

Towards Mid-Victorian Social Consensus

1. The Great Reform Act 1832-1832
 - a. 1832 Act: Commons, Lords pass; William IV signs
 - b. Twilight of the aristocracy: Waterloo to Peterloo
 - i. Congress of Vienna
 - ii. Tories/Conservatives dominate because Whigs/Liberals & Radicals split
 - (1) Lord Liverpool (ministry, 1812-1827)
 - (a) Corn Law (1815)
 - c. Reform demands: Peterloo and after
 - i. Aug. 1819, mass meeting St. Peter's Field, Manchester
 - (1) the Six Acts (1819)
 - (2) Shelley's "England in 1819"
 - ii. Sir Robert Peel and the reform of the law
 - iii. Wellington and the break-up of the Tory party's alliance with Church and State
 - d. the Bill
 - e. Significance and Aftermath
 - i. Party now king
2. Age of Reform after the Great Reform?
 - a. Reform from above?:
 - i. aristocratic Whigs—Lord Grey to 1834, Lord Melbourne to 1841 (end of slavery, factory reform, poor law [workhouses and 1834 Act])
 - ii. Tories accept Reform Act, but seek to hold the line after that (until Peel and Repeal).
 - b. Radical Reform from below?
 - i. Anti-Corn Law League (formed 1838, Manchester)
 - ii. Chartists (1837/8-1848)
 - c. Peel and Repeal:
 - i. Peel embraces utilitarians and brings party into 19th c.
 - d. Moderate Reform and State Intervention
 - i. Evangelicals and Utilitarians
 - ii. State Regulation
3. State Regulation
 - a. Whigs and Tories advance welfare state at different times
 - i. even liberals (free marketers) fear forces of reaction—landlords, publicans, clergy—at local parish level
 - b. Begins with Labor reform
 - i. Dickens's *Oliver Twist* (1838): Reality or Propaganda?
 - ii. Sadler Committee of 1832, headed by Michael Sadler
 - iii. Utilitarians lead investigation → in Factory Act of 1833
 - iv. Mine Acts of 1842 and 1850 (prohibit women and boys under 13 in mines, under central supervision)
 - v. Fight for 10 hour day long (60 hours/week), not passed until 1847, and applied only to women and children.
 - c. Poor Law of 1834 (result of commission led by utilitarians): controversial
 - d. Cholera Scare leads to National Board of Health, 1848
4. Victorian Social Consensus (by 1850)
 - a. Government interference in economic affairs to protect individual citizen
 - b. National government interference in local government to increase administrative efficiency
 - c. *Laissez faire* abroad, limited state intervention at home.
 - d. Why accepted by both parties?; by rich and poor?
 - i. prosperity and Victorianism

5. The role of Two Industrial Revolutions
 - a. Britain's might seen in the Crystal Palace exhibit of 1851
 - i. Industrial might
 - ii. European peace with other nationalities
 - iii. colonial might
 - b. 1st Industrial Revolution: cloth/coal/iron (1780s-1830s)
 - i. By 1830, produced 50% world's iron
 - ii. By 1830, produced 70% world's coal
 - iii. By 1830, produced 50% world's cotton cloth
 - c. 2nd Industrial Revolution: electricity/oil/chemicals (2nd half 19th century)
 - i. Late 19th century, spread of 1st Industrial Revolution (factory) processes
 - ii. New Inventions
6. Gladstone and Disraeli
 - a. British Politics dominated by rivalry between William Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli for twenty years (alternating ministries)
 - i. Disraeli (Cons.), 1866-68
 - ii. Gladstone (Lib.), 1868-74
 - iii. Disraeli, 1874-80
 - iv. Gladstone, 1880-85
 - b. Gladstone (1809-1898), son of Liverpool merchant
 - i. Rises to power under influence of Sir Robert Peel (Conservative reformer) and Peelites (reformers)
 - ii. Standard bearer of Victorian liberalism
 - (1) moral stance
 - c. Disraeli (1804-81), son of a writer who had converted from Judaism
 - i. (Jews given full civil equality only in 1860)
 - ii. Famous as a novelist before entering politics
 - iii. Flirted with Radicals before moving to the Tories
 - iv. Principal founder of the modern Conservative party
 - d. Gladstone and Disraeli had careers that show that politics no longer simply the preserve of the aristocrats
 - i. Second Reform Bill (1867) shows party struggle and new Victorian Social Consensus