Victorian Social Literature:
A Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fictional Literature</th>
<th>Events and Non-Fictional Literature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1763-1771</td>
<td>Wilkes Movement for Parliamentary Reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>1781  <em>Reasons for Contentment</em> (Paley)</td>
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<td>1785  <em>The Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy</em> (William Paley)</td>
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| 1789  *Village Politics* (More)  
*Equality, as consistent with the British Constitution* (Paley) | |
| 1793  *The Lancashire Collier Girl, A True Story* (More)  
*A Description of the Country from Thirty to Forty Miles round Manchester* (John Aikin) | |
| 1798  *Riots in Ireland*  
Bonaparte Egyptian Campaign | |
| 1799  Combination Acts passed -strengthens existing anti-trade union legislation  
Bonaparte takes power in French Republic | |
| 1800  *Castle Rackrent* *(Edgeworth)* -response to riots in Ireland | |
| 1801  General Enclosure Act | |
| 1802  FACTORY ACT of 1802—ineffectual Health and Morals of Apprentices Act  
Bonaparte reorganizes Italy | |
| 1804  Bonaparte declares the end of the Revolution declares himself Emperor | |
| 1805  Bonaparte victory at Austerlitz  
Bonaparte reorganizes Germany | |
| 1806  Continental Blockade, Napoleon against UK  
—cuts off export markets for British  
—leads to push for new markets in S.Amer. | |
| 1808  Wellington disembarks in Portugal to begin the war to dislodge Bonaparte from the Peninsula, he will succeed in 1813 | |
| 1810  Orders in Council —eco.warfare against Napoleon, reduces X's, raises unemploy.  
*Spinners' Strike in Manchester*  
*Luddite Rebellion* | |
| 1811  *Absentee* *(Edgeworth)* | |
| 1812  *Luddite Rebellion*  
War of 1812 (USA vs UK) | |
| 1914  Mansfield Park (Austen) | |
1815 POST-WAR DEPRESSION

1815  
- Corn Law —cuts off foreign wheat
- End of wars with Napoleon

1816  
- Depression
- Report on Children Employed in Manufactories

1817  
- Depression, Blanketeer's March
- Conversations on Political Economy (Jane Marcet)
- Rioting of colliers in Newcastle

1818  
- Strikes in the cotton industry
- Mendicity Society founded

1819  
- Strikes by weavers
- FACTORY ACT of 1819 —Act for Regulation of Cotton Mills and Factories —ineffectual

1821  Annals of the Parish (Galt)

1924  Combination Acts repealed
- Hobhouse's FACTORY ACT

CRISIS OF 1825-26

1825  
- Specul. mania & crash, trade depression
- Riots in Sunderland begin, August
- Riots in Isle of Mann in Nov.
- Friendly Union of Mechanics founded

1826  
- Speculative crash, trade depression
- Riots in Lancashire in April,
- Riots in Manchester in May
- Riots in Carlisle and Norwich

1827  
- The System (Tonna)
- The Rioters (Martineau) —response to riots of 1825-26

1828  Memoir of Robert Blincoe (John Brown)

1829  The Turnout, Patience the Best Policy (Martineau)
- Grand Union of Spinners founded
- Riots in Manchester in May

1831  Beginning of Ten Hours Movement

1832  
- First Reform Bill enacted
- The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes Employed in Cotton Manufacture in Manchester (James Kay)
- Statistical Department, Bd of Trade created
- Sadler Committee REPORT from the Select Committee on the Bill to Regulate the Labour of Children in Mills and Factories
- Election Riots at Bolton

1833  Manchester Statistical Society created
The Manufacturing Population of London
(Peter Gaskell)
Committee Report on Agriculture
Althorp's FACTORY ACT of 1833
-max. work hrs = 12 for child., 8 for 9-13yrs
-will be ineffectual (no reg. for adults)

1834
New Poor Law, End of Slavery in Colonies
Statistical Society of London created
Character, Object and Effects of Trades' Unions (E.C.Tufnell)
The Philosophy of Manufactures (A.Ure)
Parliamentary Report on Election Bribery

CRISIS OF 1836-39

1836
Financial Crisis -depress. will last till 1842
Blue Books (first appearance)
Artisans and Machinery (Peter Gaskell)
The Curse of the Factory System
(John Fielden)

1837
Smallpox epidemic — till 1841
A Statistical Account of the British Empire (J.R.McCulloch)
National Charter formed
J.of the Statistical Society begins
Sketches in London (J.Grant) -of the poor

1838
Michael Armstrong, The Factory Boy (Trollope)
Helen Fleetwood (Tonna)

1839
Defeat of first Chartist Petition
Uprisings in Newport and Wales
Birmingham Bullring Riots
Chartism (Carlyle)
The Training of Pauper Children
(James Kay)

1840
Begin. of Opium War (1840-1842) w/China
Law Against Chimney-Sweep. by Children
The Art of Needlework (Stone)
Passages in the Life of a Radical (Samuel Bamford), written 1840-1844.
The Peasantry of the Border (W.S.Gilly)

1841
Handloom Weaver's Report
Strong trade, bullion inflow, low interest rates and strong growth, will continue through 1846 (except for brief stagnation in 1842)
On Heros & Hero-Worship (Carlyle)
A Narrative of the Experience and Sufferings [of] William Dodd, A Factory Cripple (William Dodd)

1842
William Longshawe, the Cotton Lord (Stone)
Jessie Philips: A Tale of the Present Day (Trollope)
- attacked New Poor Law of 1834
"A London Dressmaker's Diary,
Tait's Edinburgh Magazine

1841
"A London Dressmaker's Diary,
Tait's Edinburgh Magazine
1843  **The Wrongs of Women** (Tonna)
**The Young Milliner** (Stone)
"The Song of the Shirt" (Hood) - in *Punch*

1844  **The Orphan Milliners** (Toulmin)
**Coningsby** PO(Disraeli) 1st Young Eng. novel

1845  **Sybil** PO(Disraeli)

1846  **A Story of the Factories** (Toulmin)
**Fanny, the Little Milliner** (Rowcroft)

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### CRISIS OF 1847

1847  **Libbie Marsh's Three Eras** (Gaskell)
**Jane Eyre** PO(Brontë)
**The Sexton's Hero** (Gaskell)

Bullion Outflows to pay for wheat
Irish in-migration drives down wages, cotton prices jump, all this raises unemployment and lowers wages in cotton textile industry
Financial Panic (April)
**Riots in London, Glasgow & Liverpool**
Distressed Needlewomen's Soc. fd.
FACTORY ACT of 8 June 1847,
**Ten Hours Bill**: Act to Limit the Hours of Labour of Young Persons and Females in Factories (no reg. adult men)
Suspension of Bank Act of 1844 (Oct)

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1848  **Mary Barton, A Tale of Manchester Life** PO(Gaskell) 1848 REVOLUTIONS in Europe
**Yeast** (Kingsley)  
**The Communist Manifesto** (Marx & Engels)
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td><em>Shirley, A Tale</em> PO(Brontë)</td>
<td><em>The Factory Girl</em> (Pimlico)</td>
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<td>1850</td>
<td><em>The Seamstress</em> (Reynolds)</td>
<td>FACTORY ACT of 5 August 1850</td>
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<td>&quot;The Needlewoman's Farewell&quot; -<em>Punch</em>, Jan.</td>
<td>ended relay system</td>
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<td>&quot;Ellen Linn, the Needlewoman,&quot;</td>
<td>increased hours for women to 10-10.5hrs</td>
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<td><em>Tait's Edinburgh Magazine</em> (Anon.)</td>
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<td><em>Lucy Dean, The Noble Needlewoman</em> (Meteyard)</td>
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<td><em>Alton Locke</em> (Kingsley)</td>
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<td><em>Lizzie Leigh</em> (Gaskell)</td>
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<td><em>Cheap Clothes and Nasty</em> (Kingsley)</td>
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<td>1851</td>
<td><em>Marian Withers</em> (Jewsbury)</td>
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<td>1853</td>
<td><em>Ruth</em> PO(Gaskell)</td>
<td><em>Jane Rutherford; or the Miner's Strike</em> (Mayne)</td>
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<td><em>Villette</em> PO(Brontë)</td>
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<td>1854</td>
<td><em>Hard Times</em> PO(Dickens)</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td><em>North and South</em> PO(Gaskell)</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td><em>John Halifax, Gentleman</em> (Craik)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Rachel Gray, A Tale Founded on Fact</em> (Kavanagh)</td>
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**CRISIS OF 1857**

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<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td><em>The Professor</em> (Brontë)</td>
<td>Divorce &amp; Matrimonial Causes Act</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Marx writes the <em>Grundrisse</em> and series of newspaper articles about the crisis</td>
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<td><em>A Woman's Thoughts About Women</em> (Craik)</td>
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<td>1859</td>
<td>National Miners' Association fd.</td>
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<td>Deficient harvests, food prices up</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coal Mines Regulation Act</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>London Builders' Strike</td>
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1860
Molestation of Workers Act -picketing OK
Deficient harvests, food prices up
Adulteration of Food Act
Nightingale School of Nursing founded
American Civil War (1860-1865) ~cotton famine

1861
Lace Works Act of 1861
London Labour and the London Poor
(H. Mayhew) -expanded edition, 4 vol.
New Commission on Children's Employ. fd.
Taunton Commission on Education fd.

1862
Limited Liability Act = more speculation
Twice Round the Clock (G.A.Sala) -London Poor

1863  *Silvia's Lovers* *(Gaskell)*
National Association of Coal Miners fd.
Associated Iron Workers formed
"The Haunted Lady" *Punch* cartoon

1864
Contagious Diseases Act -against Prostitutes

1865
End of American Civil War

**CRISIS OF 1866**

1866  *Felix Holt, The Radical* *(Elliot)*
Financial Panic
Overend, Gurney & Co. go bankrupt
followed by 180 firms
Trade union actions in Sheffield
Trafalgar Sq. Assembly of 10,000

1867
*Capital, Vol. I* *(Marx)*
Disturbances in Sheffield
Fenian activity in Chester & Manchester
Metropolitan Police Act
Second Reform Act
Master & Servant Act

1868  "Address to Workingmen" *(Elliot)*
1869
First Trades Union Congress
The *Subjugation of Women* *(Mill)*

1870
Married Women's Property Act

1872
Secret Ballot Act

1889
*Life and Labour of the People of London* *(C. Booth)*

*P* Penguin Classics
*O* Oxford World's Classics