The jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council

In the 1930s the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was said to be the final court of appeal for more than a quarter of the world. When the British empire became the Commonwealth of Nations, many member countries chose to retain their legal links with the United Kingdom. Today, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council still hears appeals from many countries worldwide.

Although the Judicial Committee is primarily the final Court of Appeal for Commonwealth territories which have retained the appeal to Her Majesty in Council, it has a varied domestic jurisdiction, some of which is now enshrined in statute. This too derives from the premise that the King was “the fountain of all justice.”