Political Developments of the 19th Century – Great Britain

England
- **Queen Victoria**
  - Ruled for a long time
  - **Age of prosperity**
  - **Morality**
    - **Prudish**
      - Duty to have children
  - **Prince Albert**
    - German
    - **Great Exposition of 1851**
      - Celebrated industrialism
      - First world’s fair

- **Victorian Culture**
  - **Capitalist**
    - Rise of corporations
  - **Self-Reliant**
    - Women’s push for independence
      - Rejection of traditional marriage
      - Push for voting rights
  - **Social Darwinism**
    - Government should not interfere to help poor
      - Survival of the fittest
    - Samuel Smiles
      - Scotsman
      - Power of the individual
        - Self Help
        - Laissez faire
  - **Religion**
    - Secularization
      - Anglican Church did not extend to the common man
      - Minor religions formed
        - “Made the poor more moral”
        - Boom in church-building
    - Temperance movement
      - Ban on alcohol

- **The Crimean War**
  - 1854
  - Ended long term peace
    - Had existed since Napoleon
  - Supported Turks against the Russians
  - Poor performance by British army
    - Poor leadership
    - 600,000 men dead
      - Mostly disease
  - Sevastopol fell in 1855
    - British protection interests in Black Sea
  - **Florence Nightingale**
    - Daughter of a wealthy family
- Decided to become a nurse
  - Low job
- Served in Crimean War hospitals
  - Called for more supplies
  - Basic sanitation and comfort
- First time they built *army hospitals* near the battlefield
  - **Peace of Paris**
    - 1856
    - Autonomy of Moldavia and Wallachia
      - Became Romania in 1878
    - Independence of Turkey
    - Neutrality of Black Sea
- **Victorian Politics**
  - **No Revolution**
    - Political reform followed compromise
      - Slow reforms
    - Generally in consensus
      - Middle-class did not want dissatisfied workers
        - Afraid of revolts
    - Social harmony
      - Repeal of Corn Laws in 1846
      - Hard work and savings would be rewarded
    - Army suppressed Irish nationalism
  - **Chartism**
    - Petition movement of the 1840s
      - Last push in 1848
      - Universal male suffrage, new voting districts, annual parliament
    - Army put down demonstrations
  - **“Friendly Societies”**
    - Workers unions
    - Assistance in hard times
      - Decent burials
      - Individual self-help and respectability
    - Discouraged militancy
  - **Model Unions**
    - Promote self-help
    - Skilled workers of specific crafts
    - People bought membership
  - **National Unions**
    - Sparse
    - No talk of revolution or restructuring of economy or politics
  - **Political parties**
    - Whigs
      - Liberal party
      - 18502-1860s
      - Henry John Temple
        - Viscount *Palmerston*
          - “Lord Cupid”
        - Laissez-faire
- William Gladstone
  - Leader of Whigs
  - Morals
    - Victorian Christianity
  - Laissez-Faire
    - Reduce role of monarch
    - Against income tax
  - Against waste and corruption
  - Opposed colonization
    - Too expensive
  - Constantly fighting with Queen Victoria
- Conservatives
  - Robert Peel
    - Conservative
    - Supported repeal of Corn Laws
- Benjamin Disraeli
  - Leader of conservatives
  - Got along well with the queen
    - Served as advisor
  - Reform Bill of 1867
    - Extended suffrage
    - Passed
    - Conservatives feared Bill
      - Workers were liberal
    - Disraeli
      - Thought that electoral reform was inevitable
        - Would benefit party
- Beginning of “Welfare State”
  - Both conservatives (Disraeli) and Liberals made liberal reforms
  - Redistribution Act of 1885
    - Got rid of rotten boroughs
  - Poor Laws
    - Resources for those who did not work
  - Age of Statistics
    - Experts to gather information about life
  - Health Act 1848
    - National General Board of Health
  - Public Health Act
    - Cleaner water supply
- Growth of state
  - Originally very un-centralized
  - Government employed huge amount of people
    - Municipalities responsible for education, health, housing, roads, police
    - Civil service professionals
      - Expanded
    - Laissez-faire liberalism ended
- Mass Politics – Conservatives
  - Appeal to the masses
  - Disraeli wanted to attract more masses
    - Nationalism
    - Imperialism
- Irish Home Rule
  - Bill passed to disestablish Church of Ireland
  - Home rule
    - Ireland would have its own parliament
  - Irish Land Act of 1870
    - Gave rights to the Irish tenants
      - Wanted more
  - In favor
    - Gladstone’s personal crusade
    - Charles Stuart Parnell
      - Parliamentary coalition
    - Irish Catholic Church
  - Land War
    - Irish push for independence
      - Started by Irish farmers
    - British suspended habeas corpus
      - Gladstone protected tenants from eviction if could pay one year’s rent
  - Liberals split
    - Gladstone
      - In favor of Home Rule Bill
    - Joseph Chamberlain
      - Home Rule would start chain reaction of collapse of British Empire

- Trade Unionism
  - Aggressive phase
    - Failed
  - “New unionism”
    - Organization of semiskilled workers
  - Workers protest in the street
    - First time since 1848
    - Led by dockworkers
  - State response
    - Taff Vale Decision
      - Made unions and officers responsible for losses
      - Led to beginning of Labour Party

- Elimination of House of Lords
  - Liberals upset by House of Lords veto
  - Act to take away veto power
    - Final blow to noble privilege
  - Limited veto
    - Suspensive veto
  - King made House of Lords approve it