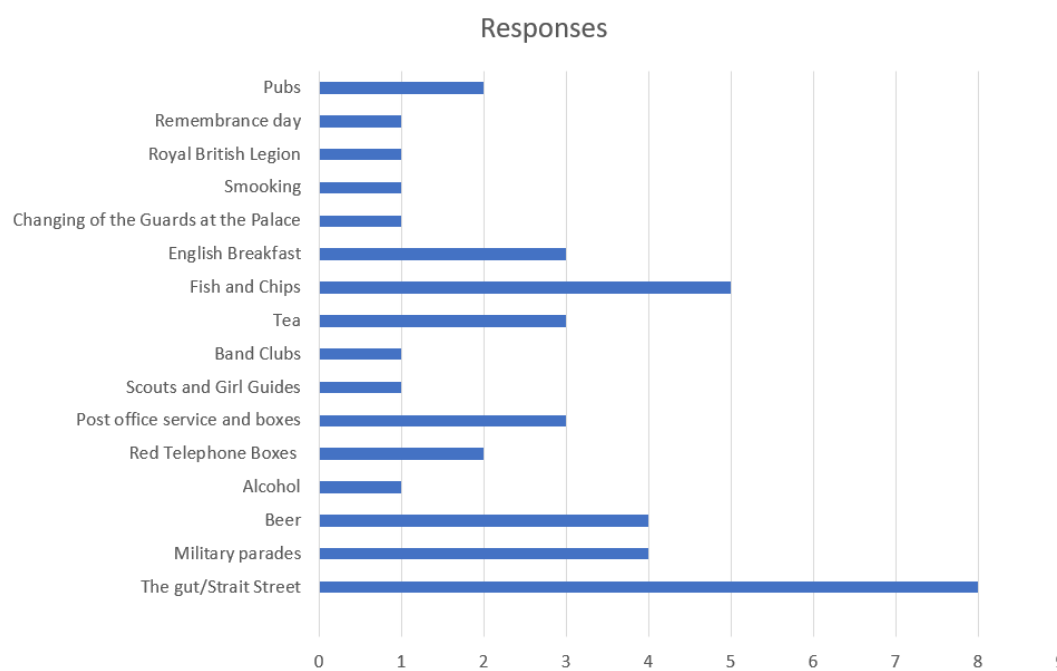
***List three buildings or monuments in Valletta from the British period (1800-1979) that you are aware of: 21 responses***



The above replies are all listed in the TVP's list in Appendix 1.

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***List a tradition that you are aware of or anything else which was influenced by the British in Valletta: 20 responses***



The whole list of the above question as identified by the various respondents is the following:

Of the above replies, two were listed in the top non-visual priorities, being:

Military parades in St. George's Square Appendix 1.2.15

Scouts and Girl Guides, Appendix 1.2.14

The above answers by quantitative analysis identified areas that were included in both the TVPs and the TNVPs related to Valletta with direct contribution by the public.

From the above, one can conduct that most of the TVP's and TNVP's mentioned were included in the long essay except the two listed above.

#### 4.1.2 Figures analysis

The tables of the quantitative research determine the answers as listed in Appendix 3 as well with detailed replies. The salient issue was that 19% are not aware that Palazzo Buttigieg Francia is from the British period, let alone that this conducted research as well. The fountains adjacent to St. John are by majority, mostly identified as during the Knights period rather than the British period, while all knew that the Opera House was built under the British (charts included above). 66.7% identified erroneously the times of these fountains.

All knew that the Royal Opera House was constructed under the British rule, maybe the title gave a hint as well.

The open ended questions resulted in some interesting information that was included in the TVP's and TNVP's.

An in-depth analysis is carried out in 8 Appendix 3.



## **5. Conclusion and Recommendation**

The literature review listed most of the written sources concerning the subject of this long essay. This has been extensively carried out. The primary research conducted by the experts has identified most the TVPs and the TNVPs. They were thoroughly discussed as per above.

The results achieved by the quantitative research confirm what the two experts stated. Mainly the lack of education for our students and local citizens about the British period even from those particularly interested in Valletta.

It resulted as well that the way History is taught in our schools, where numbers and dates are important without any social meaning or entertainment, creates distaste rather than love of the subject. This creates a misperception of the British influence in Valletta.

The objective of this research was to understand the perception of the citizens regarding the British influence on Valletta. This has been reached in a negative sense, as the research resulted in a lack of knowledge of this British historical time, which should be the other way round.

The historical facts about this period should be entertaining to the Maltese citizens so much so, that it will make them proud of who one is and his roots.

Suggestions for future students are to conduct research of how these buildings should be remembered as part of a historical event, and information or better promotion is to be conducted on the holistic aspect of Valletta, which until now had four major influences: The knights of St. John, the French period, the British period, and the Maltese period. We are taught little of the French and British period, although the literature is available. It should be part of the History syllabus taught at schools with specific site visits.

The author would like to recommend that History teachers should have a licence of a guide to teach or make visits regarding this history of Malta.

I also think that each street in Valletta will have at least the names it carried throughout its respective lifespan, with the information provided both onsite and digitally communicated.

## **Conclusions**

The conclusions from this research are that the history of Valletta should be taught as it is. All influences included make such a city so great.

Also, the fight for democracy, in which the Maltese participated in the three great sieges from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards must be taught with an indication that we today have this quality of living due to the efforts of our grandparents and ancestors. This is not taught at school either. The objective of the sieges was always democracy and freedom to the people of Malta and their administrators.

History is not about numbers and dates; these are important but not ultimate. What is ultimate is the holistic development of Valletta and Malta. The list and a proposed two-hour tour are presented as required by this essay. To cover the whole area of the British influence in Valletta, one would require at least two full day tours to cover all the areas highlighted in Appendix 1. A whole tour of the sites mentioned today requires two days the least.

## **Recommendations**

Due to the lack of perception of this period, a recommended specialised tour for this period in Valletta needs to be conducted. This will certainly help in a change in perception of how the citizens will appreciate more what they have achieved through time.

It is recommended to the guides guiding this period in Valletta, to go through every aspect, as the holistic approach to this period was conducted in this essay. This will prove an interesting and entertaining tour in Valletta.

This should result in an enhancement of the Maltese historical facts.

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## 7. Appendix 1: Top Visual Priorities

### 7.1 Top Visual Priorities Four important attributes for each TVP and TNVP

List of Top Visual Priorities with four important attributes

#### 7.1.1 Main Guard Portico in St. George Square.

- i: One of the earliest interventions by the British in Valletta,
- ii: Architectural style in neo-gothic,
- iii: Important coat of arms, *Dieu et mon droit*...God and my right
- iv: The lion and the unicorn: an emblem of the British and Scottish empire.

#### 7.1.2 Tomb of Sir Thomas Maitland at Upper Barrakka Gardens.

- i: Dedicated to the first British Governor of Malta, King Tom as he was called.
- ii: One of the earliest monuments of the British Empire in public areas, others followed, an austere type of monument.
- lii: To commemorate the difficult times that were ravishing Malta at the time, and his introduction to quarantine.
- iv: To commemorate the initiation of the British Military Governance of Malta.

#### 7.1.3 Pedestalled monument to his Military Secretary Clement Martin Edwards.

- i: At Barrakka Gardens: Secretary to Thomas Maitland
- ii: who had earned the respect of the Maltese and all for his good heart. He mobilised the earliest British Military soldiers to Malta and was originally designated the role of 'accountant' of the British Government in Malta.
- iii: by Architect Giorgio Pullicino who was an ardent neo-classical enthusiast.
- iv: Roman type mausoleum

#### 7.1.4 Mausoleum in honour of Sir Alexander Ball Lower Barrakka Garden.

- i: He was the first British administrator of the island after leading the war on the French who occupied the islands.
- ii: Ball was trusted by the Maltese National Congress so much so that he was referred to as the father of the Maltese for his efforts to make the life of the Maltese people better.

- iii: Great influence on the neo-classical architectural style in Malta which was also developing in London.
- iv: The monument signifies great respect to this person and is one of the monuments that one would see on entering the grand harbour with an architectural style that was used during this British period.

#### **7.1.5 Monument in honour of Colonel Henry Anderson Morshead in the Saluting Battery of Upper Barrakka.**

- i: Morsehead was acting governor of Malta and commanding royal engineer.
- ii: He was responsible for the modernisation and adaptation of the defences in Malta after the treaty of Paris in 1814.
- iii: This was after the treaty of Paris in 1814.
- iv: The sepulchre was commissioned by his wife and is of Romano/Greek style typically related to neo-classical. The monument suffered during WWII.

#### **7.1.6 Monument in Hastings Gardens for Francis Edward Rawdon 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Hastings.**

- i: Francis Rawdon-Hastings was Governor of Malta between 1824-1826.
- ii: He succeeded Thomas Maitland.
- iii: Best known for trying his best to repeal the strict quarantine regulation that resulted in an economic disaster for Malta. A difficult time for Malta.
- iv: Vessels were forbidden to enter the harbour during his time. Maltese exchequer hit rock bottom. Beggars roamed everywhere in their hundreds.

#### **7.1.7 23 metre Doric fluted column, with an urn on top to commemorate Sir Frederick Cavendish Ponsomby used to exist in Hastings Gardens. Only the base remained after being hit by lightning.**

- i: Took over from Hastings and governed between 1826-1834.
- ii: Carried out legislative reforms and enabled an eight men council that allowed for a constitutional development of the island.
- iii: Governor was now obliged to consult the people rather than dictating.
- iv: Maltese people were in a 'most miserable condition'.

#### **7.1.8 Close to the regimental barracks at Lower Fort St. Elmo is accompanied by a fountain for soldiers to beat the heat and the scorching sun.**

- i: A British Military architectural input at lower Fort St. Elmo.
- ii: Neo-classical style again by Architect Giorgio Pullicino.
- iii: Crescent shaped roofed arcade next to the regimental barracks.
- iv: An ornate fountain intended for the British soldiers to relax in the atmosphere.

#### **7.1.9 Neo-classical entrance of the University of Malta in Merchants Street Valletta.**

- i: In 1824, it was decided that the University of Malta, with its main entrance in Strada Mercanti (Merchant's Street) close to the old Jesuit church.
- ii: A separate entrance from the other street, Strada San Paolo.
- iii: A neo-classical doorway designed by Professor Vincenzo Dimech of the same University.
- iv: A neo-classical doorway surmounted by the British monarchical coat-of-arms, with Doric fluted columns bearing the motto: Learning is the gateway to honour.

#### **7.1.10 Anglican Pro-Cathedral of St. Paul's in Valletta.**

- i: Funded by Queen Adelaide with 10k British pounds to build for protestants in Malta.
- ii: Built by Architect William Scamp after the failure of previous architects.
- iii: Ionic portico of neo-classical style.
- iv: Took five years to build.

#### **7.1.11 Camera del Commercio (Chamber of Commerce) in Republic Street Valletta.**

- i: Originally occupied by the Priory of Castille, Leon and Portugal.
- ii: Handed over to the Malta Chamber of Commerce in 1853.
- iii: Demolished and re-built by Architect Giuseppe Bonavia.
- iv: Is of neo-classical style and scheduled as a Grade I national monument.

#### **7.1.12 The Royal Opera House in Republic Street next to the new Parliament.**

- i: Built of neo-classical style and opened in 1866.
- ii: Designed by the famous architect Edward Middleton Barry who built Covent Garden in London and is considered his most important work.
- iii: Destroyed in WWII in 1942.
- iv: Now redesigned by Renzo Piano, leaving the neo-classical influence.

#### **7.1.13 Palazzo Buttigieg Francia (mistakenly known as Palazzo Ferreria) is opposite the Royal Opera House.**

- i: The palace was an iron factory, a foundry for the armaments of the knights before it was demolished. Mistakenly known as Palazzo Ferreria but is Palazzo Buttigieg Francia.

- ii: It was built in late 1876 by the architect Giuseppe Bonavia on behalf of Giuseppe Buttigieg and Giuseppa Camilleri.
- iii: It is the second largest palace after the Grand Master's palace in Valletta.
- iv: The coat of arms of the Buttigieg Camilleri families is exhibited on the main front door of the palace.

#### **7.1.14 Garrison Church (1857) at the side entrance to Upper Barrakka.**

- i: Neo classical style built in 1855.
- ii: One of the earliest to be constructed as a Protestant Church.
- iii: Served various objectives, such as a school, social club and Maltapost outlet.
- iv: Today houses the Malta Stock Exchange since 2014.

#### **7.1.15 St. Andrew's Scots Church in South Street, Valletta.**

- i: Built by Architect Giuseppe Bonavia the same as that of Palazzo Buttigieg Francia.
- ii: Known also as the Church of Scotland.
- iii: Built in neo-gothic style.
- iv: Still in use today by the Church of Scotland and the British Methodist.

#### **7.1.16 Porta San Giorgio (Porta Reale known to the Maltese as Putirjal), the main city gate.**

- i: Valletta's main gate, originally known by the Knights as Porta San Giorgio. Initially, the gate was referred to as 'Laparelli Gate'- (1569-1633), as it was built by the architect of Valletta. After which it was referred to Tomaso Dingli (1663-1853) gate. Then it was called the Thompson Gate (1853-1963), and the Bergonzo Gate (1963-2011) It was later known as Porta Reale and in Maltese 'Putirjal.
- ii: Was reconstructed by the Royal Engineers (Col. Thompson) in 1853.
- iii: Demolished again and rebuilt in 1964 for wider access into the Capital City.
- iv: Today, we have 'a gate with no gate' by Renzo Piano, a wide open entrance built between 2011- 2014.

#### **7.1.17 Nix Mangiaris Stairs, next to the Victoria Gate which leads to the harbour.**

- i: A representation of stairs of the poor situation that the Maltese people were in without food to eat. In the early British history, Malta was considered among the poorest in the world, mostly in the first half of the nineteenth century.
- ii: The shortcut from the Grand Harbour to the city centre was used by sailors and other passers byes.
- iii: They used to be pestered by beggars, pulled and prodded by eager hands.

- iv: Nix Mangiaris means “nothing to eat”. Those who did not want to experience this took the long way around and up in front of ta’ Liesse Church.

#### **7.1.18 Strait Street in Valletta...the pinnacle of the nightlife of the Mediterranean for entertainment.**

- i: Strait Street had two periods. During the Knights of St. John, it was a dwelling with swords area. With the British, this started to develop into an entertainment area. Also known as the Gut.
- ii: At first, when there was no electricity, live bands with limited resources used to play music. With the introduction of electricity, musicians used to hear English and American songs and play them as they heard them through megaphones.
- iii: This created a demand for bars to be opened. Musicians emerged mostly from Valletta.
- iv: Entertaining businesses opened to play music for the soldiers, so much so, that Strait street was considered the entertainment mecca of the Mediterranean.

#### **7.1.19 In Valletta, we have ‘La Valette’ and ‘King’s Own Band Club’, both in Republic Street which are remnants of the British influence.**

- i: In the early British period, villagers had only wine shops where to entertain themselves. King’s Own Band Club had four titles: Initially ‘La Nazzionale’ then, ‘La Nazionale Vincitrice’ in 1885, then Prince of Wales and when the prince became King: King’s Own Band Club.
- ii: Band clubs are the development of British Rule. They carry imperial names such as Prince of Wales, Queen Victoria, King’s Own Band clubs and others. Studies show that the objective was to divide and rule.
- iii: These developed rivalries within the same town or village.
- iv: These developed into feasts and related opposite Saints appertaining to each band.

#### **7.1.20 The breakwater in 1903 can be easily seen from in front of the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta.**

- i: This is very much linked to the existing poverty of the people on the island and so to Nix Mangaris. The British Military Government looked to create an economic injection into the island’s situation.
- ii: The breakwater was a means to boost the economy of Malta by creating work. At the time there was so much work that workers had to be brought about from abroad.



- iii: Spanish workers settled in Floriana and created a small community called La Barcelonetta. The Maltese had their interpretation of the word and now call it 'Balzunetta'.
- iv: The breakwater from Valletta's side, which has now managed to acquire the title of *the bridge to nowhere*.

#### **7.1.21 Enrico Mizzi (bust in front of St. John's Co-Cathedral).**

- i: Was Prime Minister during the British Military period in 1950.
- ii: Died after three months and given a state funeral.
- iii: Suggested an Italo-Maltese Federation which led to a court martial and deportation.
- iv: The Maltese language was still considered a language of the kitchen until it gained recognition as a national language in 1934. It was a time of the poor against the learned, in a language, cultural, political, judicial *Italianita* roots. Power of knowledge was the issue.

#### **7.1.22 Manwel Dimech whose statue is in front of Castille.**

- i: Another important Maltese person who wrote in favour of the Maltese during WWI.
- ii: He was incarcerated and forcefully exiled in 1914 and never returned home. He is the only political with charges of espionage with no evidence whatsoever, with no defence or trial. He should have been freed, but the religious authorities in Malta disregarded the fact that the war had ended, and he was free to go.
- iii: His ideals, principles and zest would remain ingrained in the Maltese low society (poor) people.
- iv: He wrote about the love of the language used by the nation, and any insult to the language was an insult to the nation and therefore to every Maltese (Montebello Mark, 20210).

#### **7.1.23 Sette Giugno memorial is a monument in front of the Grand Master's Palace in St. George's Square in Valletta.**

- i: This Maltese revolt against the British administration happened in 1919, after WWI, and the social economic affairs that were poor. With WWI over, the economic income of the people was low. Wheat increased in price while earnings now were at a low since many were unemployed.
- ii: Maltese requested self-government and a constitution, which went against the objective of the British to have a fortress-administered island.
- iii: 6 people died and 50 injured represented in the monument.
- iv: This event initiated a movement that ultimately led to Independence Day in 1964 and Freedom Day in 1979.

**7.1.24 The Auberge d’Auvergne in Republic Street was destroyed during WWII, where today there are the Law Courts.**

- i: Malta suffered a lot during WWII.
- ii: Auberge d’Auvergne was destroyed in 1941 in a bombardment. It was used as a courthouse when it was bombarded.
- iii: Has been rebuilt in neo-classical style initiated mostly during the part British period (1965-1971) although Malta was declared independent in 1964.
- iv: Today still serves as a courthouse.

**7.1.25 Auberge de France was also destroyed, where today there is the General Workers Union on South Street. There is a plaque to commemorate this at the entrance of the building.**

- i: The last auberge designed by Gerolamo Cassar and used to date back to 1570.
- ii: Destroyed during the British period in WWII on 8 April 1942.
- iii: It used to house the French langue.
- iv: Rebuilt 1955 housing the Workers’ Memorial Building in memory of the workers who gave their life during WWII.

**7.1.26 Il Casa del Commun Tesoro of the order, which today houses the Malta Union Club, the Casino Maltese (on top of Café Cordina) also suffered damage and some staff were killed in 1942.**

- i: This building was the Treasury of the order under the Provence langue (today Archaeological Museum),
- ii: During the British period, this building housed the Chief Secretary’s office, Collector of Land revenue, the Government Treasury and the British Packet Office. Also, late 19<sup>th</sup> century turned into a hotel,
- iii: Modified in 1914 by the Casino Maltese and suffered damages during WWII including the demise of some staff in an air raid.
- iv: Today still houses the Casino Maltese, an elite type of social place for the Maltese elite. A sundial exists onsite replacing the one that collapsed during the Great war. It is a Sundial with an Analemma (curve having the shape of an elongated figure) with the sun crossing it at noon.

**7.1.27 The square in front of St. John’s Cathedral’s main door was also hit by a bomb and destroyed only to create the Piazzetta in front of it.**

- i: There were two blocks of buildings in the square, which covered it entirely before WWII.
- ii: The buildings were hit by a bomb and the British Government requisitioned the area.

- iii: It was designed for religious and other activities by the British.
- iv: Today houses café and various functions are carried out in the area before entering St. John's cathedral.

**7.1.28 The Grand Master's Palace and the Market received direct hits, republic square was in rubbles except for Queen Victoria's monument.**

- i: This square was enclosed during the Knights and a monument of de Vilhena was in the middle of it.
- ii: De Vilhena's monument was changed (1887) with Queen Victoria's monument and access to the square for the public was created.
- iii: The monument of Queen Victoria was in commemoration of her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the throne.
- iv: The area was bombed during WWII, but the monument stood strong and withstood the bombing. Today, we have cafeterias surrounding the monument.

**7.1.29 Valletta's Mandraggio were it was demolished with a lifestyle tied to ugliness, filth and squalor.**

- i: Like Nix Mangaris, the area of the Mandraggio was also considered poor and dangerous to roam about.
- ii: This was a black area 'inherited' from the Knights by the British. A lot of black markets happened here.
- iii: The area was demolished in 1958, with the backing of Architect Dom Mintoff, who later became Prime Minister. It is known that Mintoff used to live in the vicinity.
- iv: After some reactions by the people, the new Mandraggio was accepted and today one even finds a playground in a square where people can relax in a cafeteria.

**7.1.30 Victory Kitchen promotion in Melita Street Valletta.**

- i: The Victory Kitchen was created by the British during WWII.
- ii: Malta was suffering from a lack of food during the war, as the Axis used to attach convoys with delivering of food to the Maltese war.
- iii: The Victory Kitchen, one of which was on Melita Street corner with Merchants Street, where there is still a sign, served to rationalise food portions so that the people of Malta could survive.
- iv: At one point, there was even the possibility of surrendering and a date was determined to surrender. But, on the feast of Santa Maria, a convoy came into Malta and the people survived. It was so important, that today, this day, the 15 August is a national feast and celebrations occur in eight different villages and towns on the day.

**7.1.31 Victoria Gate is an important gate where people used to access and exit Valletta from the Grand Harbours side.**

- i: Built in 1884 in Neoclassical style under Sir Arthur Borton 'Governor' who laid the stone.
- ii: It was previously known as Porta Della Marina and Del Monte Gate as this existed for the delivery of goods into the capital city from the grand harbour.
- iii: Wider arched entrances provided better access to all types of vehicles available at the day and still used now.
- iv: The coat of arms of Malta and Valletta embellish the gate, which is still heavily used today with light vehicles.

**7.1.32 Valletta Market, in Merchants Street. (Mifsud Christian and Cassar Chantal, 2022)**

- i: the area was always used as a Market and was considered an important point so much so that it was placed behind the Grandmaster's palace.
- ii: The place was demolished and rebuilt during Victorian times between 1858 to 1861. Unfortunately, it was hit by a bomb during WWII and made unsafe.
- iii: The steel structure demolished was used to build the bridge next to the Victoria Gate
- iv: Today, it is back to its glory of a market but in a different style.

**7.1.33 War Rooms underneath Upper Barrakka Gardens.**

- i: Can be found 150 feet underneath the Upper Barrakka Gardens and were in a strategic position.
- ii: A network of British Military architecture with tunnels used to house the Mediterranean War Head Quarters for the British Empire.
- iii: The defence of the island together with the administration of the British Maritime vessels in the Mediterranean was carried out from this place. The place was used also by General Eisenhower.
- iv: Today it is a historical place to visit and experience Malta during WWII.

**7.1.34 St. Elmo National War Museum.**

- i: A museum of the two World Wars (WWI and WWII) within a museum of a Knights Fort.
- ii: One finds various heroic stories, and it displays the George Cross which is part of the Maltese flag awarded by King George VI to the island's bravery. Also, the jeep used by Eisenhower can still be viewed.
- iii: The story of the Illustrious is told in an audio-visual with incredible details.
- iv: A must-visit those interested in the British era in Malta.

**7.1.35 British Military pillboxes overlooking the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour and viewing one in St. Elmo from the same position.**

- i: Pillboxes can be viewed around Valletta and are remnants of the British era.
- ii: They had the same concept of the watch towers around Malta and could communicate with each other.
- iii: The pill boxes were built around Malta in strategic positions to defend the island against attacks from the sea and land and were according to the technology available at the time of war.
- iv: One still can view a number of these pill boxes.

**7.1.36 St. Georges square in front of the main Grandmaster's Palace.**

- i: It is meant to be the main square in Valletta. It has saved its' name since the time of the knights.
- ii: There used to be the main fountain in the middle of the square to commemorate the arrival of fresh water into Valletta through the Wignacourt aqueducts. It was removed by the British military to carry out their illustrious parades of British and Scottish regiments.
- iii: The fountain is now found at St Philip's Garden in Floriana transferred during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- iv: The square still houses two fountains and is mainly used for mass activities in Malta.

**7.1.37 5 in no plaques fixed to the wall of the Grandmaster's Palace related to the British period.**

- i: There are more than five marble plaques related to important historical events of the Maltese generations fixed to the façade of the Grand Masters' palace. Five are specifically from the British period.
- ii: Two are related to WWII, relating to the George Cross and the other by Rosevelt at the end of the war.
- iii: When Malta took independence from the British, then when it became a Republic with its constitution and the last one in memory of the day that British troops formally left the island, Freedom Day.
- iv: The last three are all national holidays in the Maltese calendar.

**7.1.38 A room as you go down the steps opposite the Mediterranean Conference Centre, which used to house the chain to block the grand harbour from U-boats and sea vessels.**

- i: The chain was intended to protect the wide entrance of the Grand Harbour before the breakwater was built. It is known that the chain existed even during the Knights period.
- ii: This ran across the mouth, or better the entrance to the Grand harbour, from Fort Saint Elmo to Fort Ricasoli to keep enemy ships out of the harbour.
- iii: It used to be pulled from sunset to sunrise, just below the level of the sea to secure entry of enemy ships, U-boats and torpedo vessels.
- iv: It was later replaced by the breakwater. The room that used to house the chain is still standing, (on Google maps it is called the *boom defence* and one can reach it from a flight of steps opposite the Mediterranean Conference Centre. The chain was released and pulled back to protect it from this place.

**7.1.39 Sir Gerald Strickland monument at Barrakka who was Prime Minister during the British period.**

- i: Count Gerald Strickland was eventually knighted to become Sir Gerald Strickland.
- ii: He entered into Maltese politics to join the 'partito nazzionale' in 1889, but crossed the floor to become Chief Secretary to Government...the most powerful job on the island.
- iii: He was made Governor of various states outside Malta including Western Australia, New South Wales and others.
- iv: Entered politics again in 1920 to eventually become Prime Minister of Malta. He believed Malta should be an island fortress and let Strickland's Constitutional party. He is buried in the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Paul's Shipwreck in Mdina.

**7.1.40 Sir Winston Churchill bust at Barrakka.**

- i: Paid six visits to Malta and got officially two gifts. One of them on his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday is the bust at the Barrakka Gardens.
- ii: Was concerned with the issues happening in Malta. During WWI as a minister and WWII as Prime Minister. Pre-WWII he had some enjoyable stays being housed at the Grand Master's palace and playing golf at Marsa sports ground. He visited Malta during the war in November 1943.
- iii: In 1945, he paid a visit with America's Franklin Roosevelt to Malta before the Yalta conference to establish common ground for both nations.
- iv: His file of Malta included over 1,000 pages and has various interesting facts.

#### **7.1.41 The two small fountains by the façade of St. John's Cathedral, one with the lion and the other with the unicorn.**

- i: Designed by Mariano Gerada in 1820s.
- ii: One fountain with the lion (Britain) and the other with the unicorn (Scotland) representing the British Imperial coat of arms.
- iii: Next to St. John's Cathedral, many Maltese think that they are the works of the Knights of St. John a misperception as the quantitative survey defined.
- iv: Both fountains are still standing and should be referred to in this British tour.

#### **7.1.42 Palazzo Zondadari the bust is of King George III who was king up to 1820.**

- i: Designed by Carapaccchia and intended to be used by the administration of the Università. This was a municipal palace of the City and is in Valletta during the Knights in 1721. It was built by Grand Master Zondadari (as per marble of the front door), renovated by Grand Master Pinto, and served various important roles among which was the Banca Giuratale, Magistrates Office, city centre for the people.
- ii: The façade was the first to be eradicated by the French when Napoleon issued his first decree in Malta to eradicate any coat of arms of the Knights. The British then build the façade in a baroque style giving the impression that it was the knights.
- ii: But the façade is the royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom, with the lion representing Britain and Unicorn, representing Scotland.
- iii: There is a bust of George III, who reigned Britain up to 1820.

#### **7.1.43 Strait Street, which created a different level of entertainment under the British.**

- i: Pre WWII there was a lot of strictness due to the hygiene factor and several visits were carried out by the Field Marshall, and if found dirty, sailors would be recommended not to use the entertainment outlets. After the war, this was not much used and turned out to have a black market.
- ii: The street was known to be the mecca of the Mediterranean, for entertainment. A lot of bars were next to each other, most of them with British names to attract sailors.
- iii: The street was used mostly for dwellings during the Knights, but during the British, it turned out to be an entertaining area with hotels, bars, nightclubs and other entertaining areas.
- iv: The street provided a living for the low-earning people, and those who did not work for the Government, Dockyard, Navy or Army ended up here making money. The street provided the economic wheel for a particular area of Maltese society.

**7.1.44 Street names such as the main street in Valletta: during the Knights, Strada San Giorgio, during the French Rue Nazionale, during the British Strada Reale (or in Maltese Strada Rjali) and now Republic Street, determine the different administrations of the time.**

- i: Street names are synonymous with who was in administration of the country.
- ii: From the knights, ie when Valletta was initially built, Street names changed according to the administration of the time: so we find names given by the Knights of St. John, by the French Administration, the British Military Government and by the Maltese Government.
- iii: The most important street in Malta, today, Republic Street, had four different names during different administrations.
- iv: These, together with the other important streets, changed their names accordingly and should be listed as having these names, as this is local history. The objective of the names should also be highlighted, as each name tells a story.

**7.1.45 The National Library in front of Café Cordina is of the neo-classical style and was the last building to be built by the Knights of Malta. The British Government carried out the transfer of books when the administration changed hands from the French who wanted the books destroyed.**

- i: The National Library was initially constructed towards the end of the Knights era, by Architect Stefano Ittar and funded by Grand Master De Rohan.
- ii: This was the last building built by the knights to house the library of the knights. It was inaugurated in 1812 under the British.
- ii: Built in the neo-classical style, we can say that it was changing from styles which preceded this era already during the Knights period.
- iv: Referred to as Bibliotheca, it was named the Royal Malta Library in 1937 and the National Library of Malta in 1976.

**7.1.46 Bridge near the famous Bridge Bar behind Victoria Gate.**

- i: This bridge has a close relationship to the *Suq tal-Belt* (Valletta market) as it was built from the remains of the iron when the Market was hit by a bomb in 1942.
- ii: It is a small pedestrian bridge that creates a romantic environment in the area of Levante Street in Valletta.
- iii: Used to serve as a crosscut to reach St. Helen Bastions quickly if so needed.
- iv: A must-visit especially at night due to the entertainment provided in the area.



#### **7.1.47 The Church of St. Dominic in Valletta was built under the British Government.**

- i: On the same land that St. Dominic Church exists, there was another church built from the earliest times in Valletta.
- ii: Yet this church was declared unsafe in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is called the Basilica of Our Lady of Safe Haven (Porto Salvo) and Saint Dominic.
- iii: It was inaugurated in 1816 during the British era.
- iv: It was consecrated by Pietro Pace in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **7.1.48 All the paintings of St. Dominic were painted during this era of the British and also most of those at St. Paul's Shipwreck church in Valletta.**

- i: Giuseppe Cali's genius can be seen in these churches. He was baptised in this church.
- ii: Cali painted most of the decorative paintings that dress up the Church of Porto Salvo.
- iii: Ironically, the Church has one of the oldest statues in Malta, that of St. Dominic from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- iv: The church was visited by the sailors and from where it got the name of safe port: Porto Salvo.

#### **7.1.49 Red Telephone Boxes and Red-Letter Post-Office Boxes**

- i: These coloured Red Telephone Boxes and letterboxes are synonymous with the British Period and were a development on the communication services.
- ii: There are 11 such boxes on Merchants Street and Republic Streets.
- iii: Mostly there for the aesthetical features in remembrance of the British input in communication services within the British empire.
- iv: The most well-known box is in front of Cordina Café, next to the Grand Master's palace.

NB: from 1.40 to 1.49, these were identified during the qualitative interview which is Appendix 2b and Appendix 2b.

As primary and secondary research was conducted, the need to determine certain non-visual priorities, which Malta, and especially Valletta benefitted from the British Military Government emerged as important as well. The following list was identified.

## **7.2 Appendix 2: Top Non-Visual Priorities**

### **7.2.1 Infrastructure: a non-visual influenced by the British,**

- the first electricity network,
- the first water mains and supply,
- the first gas distribution,
- the first telecommunication lines as technology developed.
- the drainage systems in Malta to counter react to the hygiene requirements.

They were all initially of British influence.

### **7.2.2 Administration in Malta.**

We follow the British system of administration, especially in the Public Service, unlike neighbouring Sicily.

### **7.2.3 The Parliamentary system**

The related single transferable voting system practically eliminates a third party representation in parliament.

### **7.2.4 Carnival**

This used to exist before the coming of the Knights of St. John and took a different form, a political one during the British reign, with political satire.

### **7.2.5 British gastronomy:**

- Fish and Chips,
- Tea,
- Beer,
- English Breakfast

### **7.2.6 Games introduced by the British:**

- Football (1882) game was created under the British and other games such as waterpolo
- Billiards and snooker,

These were all very much practised in Valletta from the British period.

### **7.2.7 Main individual influencers under the British in Malta:**

- Sir Alexander Ball,
- Sir Thomas Maitland,
- Lord Plumer,
- Sir William Dobbie,
- Sir Winston Churchill.
- Sir Linton Simmons,
- Edward Middleton Berry,
- Queen Adelaide
- William Scamp

The above were the main influencers during the British era and were mentioned by the experts.

### **7.2.8 The Old Barrakka Lift.**

This old lift was constructed of steel and operated between 1905 to 1973 with a cost of 5000 British pounds and was demolished in 1983. It links Lascaris Wharf to St. Peter and St. Paul Bastions and leads to Upper Barrakka Gardens. This has a link from the highest point in Valletta to the lowest at the level of the Grand Harbour, with 60 meters of height.

### **7.2.9 The Train Station**

The train station was demolished in 1942 WWII today we have the Parliament instead of it. It was inaugurated in February 1883. The building's architecture was practically a British type of one used for train stations in Britain made up of arches.

### **7.2.10 Freedom of print**

This was promulgated under the British in 1935 under the title of 'Claims of the Maltese founded upon the Principles of Justice' who abolished the censorship of the Press without delay by Mr William Ewart.

### **7.2.11 3 Great Sieges of Malta**

From the Knights till today, the following three great sieges occurred in Malta.

- The Great Siege under the Knights,
- The Maltese siege against the French and
- WWII.

The most lives lost were in the Maltese siege against the French in Valletta.

### **7.2.12 Important visitors to Malta due to the British colonial presence:**

The British presence and influence brought about certain important people such as Florence Nightingale and Lord Elgin and his Parthenon marbles.

### **7.2.13 Girl guides and scouts**

Malta Girl Guides Association is a member of WAGGGS since 1972.

The Scout Association of Malt was founded in 1908 and is a member of the World organisation Scout Movement with many groups around Malta. They have different grades such as Beavers, cubs, scouts, ventures, rovers and leaders.

Both of them work on discipline and developing good citizens for tomorrow.

Part of the British influence in Malta.

### **7.2.14 Military parades**

The use of St. George's Square in Valletta by the British led to the removal of the central fountain by the Knights of St. John and the Changing of the Guard both in St. George's Square. Today, this fountain can be found in St. Philip's gardens in Floriana. It is a historic square that played host to Kings and soldiers to mention a few related events. The George Cross was formally presented in the middle of the square on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1942 for gallantry.

## **8. Appendix 3: Primary Data Collection: Qualitative Research**

1. What comes to mind when considering the British period and its influence on the development of Valletta as we know it today?
2. Which do you think are the most salient top visual priorities to see pertaining to the British period in Valletta?
3. What, do you think are the most unlikely visual priorities to see pertaining to the British period in Valletta?
4. Which intangible non-visual priorities (such as cultural and social aspects) do you think left their influence in Valletta by the British? Social, like band clubs, food, and music.
5. What aspects of the British influence in Valletta do you think are still not known?
6. Who were the main influencers on Valletta during the British Period?
7. Why do you think the British period is not recognised as a historical fact and is not perceived as important as that of the knights by UNESCO?
8. Where do you think one should take tourists to savour most of the British period in Valletta?
9. Malta is known for its Great Siege.  
The siege by the Maltese on Valletta during the French period is not regarded in high favour.  
WWII is also considered the second siege on Valletta.  
Do you think we ought to promote more such gallantry by the Maltese for their democratic achievement?

### **8.1.1 Appendix 3a: Primary Data Collection: Qualitative Research: Ms Glorianne Mizzi**

Discussion with Ms Glorianne Mizzi, an expert on the subject. Ms Mizzi gave me her consent to include her name and the underneath communication on the subject matter.

***What comes to mind when considering the British period and its influence on the development of Valletta as we know it today?***

Architecture and infrastructure (Appendix 2.1) are what come to mind during the British Military period in Valletta. Architecture as to how Valletta changed from the times of the Knights of St. John to a British Colony. Architecture in WWII. Also Administration (Appendix 2.02), the way the Public Service functions is based on the British system.

***Which do you think are the most salient top visual priorities to see pertaining to the British period in Valletta?***

Further to the normal list of famous buildings, some several palaces and houses got a direct hit. Also, other important TVPs are all the monuments at upper Barrakka, the highest point in Valletta, originally built by the Knights. These were mostly installed during the British period, the most important being Thomas Maitland and his secretary. The one on the saluting battery had received a large number of bombings during WWII. Sir Gerald Strickland<sup>xlvii</sup> (Appendix 1.40) and Winston Churchill (Appendix 1.42) are among the statues in the garden.

***What, do you think are the most unlikely visual priorities to see pertaining to the British period in Valletta?***

Few know that Palazzo Francia (sometimes mistakenly called Ferreria) was built during the British period, and if you had to ask the public, they would tell you it was built during the Knights. The portico of the main guard as well. Will ask the public about the French, British and Knights regarding Palazzo Ferreria. Another one is the two small fountains by St. John's Cathedral, one with the lion and the other with the unicorn (appendix 1.43) built in 1820 and designed by Mariano Girada (Maltese). Also, Palazzo Zondadari, (Appendix 1.44) if you show them the bust, they will tell you it is Grand Master Zondadari, but the coat of arms is of King George III who was king up to 1820, of which it was replaced by the British royal arms in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, today housing the Ministry for Economy. Napoleon, when he was in Malta, he enacted a law, which stated that any 'insignia' (coats of arms) of the Knights of St. John had to be removed within 24 hours. This place was the Capital town hall and was one of the first coat of arms to be removed. Some were also removed during the British reign in Malta as well, not only the French. Ponsonby column, at Hastings Gardens, was struck by lightning, don't think that anyone would know about it, except historians and study groups.

***Which intangible non-visual priorities (such as cultural and social aspects) do you think left their influence in Valletta by the British? Social, like band clubs, food, and music.***

Band clubs are some of the most important, probably the common people may refer to these more than the architecture. Many of our band clubs are associated with the British administration, such as Prince of Wales and Kings' Own (Appendix 1.45). Heritage such as the Parliamentary System, the single-transferable vote system (Appendix 2.03) which always had the target to create a parliament with two parties, practically excluding the third party, but was developed further by the interventions of both local political parties. This created a Maltese mentality of dualists, where we have two parties, two saints in each village and two rivals in international football (Italy and England) a clear indication of the divide and rule mentality. Carnival (Appendix 2.04) used to exist before the coming of the Knights and took a different form, a political one during the British reign. Carnival was used by the British to give a political projection and used by the Maltese to give a political lesson as well. So, when in 1846 under Patrick Stuart, the Maltese were not allowed to wear costumes, as the British Governor did not want to keep on celebrating Carnival, the Maltese brought in animals, such as pigs, mules and dogs clothed as protestant priests in political satire...which had repercussions. This law stood up to 2013. There were political issues, but the British did not take up arms to disperse the crowds. It was a religious offence. British gastronomy (Appendix 2.05) as well to a certain extent. The Mediterranean Maltese gastronomy remained of goat cheese and tomato paste, olives and olive oil but the beer for example. It was introduced by the British, tradition, by Cisk in 1928-1929, started on this British drinking tradition. Malta never experienced beer before this time. Chocolate as we know it today, edible that is, started under the British, as before it was considered a drink during the Knights of St. John although there are studies which show that chocolate paper was used during the Knights, but the major influence was by the British. Even tea, although it was used before, it was influenced most by the British, purely a British tradition. Nightlife is a by-product of electricity. During the Knights, id-'duwiballi' was the centre for entertainment in the city, with the British, these shifted into Strait Street (Appendix 1.46). Several musicians emerged from Valletta due to this demand, learning jazz and other types of music from old British and American through old music megaphones. Music was influenced by the British, the first band clubs as social clubs were created by the British, where they started the school of music. They introduced the football game (Appendix 2.06) which created fierce local competition.

***What aspects of the British influence in Valletta do you think are still not known?***

It is the input by the British on the infrastructure in Malta and the administrative set-up of the country, which at the time of the Knights, existed in a different format. The modern-day way of administration of Malta is purely British. Drainage, water supply, electricity and communication were mostly introduced by the British due to technological advancement. It might be that due to this technology, even if we were under the Knights of St. John this would have been introduced. What is the difference here? One can compare the local situation with that of Sicily, purely Latin/Italian type of administration, whereas here we implemented the British discipline. This is because the British administered an island fortress, but that is what led to the success of Malta in prospering in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as otherwise, this would not have happened. To this question, the Maltese do not perceive the administrative system as that of being introduced by the British and the infrastructure. The first water mains were laid in Kingsway, today, Republic Street. Also, Gas distribution, had a tank at Ta' Giorni but the early distribution was the Main Street in Valletta: Strada Rjali. So, the answer to this question is Administration and Infrastructure. Even the divide and rule system of the British created a dualistic type of culture in Malta.

***Who were the main influencers (Appendix 2.07) on Valletta during the British Period?***

Sir Alexander Ball was more interested in initiating the integration of the British in Malta, especially when in October of 1778, the Maltese trusted him as their representative, their spokesperson. Following Sir Alexander, Sir Thomas Maitland had to be strict due to the local situation, both economic and social, while he had to create a military mentality on the island. Remember that after the then-recent French and Knights in a couple of years, King Tom had to initiate creating a governance type of administration. Similar to when Gaddafi fell in Libya, and the resulting occurrences. All the British governors left their influence on Valletta but a distinguished one after the Sette Giugno riot the new governor comes to Malta, to settle down things. Lord Plumer, arriving three days after the riot, tried to settle things down, and recommended liberal concessions to the Maltese and ultimately settled things. You have the decisions taken during WWII for example, during Sir William Dobbie, who managed to use religion in his favour during this wartime and according to Churchill inspired all ranks and classes, military and civil, with his determination and who was a veteran of war and Sir Churchill who was instrumental so that Malta kept fighting in the war.

***Why do you think the British period is not recognised as a historical fact and is not perceived as important as that of the knights by UNESCO?***

The proposal was made by the Maltese government in 1980 and was accepted in 1981. One has to look into the political situation of the time. So, you had the government dealing with the military agreement, which was due in 1979, the environment was to free Malta from the British, and Freedom Day on 31<sup>st</sup> March of that year and subsequent years, they did not promote the British at the time. The focus was on the renaissance and baroque. You have a political connotation and besides that, the British period was not considered as old, so it was considered recent and of no historical value. The notion of time will be according to culture. An American will identify something 20 years old as antique and for 70 years as ancient. So, in 1981, they did not calculate the last 100 years. Even today, when we speak of ancient, we understand and perceive Hagar Qim, Mdina and similar. The European mentality might consider antique a 100-year-old building.

***Where do you think one should take tourists to savour most of the British period in Valletta?***

Surely Upper Barrakka, two should be the War Museum, at Fort St. Elmo, and although a number of alterations were carried out at St. Elmo, this is perceived as of the Knights. Yet, the War Museum which is housed there is important to understand the war times. Lower Barrakka due to Sir Alexander Ball, the monument is there in honour of him, the Pillboxes (Appendix 7.1.38), the plaques fixed to the Grand Master's palace as these identify dates, and St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral (Appendix 1.47).

***Malta is known for its Great Siege. The siege by the Maltese on Valletta during the French period is not regarded in high favour. WWII is also considered the second siege on Valletta. Do you think we ought to promote more such gallantry by the Maltese for their democratic achievement?***

If the people are not knowledgeable during the British, they are even less knowledgeable during the French reign. Very few people know that during the French occupation, during Dun Mikiel Xerri time, one finds the largest number of Maltese people who died in Malta, more than during the Great Siege and more than during WWII. In a book by Ganado, he mentions that 20,000 Maltese (one-fifth of the population) and not one single British were



killed during the French siege era. Valletta is mostly perceived as being constructed by the Knights. Promotion of other aspects seems to be irrelevant. Normally, whoever speaks about Valletta, is just the Knights of St. John, and we stop there. Neither during the French nor the British administrations are understood to have been related to Valletta, maybe WWII if anything comes to mind to mention the British in Valletta. This is mainly due to the damage caused by WWII.

Regarding Maltese courage and input in the fights for democracy, Malta is mostly known for the Great Siege. The promotion of such gallantry by the Maltese ancestors is lacking in the population living today. Not only that but there are also even debates to remove the George Cross given to our ancestors for their gallantry and internal polemics. The honour that was presented to the Maltese for their endurance and perseverance during WWII, a section of the Maltese is trying to eradicate it, why? For political connotation, everything has a policy or political with the small p, connotation, even the colours of the Maltese flag. Here is an aspect of promotion, and the Maltese understand local history only by the input of the Knights of St. John, and maybe prehistory. Not only the British aspect but also the American market...the input by Roosevelt and Eisenhower who visited Malta on 8 December 1943. Are we using these tools as a means of promotion to Malta? No. These periods seem to be overlooked. Even our tourists' programs especially specific delegations to visit Malta, always the same locations are presented and with so many things changed including research and scientific evidence, this should meet the requirements of the clients/visitors of the day. The plaques fixed to the Grand Master's palace or the Governor's palace determine important statements and dates.

*NB: The author takes full responsibility for the translation and transcription.*

### **8.1.2 Appendix 3b: Primary Data Collection: Qualitative Research: Mr Vincent Zammit**

Discussion with Mr Vincent Zammit, an expert on the subject.

Mr Zammit gave me his consent to include his name and the underneath communication on the subject matter.

#### ***What comes to mind when considering the British period and its influence in the development of Valletta as we know it today?***

Street names and how they changed during the times come to mind, for example, Strada Rjali Kingsway (Appendix 1.48) and others. Also, certain buildings, that one can admire were carried out during the British Military period and are in direct competition with the buildings carried out during the Knights of St. John. Even the protestant church that was built to determine British architectural style is a determinant of this influence. Large monuments, one of Alexander Ball in lower Barrakka and the other of Hastings in Hastings Garden also come to mind. These can be seen from the sea, as one enters the Grand Harbour, and the other from Marsamxetto Harbour as one is exiting there. The third important building is St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral. Hastings could be seen from those who enter Valletta, farmers selling their produce could see the monument. We don't have monuments in the streets of Valletta that appertain to the Knights period. The knights decorated with niches in the corners of the streets.

#### ***Which do you think are the most salient top visual priorities about the British period in Valletta?***

Further to what we already discussed, at the Upper Barrakkam one sees Maitland's tomb, the column of his secretary, St. Andrew's Scottish church in South Street (Appendix 1.49), and the portico of the University in St. Paul Street in the neo-classical style which differs from Baroque. Even buildings which were built during this time in Valletta, even those private ones, were distant from the Baroque architecture. One also finds the Malta Chamber of Commerce in Republic Street, then you have the Francia building and not Palazzo Ferreria, as there is no industrial factory which is referred to as Palazzo. Another building that one can mention is the Biblioteca, which although built during the Knights, was not transferred into a library during the Knights and started being used under the British. There were two other important clubs, il Casino Maltese which is still on top of Café Cordina and the Union Club now in Sliema. The Union Club had been transferred from Valletta in the mid-twentieth century.

#### ***What, do you think are the most unlikely visual priorities to see of the British period in Valletta?***

We are so oriented to the fact that everything was built during the Knights, like already said, there is the Chamber of Commerce, opposite today one finds the Ministry of Tourism, and the ruins of the Opera House. Two things that were there but are not there anymore, are the old lift at Barrakka (2.08) and the Train Station (2.09). There are a few buildings that one does not perceive as being built during the British Military period. You also have the Victoria gate. We also have the old Market in Valletta that is related to the British period in Valletta, which was built during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One has the steel structure of the Market which later

on was used to create the Bridge (Appendix 1.51) near the famous Bridge Bar behind Victoria Gate. You also have the Garrison Chapel, which today houses the Maltese Chamber, il Borsa, Even in today's Central Bank, there was the Vernon Club, formally opened in 1924.

***Which intangible non-visual priorities (such as cultural and social aspects) do you think left their influence in Valletta by the British? Social, like band clubs, food, and music.***

Band Clubs, food, beer, tea...these were a British influence. The fish and chips tradition (Appendix 2.10). Strait Street has two aspects, the one before the British, a shady part of Valletta where the knights used to carry out the dwellings, but then during the British period, bars and dance halls were opened, so this required police security. Bands could play without speakers, that is what they used to do, and you had the food and drink business. Barmaids (not prostitutes) had the 'comba', the licence to operate. It was a tag made of bronze. Something that has now been obliterated, is the names of these entertainment outlets which were associated with the British. King's Own Band Club, which is the fourth name of the club. One can visualise these things but does not perceive that these were from the British influence. Also, freedom of the print (Appendix 2.11). The first printed journal was the *Gazzette de Malte*, during the French, published only 6 times. In 1825, freedom of the press in Malta was given by the British, and several papers were printed, much more than we have today. During the 'Risorgimento', a lot of Italians came to seek refuge in Malta, something which the British supported, and this started a culture of Italian print, which had consequences on the official local language which was still Italian at the time. We are not taught of these British influences.

***What aspects of the British influence in Valletta do you think are still not known?***

The point is that we do not find British buildings in the UNESCO list that can be associated with the British. It is true that out of the 320 monuments mentioned, only a few are mentioned in the page, less than 20. So, when the interviewer asked about this to a prominent person who was involved in this list, this person stated that the number mentioned (320), he was not aware of the list of monuments that are being referred to.

Something that few people know, is that the Church of St. Dominic (Appendix 1.52) was built during the British period. It was initially built by the Knights, by Gilormu Cassar, one of the earliest architects, but then, by the time it was not maintained to the point when it was closed during the late period of the Knights. So, the Dominicans decided to demolish it and rebuild a new one. They wanted to do the pilasters, and this resulted in disturbing the chamber where they kept ancestors buried (kannierja), where people who died from the plague were buried. This process took a long time, as communications had to be held with foreign universities to determine for how long the plague's virus survived. Nevertheless, the church was demolished during the British period and was rebuilt. All the paintings in St. Dominic's church are from the 19<sup>th</sup> century forward (Appendix 1.53). Even at St. Paul's shipwreck church, most of them are from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. We mostly focus on Mattia Preti, but we have other painters, such as Giuseppe Cali, who were from the British period, even Cafè Cordina's roof was painted by Cali who died in 1930. The Jesuit church in Merchants Street was used by the British, for their roman catholic soldiers, that is where Nazju Falzon used to serve his ecclesiastical role.

***Who were the main influencers on Valletta during the British Period?***

All governors made some impact. Sir Lintorn Simmons, tried to amend the wrongdoings of previous administrators and started re-installing the coat of arms of the Knights which were destroyed by previous administrators, French and British with various buildings. You have the architect who designed the opera house, Edward Middleton Berry, who influenced architecture, especially known for Covent Garden in London. Also, Queen Adelaide funded the building of St. Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral.

***Why do you think the British period is not recognised as a historical fact and is not perceived as important as that of the knights by UNESCO?***

All the buildings that we mentioned, should be included in the list of world heritage.

***Where do you think one should take tourists to savour most of the British period in Valletta?***

The British tour would take you around Valletta. You start at Porta Reale, speak about Palazzo Francia and the Royal Opera House, then to Hastings Garden, talk about Port of Marsamxett, move towards South Street, towards the Scottish Church of St. Andrew's, move to St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, move towards the Grand Master's Palace which was also a governor's palace and a presidential palace, Queen Victoria's monument, and read the plaques fixed to the wall to commemorate the British impact with specified dates, move towards the University in Merchants Street, also speak about the Jesuit Church, move towards St. Paul's Church, St. Elmo's War Museum, lower Barrakka, towards the Bridge Bar and up to upper Barrakka. Also, the Archaeological Museum, which at the time was used as a hostel, and the same archaeological items were found during the British time, and the same museum was established during the British rule for safeguarding the antique history of these islands.

***Malta is known for its Great Siege. The siege by the Maltese on Valletta during the French period is not regarded in high favour. WWII is also considered the second siege on Valletta. Do you think we ought to promote more such gallantry by the Maltese for their democratic achievement?***

The reply to this question is the way that history is taught to our children and in school...dates, numbers and names only...that do not mean anything, and there is no relationships or stories, so they will remain isolated without connections between dates. There is no continuation of the story and history, so that is why there is no continuation. It is the way that it is taught. Dates are important when one is writing. When relating the story, one cannot keep on stating dates - the story and anecdotes are important. The local perception is that the Great Siege happened only during the Knights and maybe WWII...but the greatest loss of lives was during the French occupation (Appendix 2.12). In the various wars in that the British were involved in, Malta was to be influenced by the demand for work. In fact, in 1919, the main protests were that WWI was finished, the dockyard workers were not needed in full capacity, the people did not have social services, they told them "Thank you very much" and sent them away and everything was on the rise. The ones left were left without salaries, hence there were protests. They complained about the lack of food and the rise in the cost of food, and there were also political issues. In the Crimean war, Florence Nightingale stopped in Malta, because the British were encouraging the unification of Italy, and we have a lot of these stories which cannot be seen that are not taught about, similar to Lord Elgin (Appendix 1.13) and his Parthenon marbles. You have these incidents.

**26.05**

*NB: The author takes full responsibility of the translation and transcription.*

### 8.1.3 Appendix 3c – Quantitative Research

This research was conducted through Google Forms as per underneath. The objective was to determine the 'PERCEPTION' of who carried out the buildings:

8/2/22, 8:37 AM

Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP) - What is your perception

### Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP) - What is your perception

To all those interested in Valletta's history.

My name is Vincent Borg and I am currently reading for a license to become a tourist guide through a Diploma Course at ITS.

I am currently conducting a research study targeted at an audience whose interest involves the British Administrators (1800-1979) influence on the Capital City. This research will determine the perception of both residents and others, who are interested in Valletta.

I would highly appreciate your support in filling in the survey which contains six questions and would not take more than 10 minutes to complete.

Kindly note that the data collected from this survey will be used **solely** for the purpose of this study. No names or other identification data will be communicated. Just results of the survey to understand the perception and understanding of those interested in our heritage of the City to determine how much they are conscious of the British influence on Valletta.


The link to the survey

**\*Required**

8/2/22, 8:37 AM

Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP) - What is your perception

1. Under which administration was Palazzo Buttigieg Francia (also sometimes referred to as Palazzo Ferreria) in front of the ruins of the Opera House built?



Mark only one oval.

☐ The Knights of St. John pre 1778

☐ The French Occupation 1798-1799

☐ The British Period 1800-1979


☐ The Maltese Government 1979-2022

☐ Don't know

8/2/22, 8:37 AM

Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP) - What is your perception

2. Under which administration were the two small fountains found at the sides of St. John's Co-Cathedral built?



Mark only one oval.

☐ The Knights of St. John pre 1778

☐ The French Occupation 1798-1799


☐ The British Period 1800-1979

☐ The Maltese Government 1979-2022

8/2/22, 8:37 AM

Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP) - What is your perception

3. Under which administration was the old Opera House built?



Mark only one oval.

☐ The Knights of St. John pre 1778

☐ The French Occupation 1798-1799

☐ The British Period 1800-1979

☐ The Maltese Government 1979-2022

☐ Don't know

4. Which three buildings or monuments do you personally consider as Top Visual Priorities in Valletta from the British period?

5. List three buildings or monuments in Valletta from the British period (1800-1979) that you are aware of

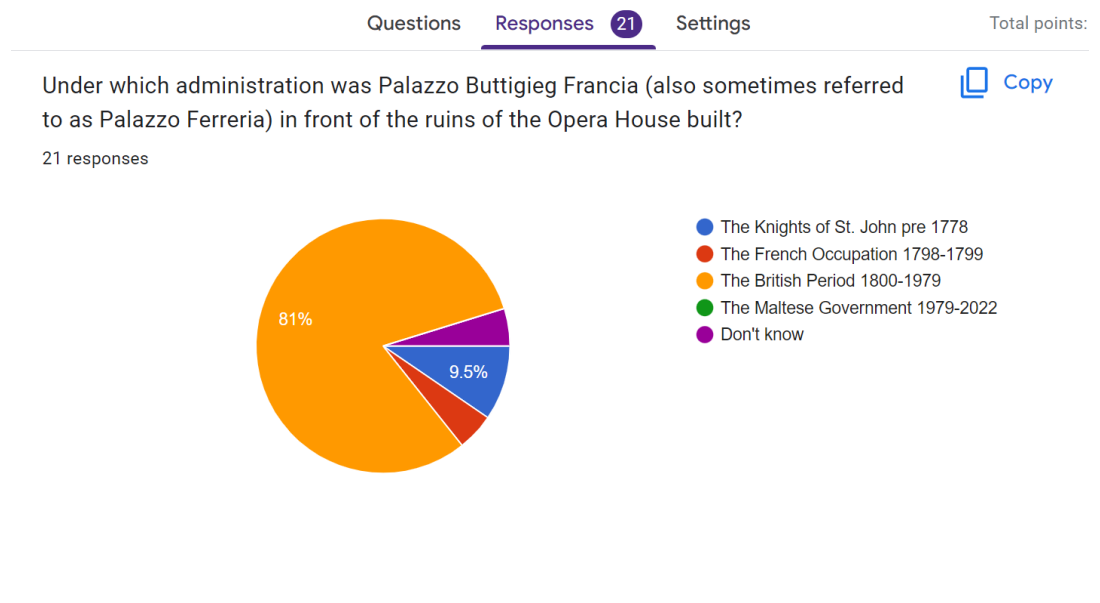


that many people do not perceive this period as having such an impact on the city of Valletta. This is an issue that we don't teach this period to our students, communication or promotion during this period is practically nil. So, in a way, it was expected that the feedback was such a low turnout.

#### 8.1.4 Appendix 3c – Questions and Answers

These are the questions and answers:

##### Question 1



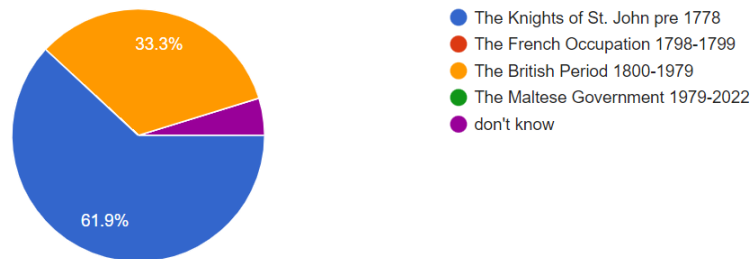


## Question 2

Under which administration were the two small fountains found at the sides of St. John's Co-Cathedral built?

 Copy

21 responses

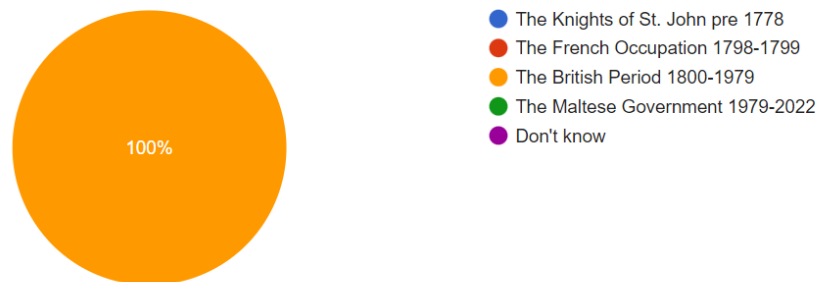


## Question 3:

Under which administration was the old Opera House built?

 Copy

21 responses



#### Question 4

Which three buildings or monuments do you personally consider as Top Visual Priorities in Valletta from the British period?

20 responses

Queen Victoria statue

The Main Guard; St Paul's Anglican Cathedral; Queen Victoria's memorial; Alexander Ball's monument lower Barracca

St Paul's Anglican cathedral steeple. The gun posts.,portico of the main guard.

Main Guard Queen Victoria Statue Saint Paul Pro Cathedral

St. Paul's Anglican church  
Main Guard (facade)  
Victoria Gate

1.St Paul's Anglican cathedral  
2.monument to Hastings  
3.monument to Alexander Ball

Monuments in Upper Barrakka  
St Paul's Pro cathedral  
Victoria Gate

Old opera hse.portiko of the mainguard & St.Pauls Cathedral

THE TEJATRU RJAL - ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Great siege monument  
Royal opera house  
Queen Victoria monument

st Paul's pro cathedral, garrison Church, ild opera house

Anglican Cathedral, St Andrews Scotch Church, Royal Opera House

Old Theatre, Anglican Pro Cathedral, Garrison Church

anglican chuech, st andrews and old theatre

Hastings, Lower BaRrakka, St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral.

Church of England, Alexander ball ,main guard

Don't know

Cathedral,

Opera house

Anglican pro Cathedra, Queen Victoria, St Andrew's Church

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## Question 5

List three buildings or monuments in Valletta from the British period (1800-1979) that you are aware of

21 responses

Queen Victoria statue ,George Cross, war museum

Main Guard portico, Old University's portal, St Paul's pro-Cathedral, Ball's monument, Hastings' monument, Queen Victoria's memorial, the Valletta market

St Paul's anglican cathedral ,the Borsa ,marquis of hastings monument. .

Above + Victoria Gate Alexander Ball Monument Thomas Maitland Monument

St. Paul's Anglican church  
Main Guard  
Victoria Gate

St.Paul Anglican cathedral  
Hastings monument  
Alexander Ball monument

The Borsa building  
Porta Reale  
The Opera House

La Valletta monument.1964 Main gate.kind tom

LE CAVROCHE - WINSTON CHURCHILL IN UPPER BARACCA - QUEEN VICTORIA C

Victoria Gate  
Spire of the Anglican Cathedral  
Portico Main Guard's

great siege

queen victoria statue, Victoria gate, kingsway

Queen Victoria monument, Ball monument, War memorial

Thomas Maitland, ponsomby, Alexander ball

maitland, ponsomby, alexander ball

The statue of Queen Victoria, Sciortino's Le Gavrocche, the Main Guard

Lord Strickland,Queen Victoria statue

Don't know

Opera house,

Cathedral

Alexander Ball, Hastings, Strickland

## Question 6

List a tradition that you are aware of or anything else which was influenced by the British in Valletta

20 responses

The gut
military parades in St George's Square
Night entertainment in strait street, /beer,alcohol.
Red telephone boxes and post boxes
Scouts and Girl Guides
The postal service
Band clubs
Strada stretta. Tea..
CHanging of the Guard in front of the PRESIDENT's Palace
Pub crawling in Strait Street
fish n chips, englis breakfast, smooking
Telephone and letter boxes, Royal British Legion - Remembrance day
Gish and chips, beer tea
fish and chips, military tattoo parade, beer
The 8th September Parade
English breakfast
The gut, military parades, gastronomy
Victoria pub
Diana pub
beer, tea, strait street

The above-identified areas were included in the Top Non-Visual Priorities list in Valletta due to the contribution by the public. The remaining were all included when secondary research, the qualitative and quantitative surveys were conducted.

## **9. Appendix 4: HND TG Long Essay Tour Itinerary**

### **Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP)**

**Duration:** 2 hrs maximum

#### **9.1 Guiding tour of the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP)**

##### **Barrakka Gardens**

Starting the tour at Barrakka Gardens with an explanation of the exchange of the administrations from the French to the British <sup>1</sup>. An explanation of the architectural styles

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<sup>1</sup> In 1798, the French sailed from Toulon with 30,000 troops destination of Egypt. They arrived in Malta in June 1798. The Grand Master Von Hompesch refused, arguing that only two ships were allowed to enter the harbour. Bonaparte reacted by ordering his fleet to enter the island from 7 strategic points (Vassallomalta.com, 2014). There were a lot of upheavals in Malta against the French. By 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September of that year, Maltese men were killed in the upheavals as the marble placard as one pass through the main gate of Mdina states. So many Maltese men lost their lives during the siege of the Maltese on the French. The French fought the British and lost in Egypt. The treaty of Amiens agreed that the British left Malta in 1801, and give it back to the knights of Malta (Brittanica, 2021). The Maltese refused to take in the Knights again as the Knights were now bankrupt and could not administer the country, while the British were in controversy with the French. So, after a few more battles with France, the British were in Malta until 1979.

to understand the various buildings during the British period <sup>2</sup>. Then a brief history of the first Civil Commander of Malta under the British period <sup>3</sup>. Street names and other lingual references will be highlighted to understand the influence of the British over Malta. From the upper Barrakka Gardens, a short explanation of the Grand Harbour highlight TVPs of the British strategy for architectural Influence on the same harbour which is now seen through the existing buildings. Port overview<sup>4</sup> is an important position to determine the British strategy for the defence of the Grand Harbour.

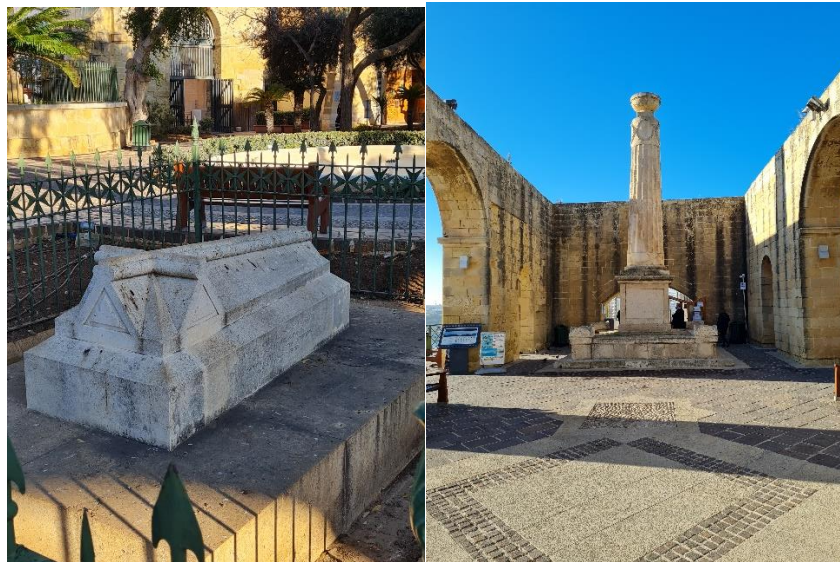
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<sup>2</sup> So, the British Military Period started, with its neo-classical influence, as we shall see and British Military Architecture, intended to defence and remembrance cast in stone of the period. We shall delve into the history, the objective of the monument and or building and the style behind it.

Understanding a bit about the styles so that when you see the British style, you will immediately recognise what we are talking about. In Europe, the reaction to the Rococo (Northern Europe) and Baroque (Southern Europe) reacted to become simpler in design. The European Neo-Classical architecture was initiated in France and Italy (Education Curriculum, 2021). The style is determined by colonnades, porticos, blank walls and symmetrical blocks used in both Roman and ancient Greek architecture. It was 're-introduced' by James Stuart in the UK, but we have the Elgin's marbles story here in Malta which had a great influence on Sir Alexander Ball and local neo-classical architecture. This neo-classical style can also be seen as early as the last building of the Knights...the last building of the knights National Library, the Bibliotheca (1786) which we shall see later and Customs House, also during the knight's period just beneath us, at sea level, where both Napoleon Bonaparte and Nelson disembarked in Malta. Yet, this neoclassical architecture became very popular in Malta following the establishment of the British Administration in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Kliemustorja,2021). Valletta is endowed with different architectural styles, such as Mannerism, Baroque, Rococo, Gothic and Neo-classical, examples which we shall encounter in this short journey.

<sup>3</sup> The Bathurst Constitution transformed Malta into a British Crown colony. On 23 July 1813, Sir Thomas Maitland, referred as King Tom both by the British and the Maltese was the first Civil Commissioner given the title of 'Governor' (Clan Maitland, 2021). A year later, Malta officially became a colony of Britain by the Treaty of Paris. King Tom, ie Sir Thomas Maitland lies and rests here before your own eyes (Kliemustorja,2021). In this area, we also find a pedestalled, a monument to his Military Secretary Clement Martin Edwards (1816) who had secured the respect and esteem of all good men as his monument states (Simpson H. Donald, 1957).

<sup>4</sup> From the Upper Barrakka Gardens, we can determine the British strategy of the port... Fort or Battery Rinella (Battery) and Fort Ricasoli (Order of St. John) stand next to each other, Victorian 1878 with the two 100-ton guns and stand at the point of entry to the harbour from the south side (Education curriculum, 2021). As you move to your eyes to the left, in the next peninsula or promontory, Villa Portelli which served as a private residence for the Flag Officer in Malta during the British rule. Next to it is the Bighi Naval Hospital (Education curriculum, 2021).



## War Rooms

150 feet below us are the Strategic War Rooms, a network of British Military architecture, underground chambers and tunnels housing the Mediterranean War HQ of the British Empire in Malta, where the defence of the island against aggression made by the Axis against the Allies was waged, including all Mediterranean operations of war (Wirtartna 2021), used also by General Eisenhower.



## Old Saluting Battery

One can see now the canons aligned with each other. The guard of the Grand Harbour. understanding how cannons functioned and fired in days gone by, to safeguard the main port of call (vassallomalta.com, 2014). Some more information about the Old Saluting



Battery <sup>5</sup> is important to understand as the surrounding gardens of Valletta were used to lay Governors and important British administrators.



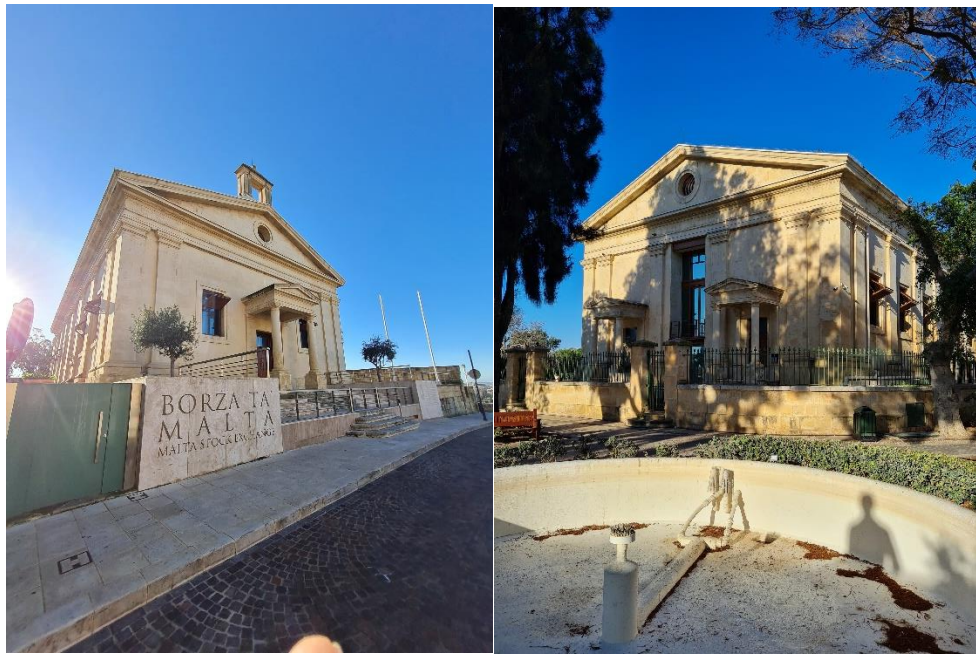
### **The Garrison Chapel**

On exiting Barrakka Gardens, the chapel comes into view. Built in 1855 this chapel is of neo-classical style (Ayling Liz, 2016,). It has all the features we mentioned before. It was constructed as a Protestant Church, served various objectives throughout its life such as a school and place of worship when built (Malta Stock Exchange, 2014), a social club, Malta Post outlet, and now houses the Malta Stock Exchange (Times of Malta, 2008).

We shall also be seeing the statues of Le Gavroches, inspired by Victor Hugo's Les Miserable, Winston Churchill's Bust and the Monument to John Bathurst (linking this to the Bathurst Constitution although two different themes).

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<sup>5</sup> Another important British figure had his monument here, Colonel Morshead of the Royal Engineers died while acting as Governor and had a public funeral (Wirtartna 2021). This platform is as old as the city itself, as it was part of the design, and since it formed part of St. Peter and St Paul's bastions, this was the responsibility of the Italian langue. Other administrations, such as the British took hold of this advantageous position to safeguard the port (vassallomalta.com, 2014).



### **Use of existing buildings**

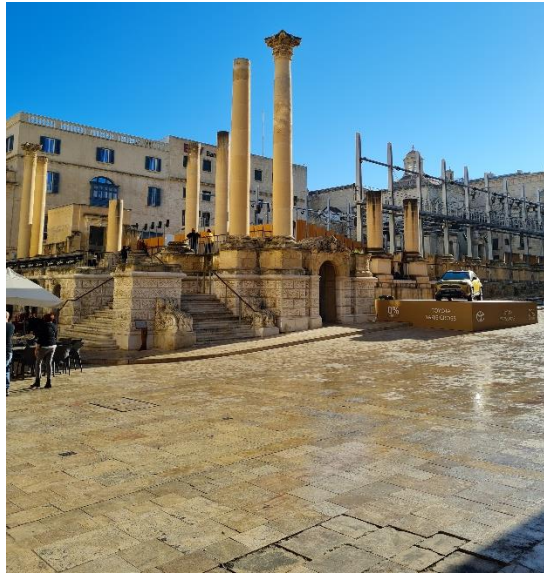
We now move to the front of Auberge de Castille: The British made use of most of the buildings available at the time. The great Auberge de Castille, Leon and Portugal, with Grand Master Pinto's interventions, that you now see in front of you was also used by the British and was badly damaged on the right, near St. Paul's Street which was badly hit in 1942 (Restoration Unit, 2014). It now houses the Prime Minister of Malta's offices.



### **The Royal Opera House**

Time to see the Royal Opera House. Another important British Monument which is of neo-classical style. This was designed by the famous Architect Edward Middleton Barry, the

same architect who built Covent Garden (Bugeja Lino, 2015). The building was destroyed during WWII in 1942. One can see some remains, later on, integrated into a new open-air theatre by Architect Renzo Piano. One can immediately determine the neo-classical style of the building. The Royal Opera House, designed by Barry, opened its doors for the first time in 1866. This major building of impressive design was easily assimilated and its destruction by German bombs in April 1942 was lamented by all. The project is identified as Barry's grandest of all works by Jacqueline Banerjee, 2012.



### **Porta Reale, sive Putirjal, sive Porta San Giorgio.**

This is Valletta's main gate, originally known by the Knights as Porta San Giorgio. Initially, the gate was referred to as 'Laparelli Gate'- (1569-1633), as it was built by the architect of Valletta. Afterwards, it was referred to Tomaso Dingli (1663-1853) gate.

The Thompson Gate (1853-1963) was reconstructed by the Royal Engineers (Col. Thompson) in 1853 and the Bergonzo Gate (1963-2011). It was demolished again and rebuilt in 1964 for wider access to the Capital City and became later known as Porta Reale and in Maltese 'Putirjal'. Today, we have 'a gate with no gate' by Renzo Piano, a wide-open entrance built between 2011- 2014



### **Street Names**

One proceeds through Strada Rjali...Kingsway, nowadays known as Republic Street. Originally, the Street was named Strada San Giorgio) for the chivalry of St. George to show the great courage the knights of Malta followed by the French as Rue Nationale (National Street).

### **King's Own Band Club**

Moving down, we shall pass in front of King's Own Band Club, another British Influence. First it was named Prince of Wales Own, but when the prince became King Edward II in 1901, (Piccinino Ivan, 2021) he gave his consent to be named King's Own Band Club, which still enjoys this title today.



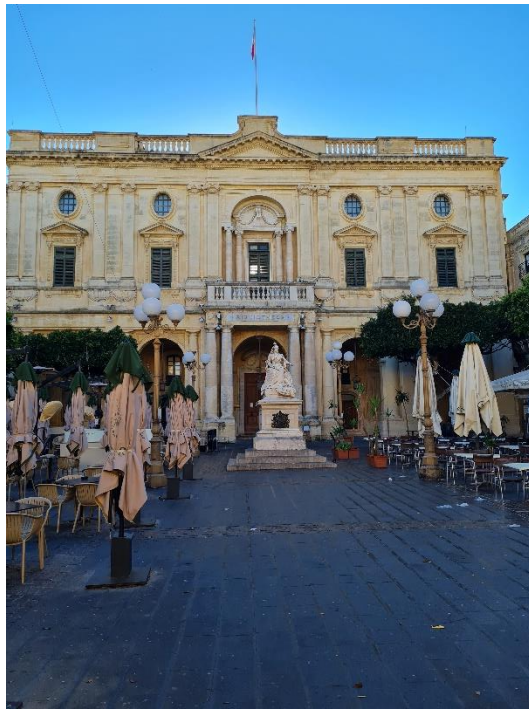


### **Queen Victoria's Monument – Post Office Box**

Now time to continue to Queen Victoria Monument, where we can speak about infrastructure, with visuals of the post office box and the telephone box. The National Library (Appendix 1.50), Biblioteca, which you can see at the back is of the neo-classical style and was the last building to be built by the Knights of Malta. The British Government carried out the transfer of books when the administration changed hands from the French who wanted the books destroyed. Sir Themistocles Zammit, 1928 added some information<sup>6</sup> about the piazza. In the same square, there is a Post Office Box and the British Red Telephone Box which are of Victorian influence.

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<sup>6</sup> Sir Themistocles Zammit, 1928, there was a café called 'Café de la Reine' here where the Gabbana still is under the arches. It was an orange garden which housed the Grand Master De Vilhena statue, which was removed to be replaced by the current monument of Queen Victoria on the fiftieth anniversary of her reign in 1887. It was an enclosed orchard at the time, and the Governor of Malta decided to make it a square where people could enjoy and embellish the city of Valletta.



### The Main Guard

The Main Guard and placards on Grand Masters Palace commemorating the Maltese victories **George Cross commemoration plaque** on the Palace, Valletta is next. The Cross itself and King George VI's message are on display in the War Museum at St. Elmo. The Main-guard by Architect George Pullicino is considered as one of the earliest neo-classical works.



### **Plaques on the façade of the British Era.**

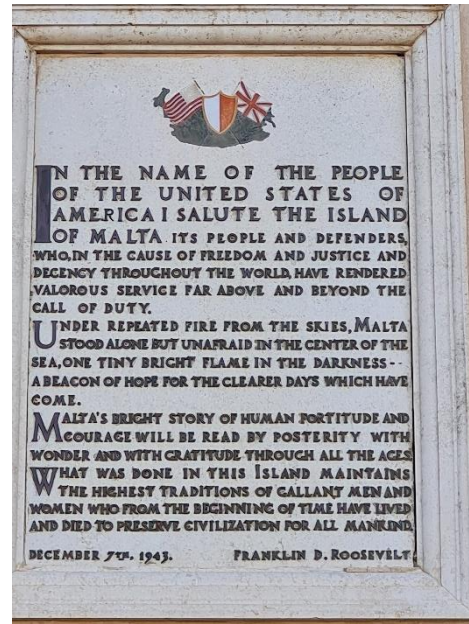
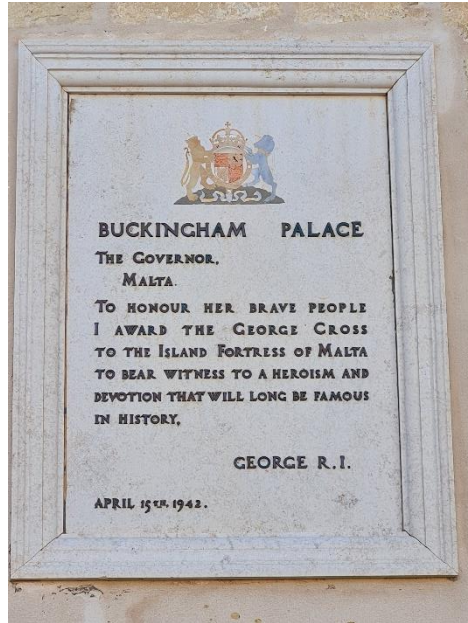
There are more than five marble plaques related to important historical events of the Maltese generations fixed to the façade of the Grand Masters' palace. Five are specifically from the British period.

Two are related to WWII, relating to the George Cross and the other by Roosevelt at the end of the war.

One is when Malta took independence from the British in 1964, then Malta became a Republic with its constitution in 1974 and the last one in memory of the day that British troops formally left the island, Freedom Day in 1979.

The last three are all national holidays in the Maltese calendar.







## **Strait Street**

The mecca of the Mediterranean at a time of war. Totiyapungpraset Priscilla, (2018) speaks of sex, booze, jazz, TV shows, microbrewery, and entertainment in the red-light districts. British sailors and soldiers referred to it as the Mecca of the Mediterranean. The street flourished especially during the two hundred years of British reign in Malta (Drury Melanie, 2019).

## **St. Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral.**

Approximately, 40 years after the arrival of the British in Malta, with the initiative of Queen Adelaide, she donated financial support of 10.000 British pounds to build St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral in Valletta (Chevron, 2020). It was designed and implemented by Arch William Scamp after a previous architect failed in his attempt with structural damages (Banerjee Jacqueline, 2010). With an Ionic portico on its face and Corinthian capitals in the interior, this neo-classical monument was completed within five years (Kliemustorja, 2021). Some extra notes are included if this tour is to be extended to further have a full day-tour <sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> There are several pillboxes to fight the u-boats of the enemy. One near the Auberge de Bavarie, There are a few to see around the perimeter of Valletta. One example is this pillbox, now turned cafe-snack bar on the corner of Marasamxett and St Sebastian Streets just before the War Museum.

The story of the two world wars is narrated in the National War Museum within fort st. Elmo, itself was the first building to be bombarded during WWII. Further to the heroic stories, the museum displays the George Cross which was awarded by King George VI to Malta for the islands' bravery in WWII (malta.com, 2021).

The Sacra Infermeria building you are seeing in front of you is the old holy infirmary of the Knights. It was referred to as the Sacra Infermeria and started being built in the early days of Valletta with all the other important buildings (vassallomalta.com, 2014). This projected the 'hospitaller' aspect of the knights and became the 'Grand Hopital' under the French. In the early British days, it served as a station hospital up to 1818 receiving 4 direct hits during WWII (vassallomalta.com, 2014). This influence of Hospitallers went on even during the British period. Malta earned the title as a result of this caring issue as the nurse of the Mediterranean, after serving sick marines and soldiers during the battles of the Dardanelles and other wars.

At Lower Barrakka we find Sir Alexander Ball's monument. Great views from these gardens out to sea and over the Fallen Soldier and Siege Bell memorials (vassallomalta.com, 2014). Sir Alexander Ball was Malta's first British administrator of the island after leading the war on the French who occupied the islands. Ball was made



## Concluding

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral is the last monument of the British influence on Valletta in this trip. There is more to see, and adding some more information in the footnotes, could easily extend this tour to an eight-hour tour to savour the British influence on Valletta. Yet, the salient Top Visual Priorities were included in this short tour of 2 hours.

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president of the Maltese National Congress under Nelson. Alexander Ball then became the first Governor of Malta. The neo-classical monument does not house the body of Sir Alexander Ball (vassallomalta.com, 2014). Victoria Gate: Build in 1884 in neoclassical style. Designed by a local architect, the gate replaced a smaller gate which was referred to as Porta Della Marina and Del Monte Gate (Grech, Jesmond, 2003). It was under Sir Arthur Borton's governorship who laid the stone in 1884. Wider arched entrances provided access to the vehicles of the day including carriages and riders. It still serves its purpose today...pedestrian use one of the side entrances. The coat of arms of Malta and Valletta embellish the gate whilst the decorative frontispiece is British. The gate, further to protection had also an economical projection as at the time, the area was in high use due to the merchandise of ships in the area. (Grech, Jesmond, 2003).

Nix Mangiaris are the stairs where the poor used to beg for something to eat from passers, mostly sailors, especially known during the early British period. Those who took this shortcut were pulled and prodded by eager hands of 'Nix mangiari' or better nothing to eat (Bonello Giovanni, 2013). Some took the longer way in front of the ta' Liesse Church so that they would not be bothered by the beggars.

NB: all photos were taken by the author of this assignment. Tour was tried and tested and based on 2- hour walk up to St. Paul's Anglican Church

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<sup>i</sup> It is important to understand these macro-environmental influences on Valletta which often resulted in a memorial or building, as a reaction to be identified. It transpired from the research conducted that non-visual priorities were found to be important as well, and so listed. This research is intended to identify these influences from studies and to determine their impact on Valletta in the macro-environment.

<sup>ii</sup> Important references such as Mallia-Milanes, 1988 and internet sites such as Vassallomalta.com, 2014, Napoleon.org, Britannica, 2021 and others as listed in the References/Bibliography to give a historical background of the situation in Malta at the time.

<sup>iii</sup> It is important to have a literature review regarding a brief historical background. This is so, that one can understand the British influence on Valletta. In 1798, the French sailed from Toulon with 30,000 troops destination of Egypt. They arrived in Malta in June 1798. The Grand Master Von Hompesch refused, arguing that only two ships were allowed to enter the harbour. Bonaparte reacted by ordering his fleet to enter the island from 7 strategic points (Vassallomalta.com, 2014). There were a lot of upheavals in Malta against the French. By 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September of that year, 4 Maltese men were killed in the upheavals as the marble placard entered Mdina states. The French fought the British and lost in Egypt. The treaty of Amiens agreed that the British leave Malta in 1801, and give it back to the knights (Britannica, 2021). The Maltese refused to take in the Knights again, as administrators of the islands, as they were now bankrupt and could not administer the country, while the British were in controversy with the French. So, after a few more battles with France, (such as Trafalgar and Waterloo) the British were in Malta until 1979.

<sup>iv</sup> The British political strategy was a continuous turmoil with time. We have the French revolution with a declaration in 1791. Napoleon.org (2022) mentions two fundamental events that occurred before the official occupation of the French in Malta. On 30 July 1791 a declaration of denationalization of every French who was associated with a chivalric order outside France including the knights of Malta. In 1789, two-thirds of the wealthy Knights of St. John in Malta were French appertaining to the France, Provence and Auvignon langues. The second was even more specific on the French Knights and took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1792. The 'Commanderies' or wealthy domains of property and income were now legally belonging to the French nation. Half of the revenue was lost by the knights, and this was a shift between Malta and the Knights of St. John. The knights lost economic power and were without a homeland (Napoleon.org, 2022). This was strategically planned by Napoleon who had in mind taking over Malta. Very much similar to what King Henry VIII did to the English langue Knights. The taking over of Malta was suggested by Napoleon to the Directory on 26 May 1797.

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<sup>v</sup> The invasion of the French on Malta took place on 9 June of 1798 and the fleet landed and set siege on Malta, with Egypt as the ultimate target left with 50,000 troops, faced with 16,932 in all of the Maltese. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, Hompesch the Grand Master surrendered. After the landing and taking over, things started to go wrong with local rebellions taking place due to the actions taken of the new administration, especially when the French were stealing important religious artefacts from the Maltese islands. The fight escalated and there were a large number of homicides. The Maltese requested the help of Ferdinand the King of the Two Sicilies and Nelson. It is understood that this siege resulted in the largest number of deaths for the Maltese, when compared to other sieges, such as the Great Siege and WWII. Nelson sent a Portuguese squadron of 6 ships and blockaded the entrance to the harbour. In October 1798 Nizza Reale was replaced by Alexander Ball. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1800, General Vaubois succumbed with the last crumb of bread due to the blockade. The French troops were gathered in Valletta.

Jones J.R. (1980) quotes the following extract to determine the situation at the time.

*After their experiences in 1798-1801, the French knew that any major move in the eastern Mediterranean had to be considered excessively risky so long as Britain held Malta. Britain, the evacuation of Malta would mean the loss of its only advanced base and would be tantamount to returning to the black year of 1796 when the Mediterranean as a whole had had to be abandoned. Britain had not a single ally in southern Europe. The commercial ports formerly most used by merchants, notably Livorno and Ancona, remained closed and under French control. Consequently, the ministers refused to implement their undertakings at Amiens to evacuate Malta, although this gave the French propaganda advantages.*

The above extract is important for us when we come to World War I (WWI) and World War II (WWII). The Maltese were not only brave during the Great Siege of 1565, the two Wars, but here as well. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1800, The French capitulated. There are differing opinions as to how many Maltese lost their lives, but in his book Mitrovich, wrote "Malta had lost thousands of ... while Britain did not have one single soldier killed by the enemy (during the siege 1798-1800).

The Maltese showed their bravery even in this instance, although not much is known as in other instances such as the Great Siege and WWII. Brigadier-General Thomas Graham's address, dated June 1800, which Hardman William, (1909, pp 305) records states as follows:

*Without arms, without the resources of war, you broke asunder your chains. Your patriotism, your courage and your religion, supplied all deficiencies. Your energy commanded victory, and an enemy formidable to the best-disciplined armies of Europe yielded in every point to your unexampled efforts and hid their disgrace behind the ramparts. The gallant battalions of Casals have ever since confined them there, with vigilance and patience worthy of the cause of freedom.*

<sup>vi</sup> The British considered Malta as an *Island fortress*. This situation persisted up to Malta's Independence on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1964 which led to the total non-alliance on Freedom Day on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1979, (both national holidays) when the British left Malta for good.

<sup>vii</sup> On 25 March 1802, the superpowers of Britain and France concluded dealing at Amiens to renounce territories, one of which was Malta. In this agreement, the islands were supposed to be returned to the Knights in 1802 (Farrugia Francis, 2006), however, it was refused by William Pitt to implement the removal of the military presence in Malta. When Napoleon sent to the British Ambassador, he told him that he "would rather see the hills of Montmartre and Chaumont occupied by the British Forces than Malta". That's how strategically important Napoleon valued Malta and by the reactions imposed by the British Military as well.

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In the agreement, the Knights of St. John were invited to return to Malta, abolishing both English and French languages and establishing the Maltese language and for the British to evacuate the Islands within 3 months, half of the garrison consisting of Maltese and the other half of French, British, Austrian, Russian, Spanish and Prussian shall guarantee Malta's independence, Malta be declared neutral and the ports of Malta to be opened to all nations (Farrugia Francis, 2006). The Maltese protested and acknowledged the sovereignty of Great Britain, subject to certain conditions incorporated in a Declaration of Rights. The change was ratified in the Treaties of Paris (1814-15) (Busuttil Salvino, 2022). The Vienna Conference in 1815, was a diplomatic conference to reconstitute the political order of Europe after the collapse of Napoleon 1, the Emperor of France. In this agreement, Britain retained Malta among others (Oxford Reference, 2022).

viii Maitland was described by his soldiers as “truculent, combative, cynical, vain, eccentric and a rough depot, unpopular with the troops” (Micallef Eynaud, 2010), but in due course was acknowledged as a ‘statesman’, because of his discipline to achieve. When Maitland took over the plague problem, he was already in Malta planning to eradicate it, tackling the economic issue, as the islands were practically bankrupt due to the economic inactivity, and introduced extensive and widespread reforms. He abolished l'*Università*', referring to it as a 'troublesome dunghill of corruption' that enjoyed a monopoly in the provision and importation of food for many generations.

ix Luther Jörg, (2010) published the Instructions of Earl Bathurst to Sir Thomas Maitland, mainly to establish Malta as a 'secure naval station' for trade with Egypt and the Levant. Malta became regarded as important to have a permanent station in the Mediterranean for the British. This was crucial to the development of the war, especially 141 years later, when in WWII, Malta proved crucial for the Allies' victory over the Axis. He also mentions that the Maltese 'enthusiastically' attached themselves to the British connection and the islands were made up of about 100000 people. He also mentions the economic boom due to the trade that Malta was experiencing.

x Sir Thomas Maitland, whose soldiers referred to him as “King Tom” and so did the Maltese, later on (Micallef Eynaud, 2010). For the Maltese it was natural to call the administrator of the islands 'King', as that was how the Grand Master was referred to.

xi On 23 July 1813, Thomas Maitland became the first Civil Commissioner given the title of 'Governor' (Clan Maitland, 2021). A year later, Malta officially became a colony of Britain through the Treaty of Paris.

xii Acceptance of Malta to the British Crown resulted in a time when the plague broke into Constantinople and ravaged Malta in 1813. 4668 died, a good 4.6% of the population. The government was facing bankruptcy. The coffers dwindled and Sir Thomas Maitland (Governor 1813-1824) put up a loan of 12% to raise money. The trading income, mostly from foreign trade went down to practically nothing. It was in this situation that Lord Bathurst (secretary of State) sent a dispatch letter to Maitland (Luther Jörg, 2010), to set out the administrative objectives (De Gruyter, 2010). The Governor was only answerable to the King-in-Council. An advisory council of 6 important people in Malta was proposed, including the bishop, the president of the High Court of Appeal, the Public Secretary and the Treasurer called jurats. This resulted in what is referred to as *Università*. Busuttil (1965) states that there was widespread corruption among those who ran this *Università* acting as merchants for the corn trade that ran in the red rather than profit. Maitland tried to mitigate this by abolishing the monopoly, but it was only in 1822 that he could do this. Dar Annona in Castille Square Valletta (Times of Malta, 2008, Dar Annona) is very much related to this area and was constructed by the Knights of St. John to conduct all business related to cereals and foodstuffs in Malta. The Bathurst Constitution also determined free religious practices, ecclesiastical institutions and privileges to remain the same. Extensive changes to the Law Courts were proposed. The proposal for the English language to supersede Italian was emphasized.

King Tom (Maitland) known as such for his aristocratic ways (Micallef Eynaud 2010), wanted to organize the defence of Malta, and introduce the Royal Malta Fencible Regiment (RMFR), fencible in the sense that it was focused on the requirements of Malta.

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In 1800, for the record, there was the Maltese Light Infantry (MLI) which was engaged in besieging the French garrison in Valletta, commanded by General Vaubois. RMFR superseded MLI. During Carnival, the Friars Minor of Valletta always took care of young poor children from 8 years to 15, to refreshments at their convent and keep them off the streets of Valletta. On 11 February 1923, (Maitland's government) panicked struck when the children found the main door locked and trampled on each other. Over 110 boys died on the day, and the tragedy still resounds. Unlike many who think this tragedy happened under the Knights, it happened under the British. RMFR carried sympathy and cared for the distraught parents, for the zeal, humanity and empathy shown in their aid

<sup>xiii</sup> With the help of Sir Alexander Ball, the impact on local architecture was 'tremendous' and included various buildings around Malta. Giorgio Pullicino (Professor of Architecture) made an impact with his designs with the now famous portico of the ex Knights' Guardia Della Piazza in St. George's square now known as Main Guard in Valletta. This new neo-classical style marvelled arrivals through the grand harbour at the time, when there was Bighi Hospital on one side, and Sir Alexander Ball's monument at Barrakka on the other. New buildings in London were also built in this style: British Museum and Buckingham Palace are two examples.

<sup>xiv</sup> There was unrest with the Francophile infiltration of the islands during the first years of Sir Alexander Ball's administration and dispute with the British who 'would not discuss Malta's future unless a satisfactory explanation of the 'Moniteur' report was forthcoming', which provoked the next war with France declaring war on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1803. After the French left Malta, there was administrative chaos as those replacing them were not up to it. Sir Alexander Ball tried to revert to the system as applied by the order of St. John a few years back but was still very vivid. Sir Alexander, who was a positive person, always argued that if the economy flourished, the order would be restored. The rising demand for warehouses and stores, soared rents by five times the pre-blockade figures. Ball developed the economic shipping routes and attracted various wealthy traders to the islands plying in the Mediterranean. In his book, Micallef Eynaud Maurice (2010) only praises Sir Alexander for his initiative toward the well-being of the Maltese.

Micallef Eynaud (2010) continues to state that Sir Ball was one of the few administrators who 'achieved undying love and praise of the Maltese'. The Maltese economy flourished under Ball's guidance with enriched export/import trade that included the Mediterranean nations, the Black Sea ports, the Barbary coast and Turkey, together with the black market trade with continental ports (barred by Napoleon to carry out trade with Britain). This improved the prosperity of the Maltese. Sir Alexander also introduced the cultivation of potatoes mostly for export. He also kept his word to recommend a Maltese Bishop to the Pope which he did. Monseigneur Ferdinando Mattei was made bishop to the joy and gratitude of the Maltese. The cotton trade increased as well due to a growing demand for such items. Sir Alexander Ball was held in such high esteem by the Maltese that Micallef Eynaud referred to him as "he was, in word and deed, the Father of the Maltese".

The Maltese climate and the general health of the population soon saw these businessmen set up shop on the islands. Barbary was a new market for Malta when considering the order who did not trade with Islamic traders. The economy flourished as was stated by General Hilderbrand Oakes, Ball's successor.

So, in 1813 The Civil Commissioner issued licences to any vessel to import or export merchandise to and from Malta, provided that:

1. Two-thirds of the cargo leaving Malta were of British or Empire origin
2. One-third of the crew was British

This exempted from being captured by British ships roaming the Mediterranean.

The above followed the old corsairs system in the Mediterranean that used to be carried out by the Knights of St. John (vassallohistory.com, 2014)

It is understood that, in 1813, the socioeconomic income per capita of the Maltese was among the highest in Europe (Busuttill Salvino, 1965).

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<sup>xv</sup> In 1802, a superintendent of Lazaretto (at Manoel Island), William Eton declared ill health and left Malta to return 9 years later and would not be accepted back and dismissed from Public Service. He started meeting Maltese men and promoted discontentment with the way they were treated. Salvino Busuttil (1965) states that Marquis Testaferrata was one of them, who drew a constitution based on the claim that the old Consiglio Popolare was a legislative body, although the Consiglio's powers were nominal. Eton proposed re-establishing powers to the Consiglio to administer the Islands and proposed a formation of the Consiglio to be represented by the ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical, proposing executive power would be reserved for the Governor. This turmoil and the European political situation led Malta to become part of the British crown.

<sup>xvi</sup> Giovanni Bonello (2014) interprets a widely-travelled American who states 'Never have I seen elsewhere so much squalid wretchedness, beggary and woe as everywhere one meets in Malta'. It's the lowest of poverty one can get... which is hinted in the same article by Bonello (2014) through a certain James Webster who compares the leeching colonial masters to the misery of the Maltese describing them as frightful, numbers dying of starvation, fevers from lack of food and our forefathers, who were well fed under the order of St. John, now living on the alter of 'pampered and wasteful luxury' (Giovanni Bonello 2014), many of which must have slept on pavements in the cold. In the mid-1830s, there were 2,500 beggars in villages alone, excluding towns and villages where the most people lived.

<sup>xvii</sup> The local situation was complicated, with trying to deprive the Catholic Church of its immunities, enjoyed for centuries and being against to Maltese interest in self-government, and without any effort to set the 'Islands finances on the sound basis' (Salvino Busuttil, 1965). In 1832, the *Comitato Generale Maltese* was formed, and a petition was drawn up called the 1832 Memorial, requesting administrative reforms. A Maltese committee was proposed but Ponsomby rejected the request. Yet, he carried out some reforms and put up a Legislative council composed of the Government, Church, Nobles and gentlemen. An eight men council was approved which was a landmark for the constitutional development of the island. Now the Governor was obliged to consult the people, rather than dictate (Salvino Busuttil 1965). There were differences between the Legislative Assembly and the Administrative one, both headed by Englishmen but created further havoc. The Maltese were in a 'most miserable condition' and uneducated. Even the nobles of the islands were starving, let alone the people. The difference between what an employed farmer would earn in a year, together with his wife and children was £10 compared to the £4,000 earned by the Lieutenant Governor. The earnings were just £2 per capita in 1837. To make matters worse, Cholera outbreak took the lives of 4253 undernourished and unhealthy people living in the worst conditions possible. This is when the Catholic Church acted as the ultimate protector of the people, especially the Capuchin friars who showed heroism. By 1839, the Education vote was raised by two and a half times, the tariffs reformed, the grain monopoly abolished, salaries overhauled and both Chief Justice and Attorney General abolished.

<sup>xviii</sup> A Council of Government was erected in 1849, focusing on the Criminal Code. This leads us to the Crimean War of 1854, which made Malta the natural headquarters of the Allies. The logistics of war were made through these fortress islands, with English and French transports arriving daily with an unprecedented pitch of activity, proving economic generation.

Salvino Busuttil (1965) states that sailors and soldiers gave themselves up to pleasure, with a lot of spending and so the standard of living began to rise. Warships needing repairs at the Dockyard, construction of a dry dock and the building of various offices and dwellings in the Cottonera area energized the economy. The boom lasted until peace after the Crimean War would return. In this situation, importers and merchants benefitted, while Government workers kept the same salary, with increased inflation making it difficult to make ends meet.



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<sup>xix</sup> Cini George (2010) made a special contribution to the street with interviews and characters mainly focusing on WWII, but the 'Gut' as it is known by the British and 'La Sada' by the *Italianis* determines that it was up and running during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The clatter, music reverberating on the walls of streets, coming from bars next to each other enhanced Valletta's musicians on a talent of high quality. Playing jazz melodies heard from records. Tal-'Bicca', police MP's used to roam to control the trouble. Two American Jeeps always parked in front of what is Marks and Spencer now, waiting for trouble makers to take them back to the ships. Trouble was the order of the day, beer drinking and enjoyment also, while prostitution is an old trade that was practised here in Straight Street.

<sup>xx</sup> Salvino Busuttil, 1965 refers to the change from a feudal system to the new system that was slowly being embraced by all. There was an increased demand for the harbour areas housing for workers to be near their work. The cotton production gave way in 1871 when there was a shift of workers to the harbour area. In 1869, we have the opening of the Suez Canal when the population increased, but also the death rates nearly doubled. Bad hygienic conditions invited disease spreading like wildfire, again. In 1874, an investigating commission was set up to inquire about the well-being of society. Hardly any agricultural land was available, and emigration was not a plausible solution.

<sup>xxi</sup> The revenue of the Islands is identified to have been inefficient at the time and taxes on daily commodities of food and wine formed the main source of revenue. This meant that the taxes were directed toward the lower classes. Wheat was taxed, and although not much, it received the highest form of criticism from the public. The system was updated by the Colonial Secretary. It is a time, 1873, that the Maltese Government was paying pensions related to Corps, and it was only in 1877 that Malta was exempted from paying the pensions...but the military contribution still stood at £5,000 while Education suffered badly. When you considered that the British were using the islands as free facilities, it was expected that no contribution to the military would be made at least (Salvino Busuttil, 1965). The trade due to the Suez Canal was still ongoing.

When Sir Penrose G. Julyan reported in 1879 on the Civil Establishments of Malta he detected inefficiencies and laxity in public revenue. At the same time, civil servants performed their duties with care and attention. Salvino Busuttil (1965) states that the Political focus during this time was more on Politics than the Economy or Education. In 1887, Cholera struck again, stagnating trade with few ships calling in the grand harbour. The population felt agitated, and the administration did not feel able to meet this turmoil and left it in the hands of the bishop.

Salvino Busuttil (1965) states that in 1891, Malta's golden age came to an end. Export from Britain to the Levant called at Malta on their way to the East. Yet, on the return journey, they stopped at Black Sea ports to load grains for Europe calling here en route. Towards 1890, larger and more powerful ships, attaining more sea miles and the greater range were no longer necessary to make a bunkering call in Malta.

Locally, this situation tried to be mitigated by opening a greater dock, Hamilton Dock, so larger ships could be repaired here. Economics determining that during this time, shipping tonnage fell from nearly 5.5 million tons in 1891 to 3 million in three years. So, trade in Malta of the shipping bunkering was suffering. During these years, the workers were absorbed by the work at the Dockyard and public works, including coal-heaving. With this issue, the economic structure in Malta depended on the British military interest. Again, no one listened to what the people were suffering...the language disputes and political strife were more important than the lessons learned through time.

With the century coming to an end, the sewerage system needed extensive work, The cotton trade had practically disappeared as employment was available. A new Council of Government was elected with a promise that no new taxes would be introduced, but favoured duty increase on spirits for five years and ended up a farce representation.

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The structure of the administration made it so that when the official side disagreed with their view, they would issue an Order in Council and impose any desires with the finality of law. The Colonial Secretary was informed and paid a visit to Malta to understand. When taxes were earmarked to be raised to build schools, those in the language disputes, seems to side with pro-Italians against the imperial side. Another stroke to this situation was the Order in Council raised a sum for contingencies up to £10,000 to be used at the Governor's discretion, without the approval of the council. So, it was the last straw, as the Maltese representatives knew that their voices were shut, and so, the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw both low economic and political advancement, denoting the end of the Golden Age. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 1903, Chamberlain abrogated the Constitution, just when the work on the dockyard and the breakwater started an intensive economic expansion. There was a similar situation to that of the Knights, 100 years before, when no one could argue about local politics or economics (Salvino Busuttil, 1965).

xxii On record as well there was the introduction of electricity to consumers at 27, Merchants Street, Valletta, now a restaurant. This proved to be a social benefit to a better living for society as a whole.

xxiii King's Own was initially called 'La Nazzionale' then, 'La Nazionale Vincitrice' in 1885. Also known as 'La Stella', the club asked Prince Edward to take the title of 'Prince of Wales', but when the Prince became King Edward VII in 1901...they sought the consent of the King, who gave his approval and named it so until today. This club is related to the Feast of St. Dominic, while La vallete is related to the feast of St. Paul's. (King's Own Band Club, 2022)

xxiv Poverty in Malta was still evident. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is considered as the golden age to the Maltese as the opening of the Suez Canal and the Crimean wars led to an economic boom to the Maltese with the transshipment of goods in the harbour (Busuttil Salvino, 1988). The building of the breakwater was a British idea to counteract to the unemployment threatening the social fabric of the Maltese.

xxv A side story is that the Spanish Community gathered and settled in a place now known as Balzunetta in Floriana. Originally, it was referred to as La Barceloneta (small Barcellona) or La Barcelo Netta, and the Maltese tend understanding titles in their way...so Balzunetta (Zammit Anne, 2017).

xxvi Galea Michael and Debono Charles, (2014). Italy at the time was part of the allies, and the fleet, based in Malta had all the necessary arrangements to move at a moment's notice, and mobilization started once the official notice by the Imperial Royal Consulate of Austria-Hungary in Malta was issued. 1,500 troops arriving from New York were now on their way to Austria. Maltese officers enrolled to serve, even from the retired list. There was a general effort for the public to learn first aid. Grand Harbour and Marsamxetto Harbour were in continuous surveillance. The Grand Harbour was closed for merchantmen and would not allow vessels or boats near warships. So, Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia on July 28 1914, and Germany on Russia, Belgium and France. Great Britain on Germany, Austria on Russia. Montenegro and Japan declare war on Germany, while France Great Britain and Montenegro declares war on Austria-Hungary. All happening in 1914. Visuals can be seen at Malta's National War Museum in Valletta which focuses on the two world wars (Ann Williams, 1988). After WWI, the Maltese migrants kept in the Mediterranean Cities and Ports (Cassar Carmel, 1988). Cassar continues that a very profitable business for the locals was ship-channeling. The Mizzi, Tabone, Borda and Borg Costanzi families were established and supplied the British Forces with provisions by the end of WWI.

xxvii (Frendo Henry, 1988). which confirmed the deeply-embedded Maltese philosophy of *Italianità* having roots in the language, culture, political, constitutional and judicial way of living for the Maltese culture. The Maltese language was still considered a language of the kitchen and Italian was still the official language until 1934.

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<sup>xxviii</sup> Dimech wrote in favour of the Maltese during WWI and the love of the language used by the nation, so as not to insult the language, as when one insulted the language, one was insulting the nation and therefore oneself. He died in exile for this principle.

<sup>xxix</sup> The situation became intolerable and led to the Sette Giugno riot in Valletta and did not have a greater effect due to the interventions of a bishop and a local leader (Panzavecchia), who dispersed the crowds. It was a reaction to the grievances created by the economic and political situation in the first 20 years of the 1900s (Bezzina Joseph, 1988). So, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1919, in the aftermath of WWI, the people were desperate and hungry with the disruptions of war creating a scarcity of food, rising prices, military presence and the poor getting poorer. It was during the day that the second National Assembly meeting was set in Valletta. Military support was called in, and as people were ransacking houses of Maltese importers of wheat, and a shot was heard, the revolt started.

<sup>xxx</sup> These upheavals ultimately led to the first prime minister of Malta under British reign: Joseph Howard, whom we have a garden and bust named after in the outskirts of Mdina (Bezzina Joseph, 1988).

<sup>xxxi</sup> Spain and Portugal were neutral but there is evidence that they sided the Nazi occupancy. So, how can a British ship leaves England and reach Egypt and the levant with such a situation? No wonder Malta was a fortress island. After Japan attacked the USA in December 1941, World War II became a global war between the Axis and the Allies. Malta suffered greatly.

Due to the objective of this long essay, the issue of what led to WWII can be found in various sources. So better to focus on the effects on Valletta. Camilleri Matthew, 2020, presents to us the events in numbers. From the first raid on 11 June 1940 @ 0655 to the last on 28 August 1944 @ 0845, with the last all-clear call at 9 pm. The largest number of raids was registered in April 1942, which saw the destruction of the Royal Opera House in Valletta. 1581 civilians were killed with 50,000 people homeless...nearly half the population became homeless. 7500 servicemen and merchant seamen were killed. It was another great siege, and Malta survived and battled against all odds which proved an inspiration to all the allies to keep fighting for freedom. 10,761 buildings were destroyed, most of them private dwellings and Valletta suffered heavily.

<sup>xxxii</sup> A well-known local Caterina Vitale had premises called 'Monte di Redenzione' in Archbishop Street also destructed during 1942. In Strait Street, there was the 'Monte Della Redenzione de Schiavi', which was a historical place and also totally destructed during the war.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> The Bonnici Palace in Old Bakery Street and Casa Corogna were also destructed during the same time. Another palace, Correa de Sousa in the same street was also destroyed.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> The statue of Queen Victoria in Republic Square and the Old Saluting Battery (il-Barrakka) are also mentioned together with the memorial of Sir Alexander Ball at the lower gardens are also part of British Architectural history (Ayling Liz, 2016). One finds text related to Sir Alexander Ball as the first governor of Malta, but officially, Sir Ball occupied roles such as "The English Captain leading the Maltese Contadini", "Minister Pelinpotentiary in Malta for the King of Naples" and "Civil Commissioner". Although the titles might equal the same type of responsibility as that of Governor, but he was never referred to as 'Governor of the Maltese Islands', (Testaferrata Moroni Viani Martin, 2009).

<sup>xxxv</sup> The area seems to have hosted different levels of poor people from time to time. In 1947 there was a proposal by Mintooff through the architectural firm B. Harrison and R. Pearce Hubbard who was commissioned with the project. There were some reactions by the residents to this social housing project but reports by the 1960's indicate that everyone was happy with the new development. Joseph Caruana writes about the poverty during WWII, with first-hand experience, which rendered the people poor, even the rich as they could not find anything to buy.

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<sup>xxxvi</sup> Chevron, 2020, also mentions the Anglican Cathedral of St. Paul's (Pro-Cathedral), the Main Guard in St. George's Square and the Royal Opera House, which was destroyed in World War II, all highlighted above. The writings determine other areas which for us are out of scope.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> The iconic red telephone boxes were designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935 to celebrate King George V's Silver Jubilee. They are familiar sights in central places and streets of Malta, Britain, Bermuda and Gibraltar. They are popular with tourists in practically all areas around Malta. These London-style boxes have acquired different use when they went out of service including coffee booths, bars, medical rescue points and teller machines, and even mini libraries to promote reading for children.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> There are some pill boxes to fight the U-boats of the enemy. One near the Auberge de Bavarie, There are a few to see around the perimeter of Valletta. One example is this pill box, now turned cafe-snack bar on the corner of Marasamxett and St Sebastian Streets just before the War Museum.

<sup>xxxix</sup> Strada Stretta has kept its name till today although at some time it changed its name, the original survived. The article by Chetcuti includes an interesting list of names of different streets in Valletta with different names in different periods.

<sup>xi</sup> The honour of the George Cross, which is still part of the national flag, on April 15, 1942, during the heaviest bombardment on Malta by the Axis. The other is by Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the end of the war in December 1945 who hailed the Maltese gallantry, fortitude and courage with wonder to preserve civilisation for all mankind.

<sup>xii</sup> The last three are celebrated as National holidays, while on 15<sup>th</sup> August of every year, we honour a feast day on behalf of the Santa Maria convoy, which saved Malta from surrendering during WWII.

<sup>xiii</sup> This covers the areas of political, socio-economic, technological, cultural and demographic macro-environmental aspects of the British influence on Valletta between 1800-1979 (Kotler et al, 2013).

<sup>xiii</sup> X-Ray Mag, 2003 writes about the Valletta – the tragic triangle, identifying HMS Russel who reported late to enter the harbour which was closed by the chain, in April 1916 and was sunk by the U-boats. The guns at the Saluting Battery used also to cover the attacks by the planes on the Grand Harbour and Valletta.

<sup>xliv</sup> From this review, a number of Top Visual Priorities and Top Non-Visual Priorities was identified and included in Appendix 1, each with four particular characteristics on the subject.

<sup>xlv</sup> From the interviews conducted, some information required confirmation of how people who are interested in Valletta could perceive the importance of the influence of the British Military Government in Malta.

<sup>xvi</sup> These non-visual priorities were identified from the qualitative interviews conducted. Some buildings are for Military objectives, others for security, others for entertainment, while others were to facilitate the way of living in an old Baroque city. British architecture differed from Baroque by mostly applying the neo-gothic style. The list of Top Visual Priorities and the Top non-visual Priorities as influenced by the British has now been established as per the objective of this essay.

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<sup>xlvii</sup> Count Gerald Strickland was knighted and raised to the peerage, a son of a wealthy English naval captain and an aristocratic Maltese mother. Educated in Malta and Cambridge he was elected to the Council of Government in Dr Fortunato's Mizzi party but crossed the floor to become Chief Secretary of Government. He was made Governor between 1902 and 1917 in lands outside Malta. Entering back into the political arena in the 1920s and attracted enough support to become Prime Minister. He was against the 'italianita' of Malta and in favour of British Imperial interest in Malta.

## 11. Appendix 6: Meeting Record Form



### Long Essay Meeting Record Form

Student Name & Surname

Vincent Borg

Student Email

Vincent.borg001@its.edu.mt

Tutor

Ms Caroline Muscat

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tutor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

Long-Essay Title

**Guiding the British Influence in Valletta (1800-1979): Top Visual Priorities (TVP)**

Tutor's Comments

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Date

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022



Time

15:30-17:30

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tutor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

#### Subjects Discussed / Changes Required

The discussion focused on the subject matter. The projections of the essay including Literature Review, Methodology, Results analysis and Discussion and Final arguments were discussed. Recommendations were made by the tutor on dates and objectives specifically about the project in hand. Recommendations including time management, good clear English, objectivity of the essay was discussed. It was agreed that a draft feedback of the essay would be handed over so that the areas discussed above would be analysed the directions proposed.

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#### Agenda / Changes for Next Meeting

Analysis of the draft submission.

Grammar

Literature review

overview of the intermediate submission was proposed.

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Date

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

Time

15:30-17:30



\_\_\_\_\_  
Tutor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

### Subjects Discussed / Changes Required

Submission of intermediate draft on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 with immediate response from the tutor.  
Official notes from the lecturer:

1. Make sure you always use 3rd person singular and avoid using 1st person singular. Although i agree with you that we're both from Valletta and we love our city this is a research paper therefore it should be objective and a 'study' of our amazing capital city 😊
2. There are some few grammar mistakes make sure to amend
3. I think you should shorten a bit the literature review as for sure you will surpass the word limit
4. Pay attention to use the adequate style ITS requires when quoting.

Reply by Student:

Thanks for your nice comments as always, motivating. And for your advice.

I am now working to determine four important attributes to each tvp, and has been for the past 7 days...they require to analyse the data again and summarise.

I sent you the first draft without correcting anything from the original one...this requires an input towards the final analysis. Six stages in all.

I am thinking in the vicinity of 5.7k words, as I have now shortened the literature and had to focus on the other chapters.

Also, I am conscious about the 3rd person singular, and that is stage 4 after I focus again on the main text.



Next Agenda: Presenting the final draft sent on 5<sup>th</sup>  
September 2022

Updated as instructed on 6.10.22