

Height of British Empire

Battle Waterloo(1815) to Death of Queen Victoria (1903)



By Teresa Roth of Heritage History

troth@heritage-history.com

Victorian England

- 1815 **Battle of Waterloo**, end of Napoleonic Wars
- 1829 Catholic Emancipation in Ireland—Catholics can Vote
- 1832 **Reform Act**—Redistricted—Whigs take control
- 1833 Abolition of Slavery in British colonies
- 1837 **Queen Victoria** Ascends to the throne
- 1840 **First Opium War**
- 1842 First Afghan War—**Massacre at Khyber Pass**
- 1846 **Potato Famine** in Ireland. Repeal of Corn Laws
- 1850 **Factory Acts** address Child Labor
- 1851 Great Exhibition in Crystal Palace
- 1852 David Livingstone's first expedition in Africa
- 1854 **Crimean War**
- 1857 **Indian Mutiny**



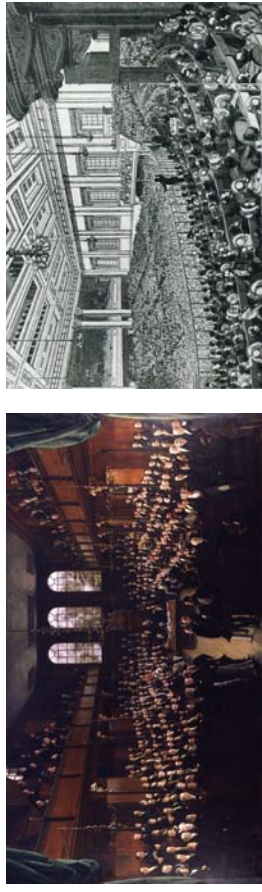
Victorian England

- 1868 Gladstone promotes Liberal Domestic Reforms
- 1870 Education bill passed—National Primary Education
- 1874 **Disraeli** promotes Conservative Imperial Agenda
- 1875 Egyptian shares of **Suez Canal** sold to Britain
- 1879 Disaster in **Zulu War** at Isandlwana
- 1881 Disaster in **First Boer War** at Majuba Hill
- 1882 Egypt made a Protectorate of Britain
- 1898 Battle of Omdurman, Mahdists defeated in Sudan
- 1899 **Second Boer War**, Union of South Africa
- 1901 Death of **Queen Victoria**
- 1914 Beginning of Great War (WWI)



Victorian Era Politics—Overview

- 1680's to 1840's main parties were **Whigs** and **Tories**
 - Tories dominated during French Revolution, Napoleonic Wars
 - In **1832** Whigs passed '**Reform Act**' gained control of Parliament
- Social Reforms long favored by **Liberals** finally passed
 - **Abolished Slavery** in English colonies
 - Early Attempts to provide for **National Education**
 - **Factory Acts** passed to deal with child-labor problems
 - **Poor Laws** established national "Work Houses"
- Major Realignment in 1846 when **Corn Laws** were abolished
 - Free-Trade Whigs became **Liberals**
 - Protectionist Whigs and Tories became **Conservatives**



Reform Act of 1832

- **Parliament—House of Lords**
 - Hereditary members, and members appointed by King
 - Had to approve of new legislation
- **Parliament—House of Commons**
 - Controlled Taxes, Elected Prime Minister
- Members elected by 'Boroughs' defined in the 1600s.
 - What is a 'Borough' and who gets to vote?
- Many 'Rotten Boroughs' by 1800's, 'seats' could be purchased
- **Urban Middle Class (Whigs) favored "Reform"**
 - Wanted votes for large town, but exclude "landless" poor
 - Country unified under Tories until after Waterloo



Whig Reforms

- **Abolished Slavery in English Dominions**
 - Paid £20,000,000 to compensate slave owners.
 - Most effected West Indies and South Africa.
 - Boers of South Africa split over issue
- **National Education**
 - Early Reforms subsidized existing schools
 - Later mandated compulsory 5-13 schools
- **Factory Acts**
 - Attempts to regulate 'Child Labor' were difficult
 - Reforms included limiting working hours
 - Paid inspectors verified working conditions
 - Reforms failed to address underlying conditions
- **Poor Laws**
 - 'Work houses' were built for paupers
 - Separated family members, institutionalized poor
 - Wanted to avoid giving hand-outs to shiftless.



Corn Law Repeal

- **Corn Laws** Enacted in 1815, limited imports of food.
 - Increased cost of living for town-folk, factory workers
 - Benefited peasants who grew own food, large land owners.
 - Affected cost of manufactured goods—inhibited "Free Trade".
- **Anti-Corn-Law League** founded in 1838
 - First national lobbying group, targeted key campaigns
 - Financed by bankers, pro-free-trade industrial interests
 - Demonized 'wealthy landlords', glorified 'poor workers'
- Repealed in 1846, under Prime Minister **Robert Peel**
 - Irish Potato Famine (1845-52) forced the Issue
- **Very controversial, reframed political parties**



THE URBAN MIDDLE CLASS STRONGLY SUPPORTED REPEAL OF CORN LAWS.

Victorian Party Politics

- From 1840s to 1900 Parliament changed hands many times
 - Change often due to foreign policy disaster/disgust with ruling party
 - No party stayed in power more than 7 years
 - British foreign policy changed depending on Secretary of State
 - Changing alliances with "Great Powers"— France/Spain/Russia/Prussia
 - Colonial policies varied— rarely carried out consistently
- | Year | Party | Years in Power | Prime Minister |
|------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1841 | Tories | 5 Years | Peel |
| 1846 | Whigs | 6 Years | Russell |
| 1852 | Conservatives | 3 Years | Derby |
| 1855 | Whigs | 3 Years | Palmerston |
| 1858 | Conservatives | 1 Year | Derby |
| 1859 | Liberals | 7 Years | Palmerston |
| 1866 | Conservatives | 2 Years | Disraeli |
| 1868 | Liberals | 6 Years | Gladstone |
| 1874 | Conservatives | 6 Years | Disraeli |
| 1880 | Liberals | 5 Years | Gladstone |
| 1885 | Conservatives | 7 Years | Salisbury |
| 1892 | Liberals | 3 Years | Gladstone |
| 1895 | Conservatives | 7 Years | Salisbury |



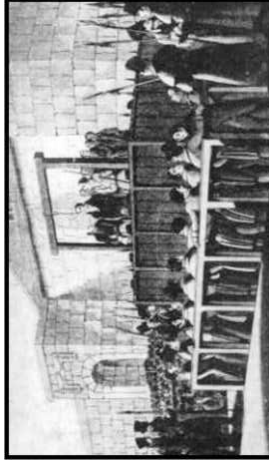
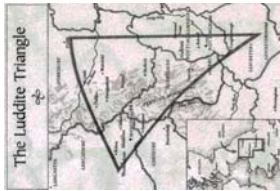
FROM TOP: LORD PALMERSTON, BENJAMIN DISRAELI, WILLIAM GLADSTONE

Social Problems—Luddites

- Greatest opposition to Factory System was displaced workers.
 - Textile manufacture threatened livelihood of millions
 - Flying Shuttle, Spinning Jenny, Power Loom were opposed by “Luddites”
 - Opposition became frantic after introduction of steam power
- Government harshly punished Luddites
 - Made destruction of Looms/factories a capital crime.
- Reformers often from wealthy class that profited from free-trade
 - They sought to reduce abuses but not to eliminate the factories

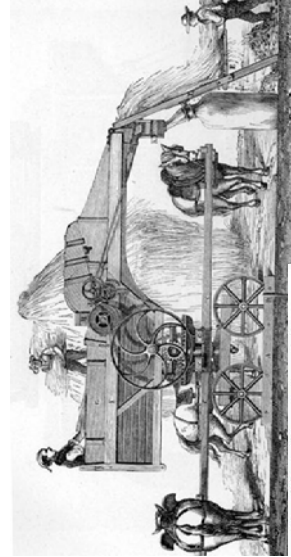
“It is a general popular error to suppose the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare . . .”

Edmund Burke



Agricultural Revolution

- Efficient farming techniques drove tenant farmers off land
 - Crop Rotation, better transportation, selective breeding
 - Farming became a business, farmers needed loans for equipment
 - Fueled population growth in England/Wales villages (more food)
- Former peasants flocked to cities, sought work in factories
 - Parish based charity didn't work for mobile population
 - Family break-down more common among unrooted populations



Year	Wheat	Rye	Barley	Oats	Peas
1550	7.88	9.21	8.40	7.87	7.62
1650	11.36	14.19	12.48	10.82	8.39
1750	17.26	17.87	21.88	20.90	14.19
1850	26.69	26.18	23.82	31.36	16.30



REWARDS!

WHEREAS John Williams fell on the Night of Wednesday the 22nd Day of July 1812 in the County of Middlesex, in the West-riding of the County of York, Cheshire, and intent to MURDER him, of which W would be lie in a dangerous state

A Reward of 200 Guineas

AND WHEREAS John Williams, a free man, was on the 22nd day of July 1812, in the County of Middlesex, in the West-riding of the County of York, Cheshire, and intent to MURDER him, of which W would be lie in a dangerous state

A Reward of Twenty Guineas

AND WHEREAS John Williams, a free man, was on the 22nd day of July 1812, in the County of Middlesex, in the West-riding of the County of York, Cheshire, and intent to MURDER him, of which W would be lie in a dangerous state

34+

One Thousand POUNDS REWARD.

WHEREAS on the Night of Sunday the 19th of January, 1812, the Mill belonging to Messrs. Oates, Wood and Smithson, are at Oatlands, near Leeds, was maliciously set on Fire—And on the Morning of the Twenty-fourth of March, 1812, several Persons entered the MILL of MESSRS. W. M. THOMPSON & BROTHERS, and destroyed the SHEARERS and MACHINERY therein—And on the Morning of the 26th, some Persons, Messrs. Dickinson, Carr and Co. VANTOTALLY DESTROYED CLOTH, TO A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT.

1000 POUNDS

“Certain inventors in machinery were introduced into the staple manufactures of the country, which were attended with the advantage of being more productive, and of expediting the rate of work, and left them without legitimate means of sustaining life.”

WE PETITION NO MORE. THAT WON'T DO - FIGHTING MUST.

LUDDITES

Being a Social Uprising in the Midlands of England between the Years of 1811 and 1813

TO PUT DOWN ALL MACHINERY HURTFUL TO COMMONALITY!

“Machinery generates being, those sufferers hated the machines which they believed took

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE LUDDITES, In Reference to the Destruction of Machinery, &c. &c.



Child Labor Reform

- Obviously terrible abuses but hard to fix
- Most children had always worked at home
 - Children worked on farms, shepherded flocks, gathered crops, tended livestock, watched toddlers
 - Boys became apprentices at 10. Home-based child labor normal.
- Fatherless families had no means of support, no welfare
 - Mothers and children had to support themselves somehow.
- “Regulation” of diverse industries was complicated
 - Mining, textiles worst exploiters, but others not as bad
 - Who would be penalized? Owners or foremen?
 - What type of fines? How would complaints be adjudicated.
- No public education existed for children who lost jobs.



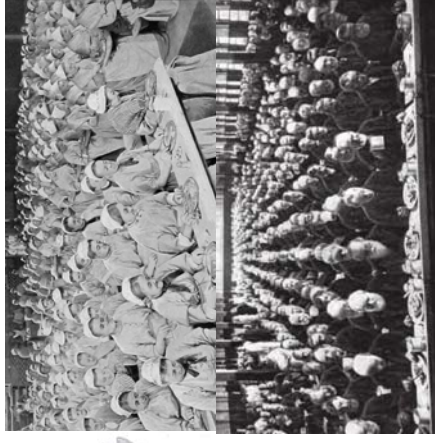
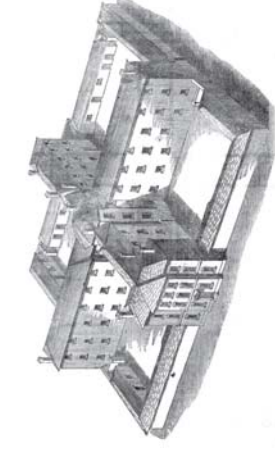
Work Houses for Poor

- Parish **outside relief** offered money, food, clothing
 - Usually no requirement to work
 - Funded by local taxes, tithes,
 - Difficult for mobile population, mass unemployment
- ‘Modern’ Reformers favored ‘work houses’
 - Wanted to instill a “work ethic” not give handouts
- Money, control of parish tithes, endowments were a factor
 - Parishes objected to redirecting local money to workhouses.
 - Local foundations wanted to retain control
 - ~~Work houses more expensive than “outside relief”~~



Work Houses—Social Engineering

- Protestant ideas about poverty date to Tudor Times
 - ‘Vagrancy Laws’ passed by Tudors after ‘enclosures’ displaced thousands
- Reformers designed workhouses to ‘fix’ poverty, encourage industry
 - Men, Women, Children, Elderly housed separately
 - Sought to make work-house life unpleasant, families separated
 - Able bodied inmates worked. Smoking and drinking were forbidden



Many Victorian era reformers considered paupers to be lazy. The economy was booming. Cheap land was available in colonies? Why didn't these people go to work?

“In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of.” —Confucius

National Education

- British Education was a patchwork, many independent schools, churches, foundations
 - Much resistance to “national schools” because of thousands of independent academies
- First national school reforms taken in 1830
 - Parliament could not establish government schools from scratch so subsidized existing schools
 - Schools for the poor factory children was main justification for program of national education.
- Mandatory schooling for children 5-13 by 1880.
 - Families resisted because work paid, school did not



CONQUEST OF IRELAND



CROMWELL AT DROGHEDA



IRISH CROSS

Ireland Under Britain

- 1603 **Brutal Conquest of Ireland** Under Elizabeth I.
- 1641-51 Rebellion in Ireland during **English Civil War**.
- 1649 **Cromwell** conquers Ireland, dispossess Catholics.
- 1688-91 **Williamite War** in Ireland when **James II** was deposed.
- 1691 **Penal laws** oppressed, terrorized Irish Catholics.

Penal Laws

... *Laws as well fitted for the oppression, impoverishment and degradation of a people, ... as ever proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man—Burke*

- William III convened an all Protestant Parliament
 - Lands that had been returned to Catholic nobles, retaken
 - Catholics excluded from Parliament, all public offices
- Harsh **Penal laws** passed, Catholics forbidden to . . .
 - Teach school or send children to Catholic schools.
 - Buy land, sign long-term lease, or inherit property;
 - Adopt a child, keep a valuable horse, or bear arms.
 - Priests had to register with government. All bishops exiled.
 - Sons who became Protestant inherited all fathers land.
 - Vital Irish industries forbidden to compete with England.
- Penal Laws partially repealed during American Revolution to prevent a rebellion.



Before the Irish Potato Famine

- Since 1691 Irish Catholics subject to Penal laws
 - Prohibited from purchasing/leasing land, living near a town, educating children, entering a profession, etc...
 - Reforms made in 1829, but too late.
 - Population of Ireland quadrupled (4x) between 1740 and 1840;
- As population grew, fewer acres available for family farms.
 - Most acreage dedicated to cash crops for Absentee landlords
- Potato was only crop that could support large family on small plot.
- Much of Ireland owned by absentee landlords, public corporations
 - ‘Orangemen’ of Ulster hostile to Catholics; landlords dependent on middlemen



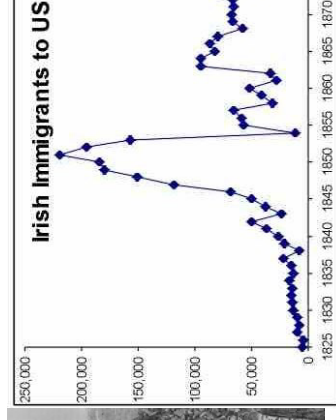
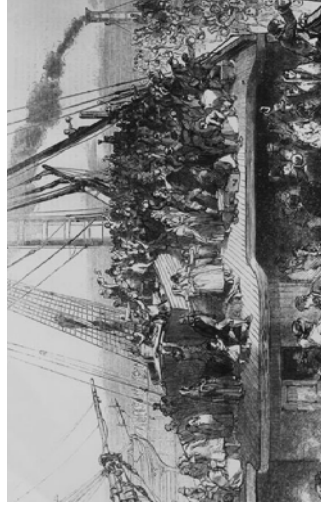
Potato Famine (1845-52)

- Britain reacted by abolishing corn laws
 - Gradually eliminated grain tariffs over 3 years
 - Immediate relief would have been more helpful
- Ireland exported grain during the famine.
 - Economic system made it impossible to redirect cash crops to Irish peasants.
 - Absentee Landlords did not see suffering, learned of famine through newspapers
- Irish population fell 25% in 10 years
 - Approx. 1 million died, 1 million emigrated
 - Many died of disease due to weakened condition
 - Famine affected poorest, most vulnerable families



Irish Immigration

- Over 2 M Irish immigrated between 1845 and 1855
 - Most went to America, Canada, Australia, other British colonies
 - Over 250,000 fled to England/Scotland
- Landlords paid fare to evict unwanted, starving tenants
 - Had to pay tithes, taxes for destitute tenants . . .
 - Cheaper to evict, deport them than to pay their taxes for them.
 - “Coffin ships” had 30% mortality on crossing, little food, water..
- Large Irish migration to English speaking nations
 - Irish immigrants re-invigorated Catholic Church throughout British Empire
 - Catholic Church re-instituted British archbishop in 1850.



Home Rule for Ireland

"We are bound to lose Ireland in consequence of years of cruelty, stupidity and misgovernment and I would rather lose her as a friend than as a foe."
 —William Gladstone

- Ireland was festering political problem for 300 years
 - Cruelty and injustice alienated the Irish against Britain
 - Ireland was unwillingly united to UK from 1801 to 1912
 - O'Connell, Gladstone, Parnell advocated Irish 'Home Rule'
- Irish Protestants strongly opposed Irish independence
 - "Orangemen" of N. Ireland were very anti-Catholic
 - Protestants were a majority in N. Ireland (Ulster)
- Gladstone promoted Home Rule in spite of resistance
 - Lost his position as Prime Minister several times over the issue
- Political gains made, but no Independence until 1922
 - Penal Laws revoke (1829), Catholics allowed to vote (1829)
 - Land reform (1870+), Church of Ireland dissolved (1869)
- Political gains made, but no Independence until 1922
 - Irish Rebellion during Great War forced issue in 1914
 - Catholic patriots divided between moderates and radicals
 - Compromise of 1922: North Ireland remained part of UK, Catholic South became the Republic of Ireland



DANIEL O'CONNELL



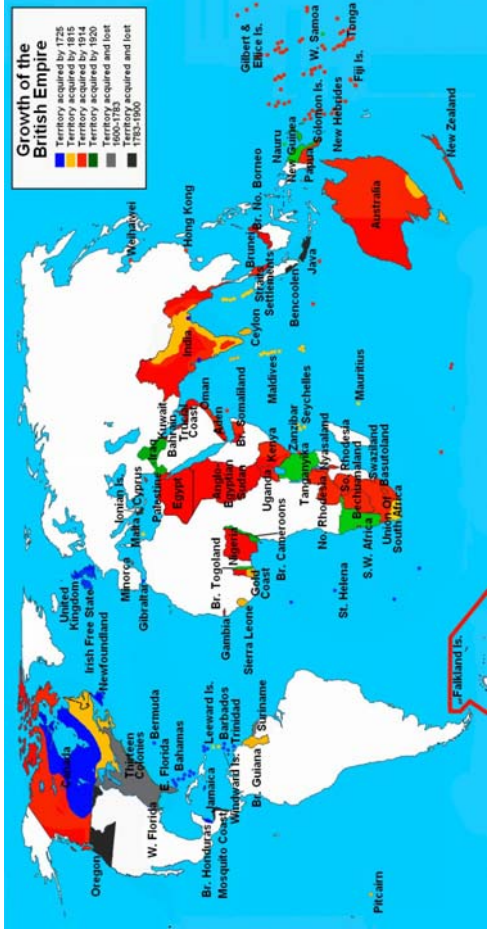
WILLIAM GLADSTONE



CHARLES PARNELL



Growth of Empire—Territory



Growth of Empire—Population

	Britain	Canada	Australia	United States
1600	4,000,000	-	-	-
1700	5,000,000	-	-	250,000
1750	5,800,000	-	-	1,200,000
1800	8,000,000	1,000,000	5,000	5,300,000
1850	20,000,000	3,200,000	405,000	23,000,000
1900	40,000,000	5,300,000	3,800,000	76,000,000



ABUNDANT INEXPENSIVE LAND IN COLONIES, BOOMING ECONOMY THROUGHOUT EMPIRE DROVE POPULATION GROWTH. MEN AND WOMEN COULD AFFORD TO MARRY YOUNG, OWN A HOME, SUPPORT LARGE FAMILIES.

Commerce

Canada: wheat, bacon, cheese, salt, fish, eggs, apples, furs, skins, leather, timber;

Australia: wool, tallow, fresh mutton, preserved meat, silver and gold ore, hides, furs, skins, wheat and flour, butter, rabbits, and wine;

New Zealand: wool, gold, grain, hides, skins, butter, and cheese.

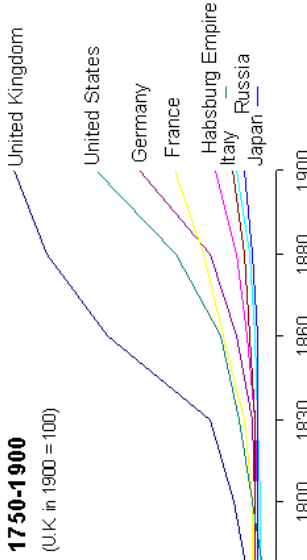
South Africa: gold, diamonds, and other precious stones, ostrich feathers, skins, hides, furs;

India: rice, cotton and silk, jute, oil,

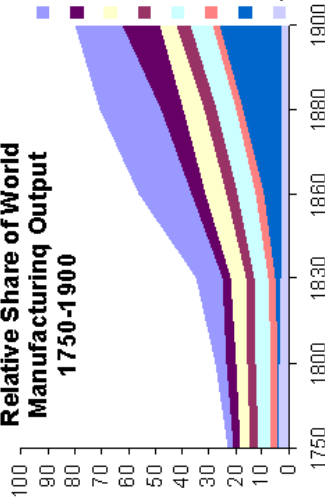
Relative Levels of Industrialization.

1750-1900

(U.K. in 1900 = 100)



Relative Share of World Manufacturing Output 1750-1900

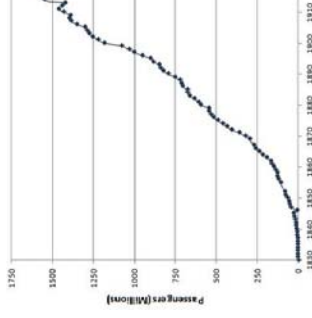
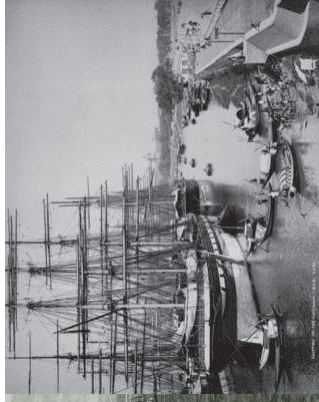
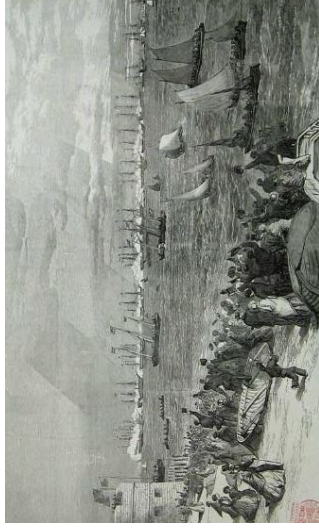


British Exports

Machinery, electrical devices steel, water and gas pipes, ready-made clothing, soap, candles, books, pictures, glass, china, drugs, pianos, arms, ammunition, tools, railroads, telegraphs. **Middle Class** standard of living reached unprecedented heights

Rail and Shipping

- 1837—Accession of Victoria
 - 624 Steamers, 18,000 Sailing Ships
 - < 1 million annual passenger rail miles
- 1903—Death of Victoria
 - 9,000 Steamers, 10,000 Sailing Ships
 - 70 times the Tonnage of 1800 fleet.
 - > 1.5 billion annual passenger rail miles



Banking and Finance

- Britain was main beneficiary of global commerce and industrial revolution
 - By 1900 control 50% of world trade
- Bank of England was first central bank
 - Banker for all colonial possessions
- British Pound was currency of world trade
 - British banks supported Free-trade, low-tariffs
 - Influence d press, public opinion, government policy
 - Financed elections, lobbied ministers
 - Promoted superficial "reforms"
- Advanced \$\$\$ products needed for global trade.
 - Insurance, Incorporation, Bonds
 - Joint stock companies, transparent accounting



Victorian Foreign Policy Crises

- 1840 First **Opium War**
- 1842 **Massacre** at Khyber Pass (India)
- 1846 Irish Potato Famine
- 1854 **Crimean War** (Ottoman)
- 1857 **Indian Mutiny** (India)
- 1878 Bulgarian Atrocities (Ottoman)
- 1879 Zulu **Massacre** at Isandlwana
- 1880 First **Boer War**
- 1885 Expedition to Khartoum (Ottoman)
- 1896 Jameson Raid in Transvaal
- 1899 Second **Boer War**



MASSACRE AT KHYBER PASS



INDIAN MUTINY—LUCKNOW

The Eastern Question

- What should be done about declining **Ottoman Empire**?

- **Most important foreign policy question in Europe during 19th century**
- **Crimean War** was one of 3 major 19th century **Russo-Turkish War**
- **War of Greek Independence, Balkan Wars, World War I** were all related

- All major European powers had an Agenda

- Russians sought control of the Balkans, Constantinople
- France sought colonial territories in Algeria, influence in Syria-Palestine
- Jewish Zionists sought homeland in Palestine
- Britain sought to reduce Russian influence, keep control of trade
- Austria was threatened by nationalist movements in the Balkans
- Germany (late to the game, VERY ambitious) wanted "a place in the sun."

- **Crimean War** was an **open conflict** . but it was only the tip of the iceberg. . . .

- British bankers were always working behind the scenes
- European diplomats were always conniving
- Trying to understand will make your head explode



Eastern Crisis of 1875-78

- Since **Crimean War**, Ottomans indebted to **French and British Banks**

- Attempted to raise taxes triggered wave of Balkan Wars

- **Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78**

- Led to independence of Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro
- Bulgaria gained unofficial independence from Ottomans
- Russia gained significant territory in Caucasuses

- **Ottoman Public Debt Administration**

- 1881: Banks controlled Organization, ran Empire
- Handled all tax collection, paid creditors
- Financed railways, public and industrial projects
- Empire lost all independence, entirely subservient to banks



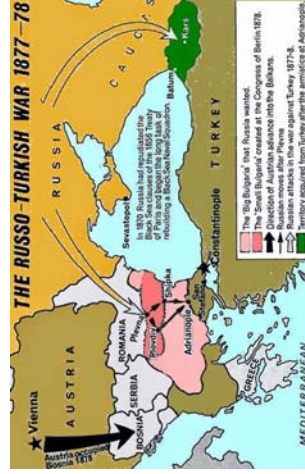
KING MILO OF SERBIA



KING CARLO OF ROMANIA



EUROPEAN BANKERS TOOK OVER CONTROL OF OTTOMAN FINANCES IN 1881

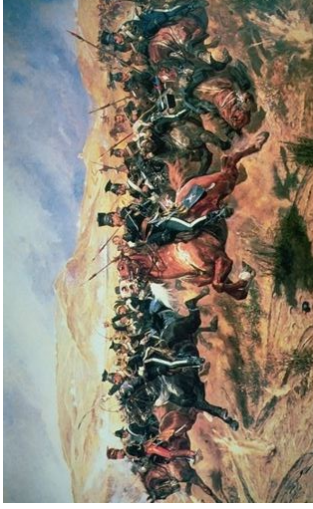


Crimean War (1853-1855)

- France and Britain supported the **Ottoman Turks**
- They propped up a corrupt, degenerate, Moslem regime
- In spite of its persecution and massacre of Christians
- To prevent a rival Christian power from taking Constantinople
- They wanted to partition the region and control it indirectly
- Since direct colonization was not practical

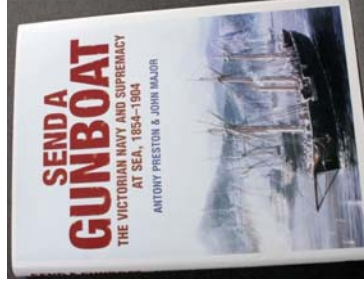
Children's version is somewhat simpler:

- **Battle of the Light Brigade**—heroism of British soldiers
- **Florence Nightingale**—heroism of British nurses



AT BALAKLAVA A BRITISH REGIMENT FOLLOWED A (MISTAKEN) ORDER TO CHARGE DIRECTLY INTO THE RUSSIAN LINES WITHOUT SUPPORT OF ALLIES.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SET UP FIELD HOSPITALS THAT MUCH DECREASED MORTALITY OF BRITISH SOLDIERS.



British Foreign Policy

British fingers in every pie

- **Opium Wars** in China forced Asia Open to Trade
- Supported "Liberal Republicans" in Spain, South America
- Supported "Patriots" in 1848 Rebellions, **Italian Unification**
- Supported **Napoleon III** in France, Kossuth in Hungary
- Defended Ottomans from Russia; made Egypt a **Protectorate**

Methods of Indirect Diplomacy

- Bank Loans, trade agreements with 'Liberal' parties
- Control of Press, directed "Public Opinion"
- Gunboat diplomacy to "Protect British citizens"

Lord Palmerston (in power 1830-1865) was evil genius



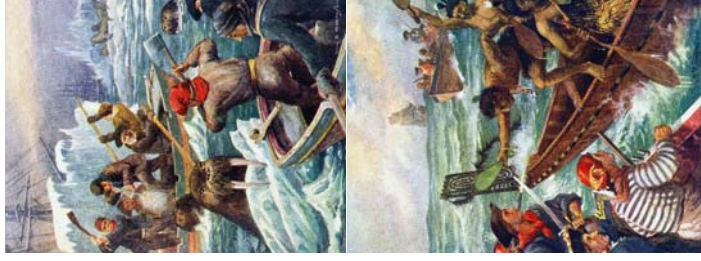
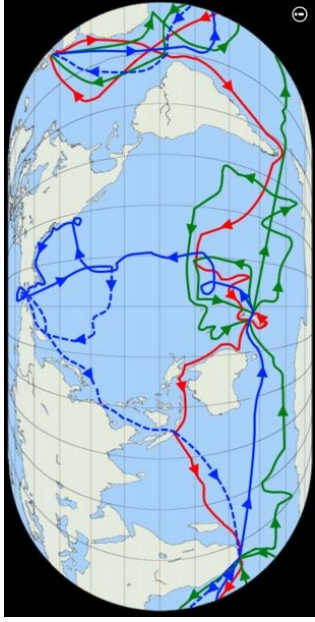
BRITAIN FOREIGN SECRETARY INSISTED ON FORCING CHINA TO OPEN PORTS TO OPIUM TRADE. BRITAIN GAINED HONG KONG



BRITISH NAVY ESCORTED GARIBALDI & 'REDSHIRTS' TO SICILY. HELPED 'NEGOTIATE' SURRENDER OF NAPLES.

Voyages of Captain Cook

- Three Voyages between 1768-1779
 - Voyages were for 'scientific' purpose, not conquest
 - Charted 100s of islands, including Tahiti, Hawaii
 - Claimed Australia, New Zealand for Britain
 - Charted coastlines throughout Pacific
 - Sailed South of the Antarctic Circle
 - Improved crew health, prevented Scurvy
- Cook's discoveries help "professionalized" navy



Australia, New Zealand

- Australia too peaceful & civilized for interesting history
 - Founded as a penal colony, 5 years after American revolution
 - Sheep farming established as main industry in 1801
 - Gold discovered in 1851—Rebellion at goldfield kill 27
 - Famous outlaw Ned Kelly caught and hung in 1880.
- New Zealand history almost as ~~###~~ serene.
 - Settled by peaceful missionaries, but . . .
 - Natives were feisty—managed a few rebellions
 - “Flagstaff War” killed over 100 natives

