

The Great Transformation and the Enclosure Movements

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Enclosures: overview

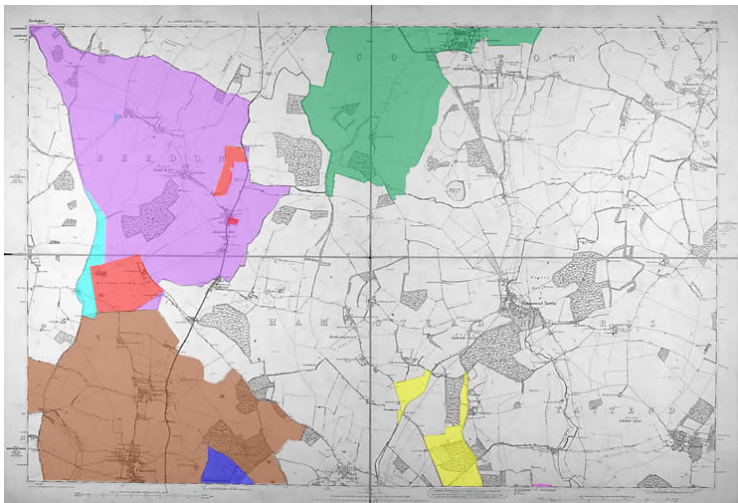
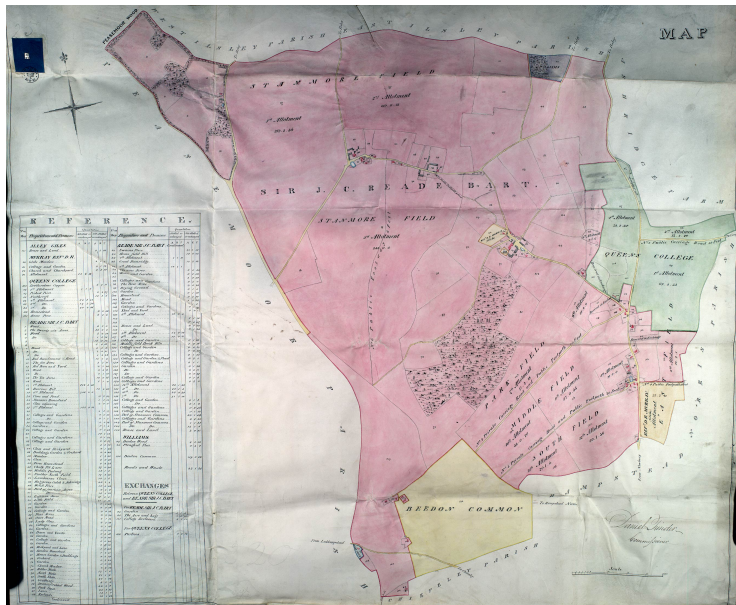


Figure: Maps of Enclosure in Berkshire

Enclosures: overview



Indoor relief

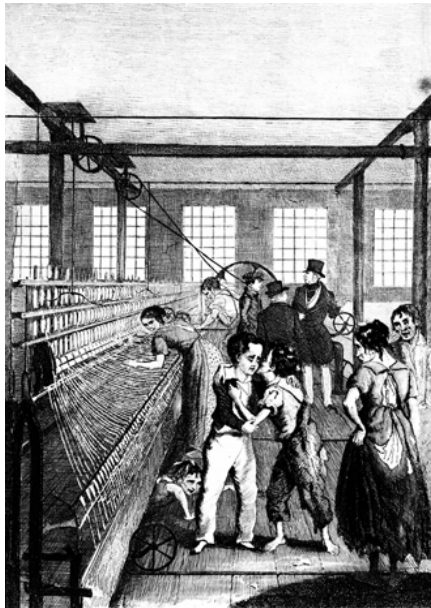


Figure: The Libby Debtor's Prison (David Bly)

Cottage industry



The Victorian Factory

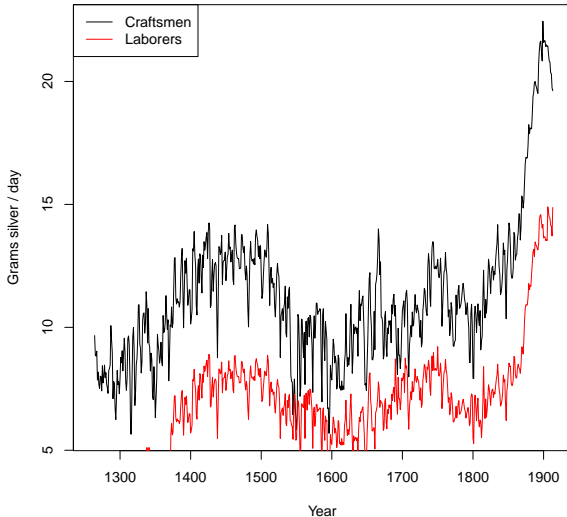


Timeline: the commodification of the economy

- 1776: *The Wealth of Nations*
- 1795: Speenhamland begins
- 1798: War with France; price and import controls
- 1815: Waterloo
- 1821: Britain returns to the gold standard; deflation
- 1825: The Panic of 1825
- 1832: Reform Acts
- 1834: Repeal of the Poor Laws
- 1846: Repeal of the Corn Laws
- 1851: The Great Exhibition in London

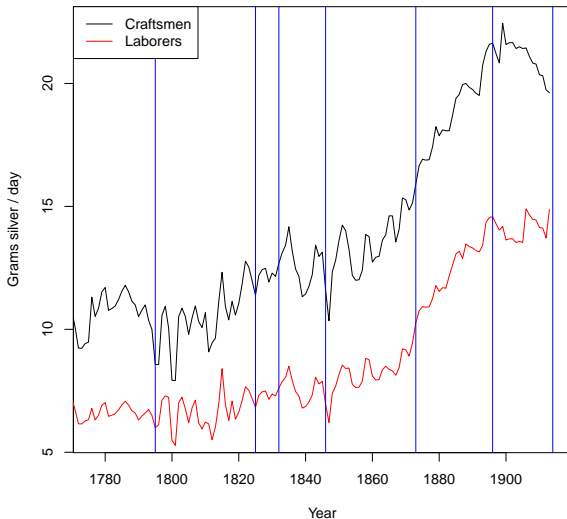
Workingmen's wages

Real Wages, London



Workingmen's wages, 19th c.

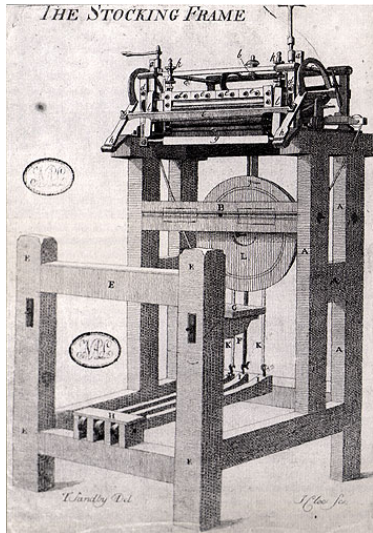
Real Wages, London



Timeline: the “de-commodification” of the economy

- 1811-1819: Luddism
- 1838-50: The Chartist movement
- 1847: The 10-hour workday introduced
- 1848: The major Chartist conventions, paralleling 1848 on the Continent
- 1859: Birth of the Liberal Party
- 1859-65: Construction of the London sewer system
- 1866: Trade Unions Congress formed
- 1870: Public Education introduced
- 1871: Trade unions gain legal legitimacy via Parliament
- 1901: Taff Vale recognizes unions as corporate entities
- 1906: Liberal party collapses over disagreements on free trade
- 1906: Labour Party formed
- 1906: Trade disputes act releases unions from legal responsibility for strike damages
- 1922: The first Labour government
- 1926: The first General Strike by the TUC

Luddism (1811-1819)



Technology and disruption

Canals and railroads may do great good to a nation, but all waggoners will complain of this improvement. Every new invention has some inconvenience for a number of individuals, and is nevertheless a public blessing



Figure: Friedrich List

Development and competition

Indeed, it is more than probable that without her [highly protectionist] commercial policy England would never have attained to such a large measure of municipal and individual freedom as she now possesses, for such freedom is the daughter of industry and wealth.

Friedrich List, *National Systems of Political Economy*, 1841

The crisis of free trade in the West

[Social legislation] raised the cost of production; and what can be more illogical than to raise the cost of production in the country and then to allow the products of other countries which are not surrounded by any similar legislation, which are free from any similar cost and expenditure—freely to enter our country in competition with our own goods...If these foreign goods come in cheaper, one of two things must follow...either you will take lower wages or you will lose your work.

Joseph Chamberlain, Speech on Free Trade, 6 October 1903.

The gold standard and its discontents

You come to us and tell us that the great cities are in favor of the gold standard. I tell you that the great cities rest upon these broad and fertile prairies. Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic. But destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country.

*Having behind us the commercial interests and the laboring interests and all the toiling masses, we shall answer their demands for a gold standard by saying to them, you shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns.
You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.*

William Jennings Bryan, Speech to the Democratic National Convention, 1896

Too sensational

Cecily, you will read your Political Economy in my absence. The chapter on the Fall of the Rupee you may omit. It is somewhat too sensational. Even these metallic problems have their melodramatic side.

Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 1895

The bourgeois Englishman

*What an extraordinary episode in the economic progress of man that age was which came to an end in August 1914! . . . The inhabitant of London could order by telephone, sipping his morning tea in bed, the various products of the whole earth, in such quantity as he might see fit, and reasonably expect their early delivery upon his doorstep . . . **he regarded this state of affairs as normal, certain, and permanent**, except in the direction of further improvement, and any deviation from it as aberrant, scandalous, and avoidable.*

J.M. Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, 1919