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## VLADIMIR KIRICHENKO. YEMENI DIASPORA IN THE UK

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*Abstract.* The article examines the situation of Yemenis living in the UK. The Yemeni diaspora has a long history of being in this country. In the 19th century many Yemenis went to the UK as sailors and merchants. Since then a small community of about 80,000 people has formed there. After World War II, Yemenis got jobs in UK steel mills. And

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*in 2024, Ibtisam Mohammad was elected the first member of parliament of Yemeni origin in the UK.*

The UK has a small but visible Yemeni diaspora of around 80,000 [1]. Yemenis have been living in the UK for more than a century and a half. They are essentially the oldest Arab community in the UK. In the 19th century many of them arrived in the UK, becoming sailors or merchants. In 1839, the British captured the port of Aden in southern Yemen. Subsequently, many Yemenis looked for work in the port and were hired by British ships. Yemenis settled mainly near ports in cities such as London, Cardiff and Bristol [2].

During World War I, Yemenis often took service in the merchant navy, which provided the British army with supplies and was therefore attacked by the Germans. Britain withdrew from the war with a depleted economy. British sailors returning to normal life found that some of their jobs were taken by Yemenis, while the latter believed that they had sacrificed as much for Britain as their British compatriots, and for this reason deserved equal treatment. According to some reports, more than 3,000 Yemenis were killed while trying to deliver supplies to British troops [3].

In 1919 and 1930 the port city of South Shields, located on the River Tyne, in the county of Tyne and Wear in northeast England, became the place of the first large-scale demonstrations of British sailors and port workers against immigrants, mainly of Yemeni origin. This led to Yemenis working on the ships being deported after clashes with English workers and police.

The government officially encouraged the resettlement of Yemenis in South Shields, and by the end of the war the number had reached 3,000. After returning home, the British had to compete with the Yemenis for the best jobs. In 1919, hundreds of English sailors clashed with their Yemeni counterparts in the area of the old Mill Dam. Clashes continued in subsequent years, and in 1930 there was a second major riot. The police dealt harshly with the rioters: 15 people were arrested or deported. It is believed that these riots arose on racial grounds. However,