

## 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Revolution: electricity/oil/chemicals (2<sup>nd</sup> half 19<sup>th</sup> century)
    - i. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century, spread of 1<sup>st</sup> 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