

QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE SHAPING OF A NATION

1. QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN

AGE OF STABILITY

QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN BROUGHT STABILITY, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS, AND SOCIAL REFORMS.

MARRIAGE TO PRINCE ALBERT

PRINCE ALBERT'S ROLE

PRINCE ALBERT ADVISED AND HELPED QUEEN VICTORIA, EARNING HIM THE TITLE OF PRINCE CONSORT.

LENGTH OF REIGN

QUEEN VICTORIA RULED FOR ALMOST 64 YEARS, MAKING HER ONE OF THE LONGEST-REIGNING MONARCHS IN BRITISH HISTORY.

2. REFORMS

FIRST REFORM ACT

THE FIRST REFORM ACT EXPANDED VOTING RIGHTS BY TRANSFERRING PRIVILEGES FROM SMALL SELF-GOVERNING URBAN COMMUNITIES TO LARGE INDUSTRIAL TOWNS.

FACTORY ACT

THE FACTORY ACT LIMITED WORKING HOURS FOR CHILDREN AND OLDER CHILDREN IN ORDER TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT

WORKHOUSES

THE POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT CREATED WORKHOUSES, INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE CHURCH THAT AIMED TO IMPROVE THE POOR TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN CONDITIONS THROUGH HARD WORK AND REGIMENTATION.

SECOND REFORM ACT

THE SECOND REFORM ACT ENFRANCHISED PART OF THE URBAN MIDDLE WORKING CLASS IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND INTRODUCED THE SECRET BALLOT.

3. TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

INDUSTRIALIZATION

ENGLAND EXPERIENCED A WAVE OF INDUSTRIALIZATION LEADING TO CHANGES IN SOCIETY AND THE ECONOMY.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION

CRYSTAL PALACE

THE GREAT EXHIBITION, ORGANIZED BY PRINCE ALBERT, SHOWCASED BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC POWER AND WAS HOUSED IN THE CRYSTAL PALACE IN HYDE PARK.

TRANSPORTATION

LONDON UNDERGROUND

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND AND THE USE OF RAILWAYS FOR TRANSPORTATION HELPED TO TRANSPORT MATERIALS IN A MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAY.

4. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OPPIUM WARS

FIRST OPPIUM WAR

THE FIRST OPPIUM WAR WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA OVER THE SUPPRESSION OF THE OPPIUM TRADE.

SECOND OPPIUM WAR

THE SECOND OPPIUM WAR INVOLVED BRITAIN AND FRANCE AGAINST CHINA IN AN EFFORT TO CONTINUE THE OPPIUM TRADE.

IRISH POTATO FAMINE

THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE, CAUSED BY BAD WEATHER AND A PLANT DISEASE, LED TO A LARGE NUMBER OF DEATHS AND EMIGRATION, AND FORCED THE PRIME MINISTER TO ABOLISH THE CORN LAWS.

CRIMEAN WAR

BRITAIN AND FRANCE GOT INVOLVED IN THE CRIMEAN WAR TO PREVENT RUSSIA FROM BECOMING TOO POWERFUL AGAINST THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

5. THE VICTORIAN AGE

AGE OF COMPLEX

THE VICTORIAN AGE WAS A TIME OF PROGRESS AND MODERNITY, BUT ALSO COEXISTED WITH POVERTY AND INJUSTICE, AND SAW A REVIVAL OF GOTHIC AND CLASSICISM IN ART.

EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AND MANNERS

THE VICTORIAN AGE PLACED EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION, HYGIENE, AND GOOD MANNERS, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING UP APPEARANCES AND LOOKING AFTER ONE'S FAMILY TO BE CONSIDERED "RESPECTABLE."

HYPOCRISY AND MORALITY

THE CONCEPT OF RESPECTABILITY USED TO HIDE POVERTY AND SOCIAL UNREST, WAS A MIXTURE OF HYPOCRISY AND MORALITY, WITH VIRGINITY BEING HIGHLY VALUED AND SINGLE MOTHERS BEING MARGINALIZED.

9. WOMEN WRITERS

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

DESPITE THE SUBJUGATION OF WOMEN DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA, A SURPRISING NUMBER OF NOVELS WERE WRITTEN BY WOMEN, OFTEN WITH A REALISTIC EXPLORATION OF WOMEN'S DAILY LIVES AND VALUES.

READERSHIP

THE MAJORITY OF READERS DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA WERE WOMEN, WHO HAD MORE TIME TO READ THAN MEN.

PSEUDONYMS

MANY WOMEN WRITERS USED MALE PSEUDONYMS IN ORDER TO GET PUBLISHED.

8. NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES

OMNISCIENT NARRATOR

THE USE OF AN OMNISCIENT NARRATOR IN VICTORIAN NOVELS CREATED A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG, WITH RETRIBUTION AND PUNISHMENT BEING A COMMON THEME.

SETTING AND CHARACTERS

VICTORIAN NOVELS OFTEN HAD A CITY SETTING AND REALISTIC CHARACTERS THAT THE PUBLIC COULD EASILY IDENTIFY WITH.

TYPES OF NOVELS

THE VICTORIAN NOVEL ENCOMPASSED VARIOUS GENRES, INCLUDING NOVELS OF MANNERS, HUMANITARIAN NOVELS, NOVELS OF FORMATION, AND LITERARY NONSENSE.

7. VICTORIAN NOVEL

READERS AND WRITERS

THE GROWTH OF THE MIDDLE CLASS LED TO A STRONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN READERS AND WRITERS, WITH LITERATURE BEING PUBLISHED IN SERIAL FORM.

PUBLISHING WORLD

VICTORIAN LITERATURE WAS PUBLISHED IN INSTALLMENTS, ALLOWING WRITERS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH READERS AND MAKE CHANGES TO THEIR STORIES BASED ON PUBLIC OPINION.

PROSE

THE SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE INFLUENCED THE POPULARITY OF NOVELS, WHICH AIMED TO REFLECT ON SOCIAL CHANGES AND BRING ABOUT REALIZATIONS.

6. POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

LIBERAL PARTY

WILLIAM GLADSTONE LED THE PARTY AND INTRODUCED VARIOUS ACTS FOCUSED ON EDUCATION, TRADE UNIONS, AND VOTING RIGHTS.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

BENJAMIN DISRAELI LED THE PARTY AND PASSED ACTS RELATED TO HOUSING, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND WORKING HOURS.

END OF THE ERA

THE VICTORIAN ERA ENDED WITH THE DEATH OF QUEEN VICTORIA IN 1901.