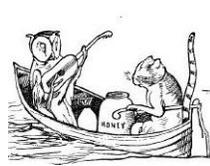


BRITISH LITERATURE LECTURE NOTES

VICTORIAN PERIOD



Victorian Period was the *first* half of the Age of Reform in England

Age of Reform - 1832 to present

- ❖ Victorian Period - 1832 - 1914
 - From the passage of the First Reform Bill in England – expanded voting privileges beyond the noble class
 - To the start of World War One
- ❖ Modern Period - 1914 - present
 - From the start of World War One to the present

1832	1914				present
Age of Reform	→				
<i>English Literature</i>	Victorian Period →				Modern Period →
<i>English History</i>	Queen Victoria 1837 - 1901	Edward VII 1901-1910	George V 1910-1936	Edward VIII 1936	George VI 1936-1952
					Elizabeth 1952-present

England's Historic Timeline of Victorian Era

1. The Industrial Revolution and Technological Advances

The Industrial Revolution began in England around 1769-70 with invention of the spinning jenny & steam power. By the time of Victorian Era, technological revolution was well under way! During these years, the changes were incredible! Victoria was born into a world where people travelled by horse and carriage and lit their homes with candles.

* By the time she died, there were trains and electricity!

Faster Steamships, Telegraphs & Telephones, Medical antiseptics – Joseph Lister, Photography!

Industrial Growth was changing the nature of human life:

- * Workers and factory life – child labor was a problem
- * The rise of cities – for first time in history, more people lived in towns in England
- * More leisure time because of the time saving features of technology

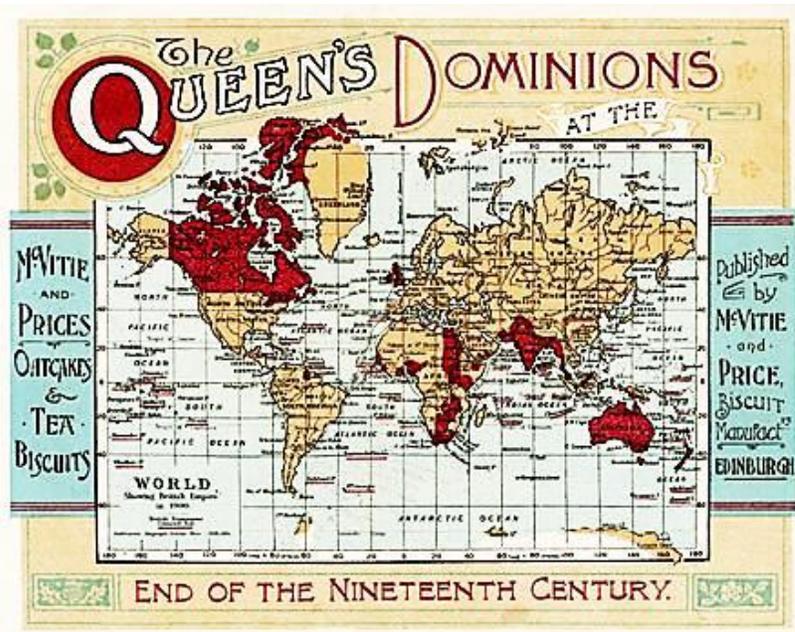
2. British Imperialism

The sun never set on the British Empire!

- * The geographical area of the English Empire took up 1/10 of the entire globe.
- * Controlling so much of the globe was an administrative nightmare.
- * India was one of their major colonies
- * England missionary societies sent missionaries to their colonies!



First photograph ever taken of Victoria!
She is with her eldest daughter



3. Increasing Moralism YET also Increasing Secularism

On the one hand, evolutionary thinking and German philosophies were leading people away from a Biblical worldview. On the other hand, Queen Victoria was making a moral lifestyle and values very popular!

* The English mothers and fathers were following the lead set by Victoria and Albert with their nine children!



4. The Growth of Socialism

- ✓ The restless working class clamored for the vote. More reform bills were passed that resulted in England becoming a democracy.
- ✓ A democracy is nothing more than mob rule on a national scale. A democracy always results in poor people voting themselves other people's money.
- ✓ A democracy is always a step toward Socialism.
- ✓ The Fabian Society of Socialist Intellectuals grew in power in England.
- ✓ The goal of the Fabian Socialists was:
 - (1) government control of industry and
 - (2) government control of money and finance
- ✓ The Labor Party in England was "The Workers Party" with strong ties to the Fabian Socialists.
- ✓ The Labor Party pushed for Labor Unions. Workers were forced to join labor unions and to pay union dues.
- ✓ Union leaders used union dues collected to fund campaigns for socialist candidates.
- ✓ Great Britain became a socialistic welfare state, as the modern era began.
- ✓ Great Britain had the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
- ✓ By vote of the House of Commons, the House of Lords was stripped of its power and allowed only an advisory function.
- ✓ This made the House of Commons the ruling group of England.
- ✓ The Prime Minister is the head of the majority party in the House of Commons, so the Prime Minister is the real ruler of England with his oligarchy being the House of Commons.
- ✓ Thus, Great Britain became a socialist oligarchy.



QUEEN VICTORIA ruled England 1837-1901

- ❖ Grew up under extremely overprotective mother
- ❖ Inherited throne at age 18 after her father's three older brothers died without any surviving children
- ❖ She married Prince Albert of Saxe-Colburg
- ❖ They had nine children
- ❖ Their children and grandchildren were married to royalty all over Europe, so Victoria was known as "The Grandmother of Europe"
 - *Grandson Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany
 - *Granddaughter Alexandra – Czarina of Russia – married to Czar Nicholas
 - *During World War One, her grandchildren were not all on the same sides!
- ❖ She reigned for 63 years and 7 months – the longest reign yet!
- ❖ Her husband died when they were both 42 years old – she went into a sort of seclusion afterward

EDWARD VII ruled England 1901-1910

- ❖ Son of Queen Victoria



GEORGE V ruled England 1910-1936

- ❖ Ruled during World War One



This Chapter's Authors

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

The Poet / In Memoriam
Morte d'Arthur / Crossing the Bar
Ulysses / Charge of the Light Brigade

- ❖ Poet
- ❖ He became known after writing In Memoriam
- ❖ Invented the ABBA rhyme scheme



ROBERT BROWNING & ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

Prospect
Home Thought from Abroad
How Do I Love Thee?

- ❖ Poets
- ❖ Considered to have romantic love story

MATTHEW ARNOLD

Dover Beach

- ❖ Poet – and later Prose
- ❖ A school inspector who became a social reformer



CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

Long Barren
Uphill

- ❖ Poet
- ❖ A strong Christian!

LEWIS CARROLL

Alice in Wonderland
Through the Looking Glass

- ❖ Poet and writer of Children's fiction
- ❖ His poems in his books are considered "nonsense poetry"! along with the poetry of Edward Lear



THOMAS HARDY

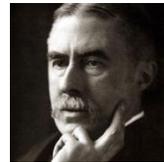
The Darkling Thrush / The Respectable Burgher
The Three Strangers
Far from the Madding Crowd / Return of the Native
Tess of the D'ubervilles / The Mayor of Casterbridge

- ❖ Poet & Writer of Fiction
- ❖ Disillusioned, he made it his mission to disillusion the world through his writing.

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

Pied Beauty / God's Grandeur

- ❖ Poet
- ❖ Not well-known until the twentieth century
- ❖ Powerfully influenced modern poetry



A. E. HOUSMAN

When I Was One-and-Twenty
To an Athlete Dying Young
Eight O'Clock / They Say My Verse is Sad

- ❖ Poet with a pessimistic view of the world
- ❖ Advocated a "live for the moment because you could die any moment" mentality

RUDYARD KIPLING

Wee Willie Winkie / If / The Jungle Book
The Conversion of Aurelian McGoggin

- ❖ Poet and writer of Fiction
- ❖ Very popular and highly regarded in his time
- ❖ Spent younger years in the British colony of India



ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Children's Garden of Verses
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Treasure Island

- ❖ Poet and writer of Fiction

CHARLES DICKENS

David Copperfield / Great Expectations
Bleak House / A Christmas Carol / Hard Times
Tale of Two Cities / Oliver Twist / Little Dorrit
The Old Curiosity Shop / Nicholas Nickleby

- ❖ His work has been praised for its realism, comedy, prose style, unique characterizations, and social criticism



OSCAR WILDE

The Importance of Being Earnest
The Happy Prince and Other Stories

- ❖ Irish writer and poet
- ❖ Playwright
- ❖ Lived immoral lifestyle

GEORGE ELIOT

Silas Marner / Middlemarch
Daniel Deronda / The Mill on the Floss

- ❖ Used a male pseudonym for her name Mary Anne Evans



H.G. WELLS

The War of the Worlds

- ❖ Strong Socialist and evolutionist