

# C5 The Victorian Age

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## ■ Introduction

### 📄 Class Notes

- 1837 ⇒ 1901 ⇒ Queen Victoria, longest reign;
- *What is the difference between kingdom and empire?* → Empire spreads across seas;
- *What does the victorian age rappresent? (Victorian Facade)* ↓
  - On one hand, the most powerful country of the world (due to imperialism)
    - Control of Raw Materials
    - Political control of other countries
    - Richness was for the few (concentration of wealth) ⇒ average man lived in precarious conditions ⇒ no redistribution of wealth;
  - On the other hand,
    - Proud, intollerant, "superior",
    - "The Burden of the white man" ⇒ duty of cilizing the world
    - Status quo ⇒ do ut des
    - Sono abituati a non esternare i propri sentimenti ⇒ dopo un po scoppiano
    - Da secoli, la leadership britannica viene allevata a non esternare i propri sentimenti
- *Why did the English Empire support the italian union?* → To take power away from france and Austria;

### 📄 The Victorian Age

📄 youtu.be/KbOfRFbcljk

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## Victorian Values

 [youtu.be/BjOGsGdEpl](https://youtu.be/BjOGsGdEpl)

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## CLIL

### Theory of Evolution

- Before ⇒ living beings conceived by god
- [Charles Robert Darwin](#) ⇒ Natural Selection
- Traveled with the **HMS Beagle** since [1831](#) to [1836](#)
  - Brought back fossils and live specimens
  - Milodon ⇒ probably ancestor of the sloth
- Stop at the Galapagos Islands
  - Giant tortoises ⇒ unique characteristics of the turtles between the islands
  - *Explain how the giant tortoise adapted differently between the dry and humid island* ↓
    - Dry island ⇒ food is higher up ⇒ longer necks of the tortoise & shape of the shell can camouflage in the dry environment;
    - Humid island ⇒ food is lower and more available ⇒ bigger and stronger shell to defend against predators & shorter neck to be able to hide within the shell;
  - Comparison between artificial selection (when breeding biards) and natural systems
- What did [Thomas Robert Malthus](#) theorise? ↓
  - As pop in europe was growing ⇒ food would not be sufficient ⇒ fight for survival ⇒ survival of the fittest;
  - The fittest (*most apt*) individuals have greater chances of reproducing and passing on their characteristics to the future generations;
- [Alfred Russell Wallace](#) arrived at the same conclusion of Darwin ⇒ Darwin rushed to publish in order to receive the credit;
- What did Darwin's theories state?

### 7 Milion YUears of Human Evolution

## Dystopian novels

- Beginning of dystopian novels ⇒ Earwhon

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- What is "**Earwhon**" by [Samuel Butler](#)? ↓
  - Nowhere ⇒ non luogo (Utopia, too beautiful to exist);
  - Now – here ⇒
- Hidden society based on utilitarianism
- Crime was treated as an illness to treat ⇒ criminals are put in hospitals
- Sickness is treated as a waste

## 📖 C5.1 The dawn of the Victorian Age

### • Queen Victoria

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### • Age of reform

### • Workhouses and religion

#### • Life in a victorian workhouse

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 [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1 ...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1...) [+ New Source](#)

#### • Charlie Chaplin

- Charlie, Sydney and Hannah Chaplin joined a workhouse
- Sister Sydney abused in the workhouse ⇒ after 7 weeks sent to an insane asylum;
- Charlie sent to a pauper school (too young to work) ⇒ rudimentary education for poor children;

#### • Conditions

- *How many people went through workhouses? How many died?* ↓
  - 16 million people went through workhouses;
  - 5 million people died;
- *When and why were the workhouses first adopted?* ↓
  - Adopted in 1834 ⇒ humiliate the poor for asking for help
- *What happened as soon as you joined the workhouse and why?* ↓
  - **Segregation** ⇒ Families separated between male and female, children and adults;
  - Belief that the segregation would "contain the toxic trait of poverty"
- *What is an example of rooms in a workhouse?* ↓
  - Lobby
  - Lavatory

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- Lobby and lavatory
- Officers lavatory
- Day room for able-bodied (good)
- Day room for able-bodied (bad)
- Attendants sitting-room
- Day room for aged
- *Why was there a difference between the day-rooms for good and bad (able-bodied)?* → Discourage bad behaviour;
- *Where did the Irish immigrants go?* ↓
  - **Northern England** ⇒ Birmingham, Liverpool, were the most industrially developed;
  - **Scotland** (because it was closer) ⇒ Glasgow;
- *Why did Irish people immigrate into Scotland and Northern England?* ↓
  - The Irish **Famine**;
- *What was the poor-house?* → Scottish version of the workhouse;
- *A Modest Proposal* by [Jonathan Swift](#) ⇒ proposal to start eating children to survive the famine in Ireland;
- *What were the conditions in industrial cities?* ↓
  - **Overcrowding** ⇒ up to 50 people per tenement (small house with a couple of rooms);
  - 1 room per family ⇒ no heating, damp (muffa);
  - **No sewage systems** ⇒ poor hygiene;
  - **Precarious** conditions;
  - **High child mortality rate** ⇒ 1 every 5 children died;
- 100000 people in Glasgow alone living in precarious conditions
- In 1900, 1 third of the urban population was living in poverty
- Up to 600 workhouses in England
- *What were the working conditions of workhouses?* ↓
  - 10 hours a day, 6 days a week
  - Precarious jobs (breaking rocks, roads, dividing ropes into fragments)
  - Treated like prisoners and slaves
  - People could leave, but weren't able to;

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- No pension
- Sick people were sent to hospitals ⇒ after death the corpses were used for students to study and were dysected ⇒ very bad because of the christian believes of the afterlife;

- **Families**

- *Why did people have so many children?* ↓
  - No contraceptives;
  - Sex as an only way out;
  - High child mortality rate ⇒ replacing children;
- *How is the Victorian family and [Brave new world](#) connected?* ↓
  - High natality rate ⇒ dead children were "replaed"
  - In [Brave new world](#) children are produced in series, like the **Ford Model T**, through the [Loading](#);

- **Chartism**

- **The Irish Potato Famine**

- **Technological progress**

- **Foreign policy**

- **Gentrification**

- *What is gentrification?* → Richest bought all the fields ⇒ small farmers couldn't resist;

## C5.2 The Victorian compromise

- A complex age
- Respectability
- Life in Victorian Britain

## Discoveries in Medicine

- The father of epidemiology
- Surgery and anaesthesia

## C5.3 Early Victorian thinkers

- Evangelicalism
- [Jeremy Bentham's Utilitarianism](#)
  - Believed in women and gary rights, abolition of slavery, freedom of speech;
  - *What is pleasure according to Bentham?* ↓

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- High **quantity** pleasure;
- Communal happiness (total amount);
- *What are the 2 types of pleasure?* ↓
  - Intellectual pleasure
  - Physical pleasure
- *What are Bentham's pleasure types?* ↓
  - Quality
  - Quantity
  - Intensity
  - Purity
  - Vicinity
- *What were Natural Rights during the Victorian Age? Who did they apply to?* ↓
  - Applied only to white men;
  - Natural rights ⇒ only natural for white men;
  - Right to prevail over other inferior humans;
  - Why did Bentham and Mill go against the Natural Rights?
- [James Stuart Mill](#) and the empiricist tradition

#### 📖 Analysis

- *Is [Utilitarianism](#) so distant from reality?* ↓
  - US Capitalism;
- *What is the difference between Capitalism and [Utilitarianism](#)?* ↓
 

Back of card

  - What are the differences between Universalism and Relativism?
- Challenges from the scientific field

#### 📖 C5.4 The American Civil War

- **Introduction**
  - North ⇒ Industrial, similar to the UK (paid workers, often immigrants)
  - South ⇒ slavery
  - In the parliament, there are 2 representatives per state;
- **The difference between North and South**

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- *What was the name of the line that divided North and South? → **Mason-Dixon Line***

- **The Civil War**

- *What were the reasons behind the civil war? ↓*
  - Economics (of cotton)
  - Slavery
- *What sparked the civil war? ↓*
  - Revisionists state that the declaration of Independence states that Washington cannot impose laws on the local level, so it was within their right to keep slavery;
- *Armies in the civil war ↓*
  - Infantry
  - Chivalry
  - Artillery
  - Guerrilla
- *What were the main objectives in the war? ↓*
  - Destroying artillery;
  - Destroying the navy;
- *Why did France support explicitly the Confederates? ↓*
  - To contrast the US's power;
- Il nord stabilisce un embargo sul Sud;
- Southern slaves escaped and joined the Northern army as they were promised a salary ⇒ North tried not to give the salary;
- *What was the UK's role in the american civil war? ↓*
  - Ambiguous, double faced;
  - The UK abolished slavery, but they partake in the trade of slavery;
  - They formally supported the North, but in practice they protected the confederates;

- **The abolition of slavery**

- **A new version of the American dream**

- **The expansion of settlements in the West**

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## 📖 C5.5 The later years of Queen Victoria's reign

- **The liberal and the Conservative Parties**

- **Prince Albert** died of typhoid in 1861 ⇒ **Queen Victoria** withdrew from society for 10 years ⇒ regrouping of the parties;
- **The Liberal Party** ⇅
  - Includes former **Whigs**, radicals and a large minority of businessmen;
  - Led by **William Gladstone**;
- **The Conservative Party** ⇅
  - Includes the former **Tories**
  - Led by **Benjamin Disraeli**;

- **Benjamin Disraeli**

- Became prime minister in 1868 and then again in 1874 movie;
- **Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Act** ⇅
  - Allowed local public authorities to clear the slums;
  - Provided housing for the poor;
- **Public Health Act** ⇅
  - Provided sanitation;
  - Provided running water;
- **Factory Act** ⇅
  - Limited the working hours per week;
- **Eastern Question** ⇅
  - Decay of the ottoman empire
  - Attempt of other european powers to gain influence in the middle-east;
- Encouraged england to invest in the Suez Canale

- **William Gladstone**

- Prime minister for 4 times
- Introduced "**Board Schools**"
- **Trade Unions Act** ⇅
  - Trade unions become legal;
- **Ballot Act** ⇅
  - Secret ballot;
- **The Third Reform Act** ⇅





- extended voting to all male **householders**;
- **Irish Parliamentary Party** ⬆
- Sitting at the english parliament;
- Requests independence of Ireland;
- **The Anglo-Boer Wars**
  - Boers were a population coming from the Netherlands and Belgium ⇒ they wanted control of southern Africa;
  - For precious metals, precious woods, ivory;
- **Empress of India**
- **The end of an era**
  - **Queen Victoria** died in **1901**;
  - Victoria restored the love for the crown in the british population;
  - Tutto viene velocizzato ⇒ trasporto, comunicazione

#### 📁 C5.14 **Charles Dickens**

##### 📖 Introduction

- **Context**
  - Context of the **Life in a victorian workhouse**;
  - Parallel with US slavery
- **Life and works**
  - What characterized Charles Dickens's childhood? ⬇
    - Born in southern England in 1812;
    - Father imprisoned for debt when he was 12;
    - He was sent to a workhouse;
    - Later he was sent to a school in London;
    - At 15 he found employment as an office boy at a lawyer's and continued his studies;
  - *What are the main aspects of **Charles Dickens** writing?* ⬇
    - Didactic stance – educating the rich about the conditions of the poor;
    - Always sided with the poor;
    - He witnessed what he wrote ⇒ thanks to his job at the lawyer's and due to his own experience, like **C3 Alessandro Manzoni**;

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- Specific language based on the social class and context, like [Giovanni Verga](#);
- Talking names ⇒ names represent the characters, e.g. oliver **Twist** (twisted life) **Talking names ⇒ names represent the characters, e.g. oliver Twist (twisted life);;**

- **Themes**

- **Characters**
- **A diadactic aim**
- **Style and reputation**



Hard Times

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Oliver Twist

Charles Dickens X

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## Work and Alienation

- Connection with [Brave new world](#)
- Connection with [Karl Marx](#)
- Connection with [Giovanni Verga](#) ⇒ [Rosso Malpelo](#)

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