



# The Making of Victorian England

1837-1851



# Summary

- The North
- The South
- The railway system
- The mills
- Trade Unions and the Unions methods
- Canteens
- The school system
- The Great Exhibition

**VICTORIAN ERA**



# INTRODUCTION

- During the Victorian period, Britain was a **powerful** nation with a rich culture. It had:
  1. a **stable government**,
  2. a growing state
  3. an expanding franchise
  4. a large empire

## HENCE

Its wealth was the consequence of both its degree of industrialization and its imperial holdings . Three-fourths or more of its population was working-class.



# The North

- The Industrial Revolution had upset the English social system
- Millions of people had to move to the industrialized North as they had become destitute or deskilled.
- The North towns were:
  1. Overcrowded
  2. Dirty
  3. Filthy





# The South



- The South was still mostly agricultural with a strong élite of landowners.
- Such diversity will be rapidly bridged thanks to the quick development of railways
- The two poles will be then connected



# The Railway system

- The railway narrowed the physical and cultural distances between the North and South of England.
- **The first** passenger **railway** was the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. It was authorised by **Act of Parliament** in **1825**.
- The South Eastern Railway Act was passed just ten years later.





- The road transport could not compete with railways. Taking as example a journey from Manchester to Liverpool:
1. **By road**, the journey took four hours and cost 10 shillings inside the coach and 5 shillings outside.
  2. **By train**, the same journey took one and three-quarter hours, and cost 5 shillings inside and 3 shillings 6 pence outside.
  3. **By canal** 20 hours .



- By 1844, 2210 miles of line had been opened, making travel around the country:
  1. faster,
  2. more comfortable
  3. less expensive.
- As railways allowed people to travel further, more quickly, this allowed:
  1. leisure travel,
  2. the growth of seaside resorts.
  3. to live further from places of work (commuting)
  4. the growth of cities, by allowing the cheap transport of food and building materials.
- They also gave **a great stimulus to industry** by reducing
  1. the freight costs of heavy materials such as coal and minerals,
  2. costs of transporting finished goods around the country.





# The Mills

- (textile) Mills had:
  1. poor building structures,
  2. dangerous machinery,
  3. crowded boarding houses.
- Despite few Acts had already passed to reorganize labour:
  1. Accidents were frequent,
  2. Women and children worked long shifts.
- Employees usually worked:
  1. with no ventilation,
  2. breathing in toxic substances,
  3. inhaling fiber dust or blasted sand.



# Trade Unions



- During the 1830s labour unrest and trade union activity reached new levels.
- For the first time men began to organise trade associations with nationwide aims, such as **Robert Owen's** short-lived Grand National Consolidated Trades Union, formed in February 1834.
- Factory owners tried to prevent unions from forming:
  1. paying off union leaders so they would stay away.
  2. hiring workers who promised they would not join a union.
  3. using force to end union activities

The first such union was **the General Union of Trades**, also known as the Philanthropic Society, founded in 1818 in Manchester. The latter name was to hide the organization's real purpose in a time when trade unions were still illegal.

Unions were **legalised** in 1871 with the adoption of the Trade Union Act 1871.



# The Union methods



- Most strikes are undertaken by labor unions during **collective bargaining** .
- The object of collective bargaining is to obtain a contract (an agreement between the union and the company) .
- To make a strike successful, unions helped strikers prolong the protest as much as possible even granting some money to those in need.



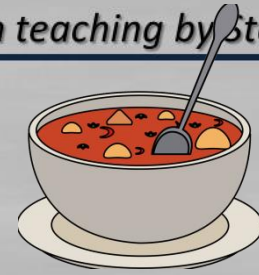
# Canteens? A good idea.

- The Industrial Revolution in the mid-19th Century regularised working hours, with labourers needing an early meal to sustain them at work.
- All classes started to eat a meal before going to work, even the bosses.





# Lunch time



- The origins of the word "lunch" are mysterious and complicated.
- "Lunch" was a very rare word up until the 19th Century.
- It was the Industrial Revolution that helped shape lunch as we know it today.
- Middle and lower class eating patterns were defined by working hours.
- Many were working long hours in factories and to sustain them a noon-time meal was essential.





# The school system

- Study was for around **50 days** with lessons commonly starting at 9 a.m. and finishing in the afternoon.
- This type of arrangement was needed because students may have had to work .
- During the late 18th century, Sunday schools held at church or chapel became widely popular.
- They provided children from poor families with another opportunity to receive some basic learnings, usually the ability to read.



# The Great Exhibition





# A Brilliant Showcase of Technology

- The idea of the Great Exhibition originated with Henry Cole and Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria.
- Albert knew that the show would have placed Britain at the forefront of technology by displaying its latest inventions, everything from massive steam engines to the latest cameras.
- Other nations were invited to participate, and the official name of the show was **The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations.**
- The Crystal Palace, was constructed of prefabricated cast iron and panes of plate glass and it was designed by architect Joseph Paxton.





# Spectacular inventions

- Crowds flocked to see gleaming steam engines designed to be used aboard ships or in factories.
- The Great Western Railway displayed a locomotive.
- As machines that turned raw cotton into finished cloth were in the show. Spectators could watch spinning machines and power looms manufacture fabric before their eyes.
- Queen Victoria formally opened the Great Exhibition.
- More than a **half-million spectators** watched the royal procession move through the streets of London from Buckingham Palace to the Exhibition.



