

Victorian Social Literature: A Chronology

<u>Fictional Literature</u>	<u>Events and Non-Fictional Literature</u>
1763-1771	Wilkes Movement for Parliamentary Reform
1781 <i>Reasons for Contentment</i> (Paley)	
1785	<i>The Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy</i> (William Paley)
1789	FRENCH REVOLUTION
1793 <i>Village Politics</i> (More) <i>Equality, as consistent with the British Constitution</i> (Paley)	
1795 <i>The Lancashire Collier Girl, A True Story</i> (More)	<i>A Description of the Country from Thirty to Forty Miles round Manchester</i> (John Aikin)
1798	Riots in Ireland
1799	Bonaparte Egyptian Campaign Combination Acts passed -strengthens existing anti-trade union legislation Bonaparte takes power in French Republic

1800 <i>Castle Rackrent</i> °(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.
1811	Spinners' Strike in Manchester Luddite Rebellion
1812 <i>Absentee</i> °(Edgeworth)	Luddite Rebellion War of 1812 (USA vs UK)
1814 <i>Mansfield Park</i> (Austen)	

1815 POST-WAR DEPRESSION

1815	Corn Law —cuts off foreign wheat End of wars with Napoleon
1816	Depression <i>Report on Children Employed in Manufactories</i>
1817	Depression, Blanketeer's March <i>Conversations on Political Economy</i> (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 Regu- lation of Cotton Mills and Factories —ineffectual
1821	<i>Annals of the Parish</i> (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1924	Combination Acts repealed Hobhouse's FACTORY ACT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	<i>The System</i> (Tonna) <i>The Rioters</i> (Martineau) —response to riots of 1825-26
1828	<i>Memoir of Robert Blincoe</i> (John Brown)
1829	<i>The Turnout, Patience the Best Policy</i> (Martineau) Grand Union of Spinners founded Riots in Manchester in May
1831	Beginning of Ten Hours Movement
1832	First Reform Bill enacted <i>The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes Employed in Cotton Manufacture in Manchester</i> (James Kay)
	<i>The Hill and the Valley</i> (Martineau) <i>Combination, A Tale, Founded on Facts</i> (Tonna) <i>The Manchester Strike</i> (Martineau) "The Seamstress" <i>Stories of the Study</i> (Galt) <i>The Radical</i> (Galt)
1833	Statistical Department, Bd of Trade created Sadler Committee <i>REPORT from the Select Committee on the Bill to Regulate the Labour of Children in Mills and Factories</i> Election Riots at Bolton Manchester Statistical Society created

1834	<p><i>The Manufacturing Population of London</i> (Peter Gaskell)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>New Poor Law, End of Slavery in Colonies Statistical Society of London created <i>Character, Object and Effects of Trades' Unions</i> (E.C.Tufnell)</p>
1835	<p><i>The Philosophy of Manufactures</i> (A.Ure)</p> <p>Parliamentary Report on Election Bribery</p>

CRISIS OF 1836-39

1836	<p>Financial Crisis -depress. will last till 1842 <i>Blue Books</i> (first appearance) <i>Artisans and Machinery</i> (Peter Gaskell) <i>The Curse of the Factory System</i> (John Fielden)</p>
1837	<p>Smallpox epidemic —till 1841 <i>A Statistical Account of the British Empire</i> (J.R.McCulloch)</p>
1838	<p>National Charter formed <i>J.of the Statistical Society</i> begins <i>Sketches in London</i> (J.Grant) -of the poor</p>
1839	<p><i>Michael Armstrong, The Factory Boy</i> (Trollope) <i>Helen Fleetwood</i> (Tonna)</p> <p>Bad harvests 1839 — 1842 Defeat of first Chartist Petition Uprisings in Newport and Wales Birmingham Bullring Riots <i>Chartism</i> (Carlyle) <i>The Training of Pauper Children</i> (James Kay)</p>

1840	<p>Begin. of Opium War (1840-1842)w/China Law Against Chimney-Sweep. by Children <i>The Art of Needlework</i> (Stone) <i>Passages in the Life of a Radical</i> (Samuel Bamford), written 1840-1844. <i>The Peasantry of the Border</i> (W.S.Gilly)</p>
1841	<p>Handloom Weaver's Report Strong trade, bullion inflow, low interest rates and strong growth, will continue through 1846 (except for brief stagnation in 1842) <i>On Heros & Hero-Worship</i> (Carlyle) <i>A Narrative of the Experience and Sufferings [of] William Dodd, A Factory Cripple</i> (William Dodd)</p>
1842	<p><i>William Longshawe, the Cotton Lord</i> (Stone) <i>Jessie Philips: A Tale of the Present Day</i> (Trollope) —attacked New Poor Law of 1834 "A London Dressmaker's Diary," <i>Tait's Edinburgh Magazine</i></p> <p>Brief economic downturn, stagnation Plug Plot Riots of 1842 1st Report from the Midland Mining Com. Coal Mines Act <i>Notes of a Tour in the Manufacturing Districts of Lancashire</i> (William Taylor) <i>Distress in Manchester: Evidence of the</i></p>

- 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)
- State of the Labouring Classes in 1840-1842* (Joseph Adshead)
The Factory System Illustrated in a Series of Letters to the Right Hon. Lord Ashley (William Dodd)
 1st Report of the Children's Employ. Com.
Second Chartist Petition defeated
 2nd Report of the Children's Employ. Com.
The Perils of the Nation (Tonna)
Past and Present (Carlyle)
Modern Painters (Ruskin)
Rick burning, Winter 1843-1844
 English Railway Boom begins
Miner's Strike in Northumberland
 FACTORY ACT of 7 June 1844
 -12 hrs for women over 18
 -6.5 hrs for children 10-13
 -attacked relay system (no reg. adult men)
 Peel's Bank Act of 1844
 Railway Speculation continues
Manchester in 1844: Its Present Condition and Future Prospects (Leon Faucher)
 Soc. for the Prev. of Cruelty to Children
 Potato harvest failure in Ireland
 Railway Speculation continues
The Condition of the Working Class in England
^P(F. Engels)
 Cholera epidemic (1846-1849)
 Liverpool Sanitary Act
 Repeal of the Corn Laws, prices soar
 Total failure of potato crop in Ireland
 Beginning of crisis in railroad speculation

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)
Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain
 Suspension of Bank Act of 1844 (Oct)

- 1848 *Mary Barton, A Tale of Manchester Life* ^{PO}(Gaskell) **1848 REVOLUTIONS in Europe**
Yeast (Kingsley) *The Communist Manifesto* (Marx & Engels)

- The Half-Sisters* (Jewsbury)
Sunshine and Shadows (Wheeler)
- 1849 *Shirley, A Tale* ^{PO}(Brontë)
The Factory Girl (Pimlico)
- 1850 *The Seamstress* (Reynolds)
 "The Needlewoman's Farewell" -*Punch*, Jan.
 "Ellen Linn, the Needlewoman,"
Tait's Edinburgh Magazine (Anon.)
Lucy Dean, The Noble Needlewoman (Meteyard)
Alton Locke (Kingsley)
Lizzie Leigh (Gaskell)
Cheap Clothes and Nasty (Kingsley)
- 1851 *Marian Withers* (Jewsbury)
- 1853 *Ruth* ^O(Gaskell)
Jane Rutherford; or the Miner's Strike (Mayne)
Villette ^{PO}(Brontë)
- 1854 *Hard Times* ^{PO}(Dickens)
- 1855 *North and South* ^{PO}(Gaskell)
- 1856 *John Halifax, Gentleman* (Craik)
Rachel Gray, A Tale Founded on Fact (Kavanagh)
- Public Health Act
 Mass Chartist Demonstration (April 10)
Sanitary Ramblings (H. Gavin) -slums
 Milliners and Dressmakers Provident and
 Benevolent Insitution fd.
 California Gold Rush
- FACTORY ACT of 5 August 1850
 -ended relay system
 -increased hours for women to 10-10.5hrs
- Builders' lock-out for the 9 hr day**
London Labour and the London Poor ^P
 (H. Mayhew) -1st edition
- Preston Strike (1853-1854)**
 Palmerston's FACTORY ACT of 1853
 —creates free Saturday afternoon
 —effect: 12 hr day for all, + men
*The White Slaves of England, Compiled from
 Official Documents* (John C. Cobden)
- Penal Servitude Act
 Smoke Nuisance Act
 Cholera epidemic (1853-1854)
 Abolition of Soap Tax
- The Factory Controversy* (Martineau)
 Abolition of newspaper tax
Riots against the Sunday Bill
*A Brief Summary in Plain Language of the
 Most Important Laws Concerning Women*
 (Barbara Lee Smith)
- County & Borough Police Act

CRISIS OF 1857

- 1857 *The Professor* (Brontë)
- Divorce & Matrimonial Causes Act
 Marx writes the *Grundrisse and series of
 newspaper articles about the crisis*

- 1858 *A Woman's Thoughts About Women*
 (Craik)

- 1859 National Miners' Association fd.
 Deficient harvests, food prices up
 Coal Mines Regulation Act
London Builders' Strike

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 <i>London Labour and the London Poor</i> (H. Mayhew) -expanded edition, 4 vol. New Commission on Children's Employ. fd. Taunton Commission on Education fd.
1862		Limited Liability Act = more speculation <i>Twice Round the Clock</i> (G.A.Sala) -London Poor
1863	<i>Silvia's Lovers</i> ^o (Gaskell)	National Association of Coal Miners fd. Associated Iron Workers formed "The Haunted Lady" <i>Punch</i> cartoon
1864		Contagious Diseases Act -against Prostitutes
1865		End of American Civil War
<p>CRISIS OF 1866</p>		
1866	<i>Felix Holt, The Radical</i> ^{po} (Elliot)	Financial Panic Overend, Gurney & Co. go bankrupt followed by 180 firms Trade union actions in Sheffield Trafalgar Sq. Assembly of 10,000
1867		<i>Capital</i> , Vol. I, ^P (Marx) Disturbances in Sheffield Fenian activity in Chester & Manchester Metropolitan Police Act Second Reform Act Master & Servant Act
1868	"Address to Workingmen" (Elliot)	First Trades Union Congress
1869		<i>The Subjugation of Women</i> (Mill)
1870		Married Women's Property Act
1872		Secret Ballot Act
1889		<i>Life and Labour of the People of London</i> (C. Booth)

^P Penguin Classics

^o Oxford World's Classics