THE VICTORIANS
(1837-1901)
PROGRESS & REGRESS:
A SOCIO-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW
SLAVERY & EMANCIPATION

- 1791: first Anti-Slave Trade Bill rejected; 2nd in 1796
- 1807: British slave trade abolished; fines follow . . .
- 1823: new Anti-Slavery Society formed
- 1833: complete abolition of slavery in British colonies
- 1834: black freedom partially conceded (apprentices till ’40)
- 1838: “Negro Emancipation Act” releases all apprentices early (U.S. zaps slavery in ’63)

J. M. W. Turner’s “Slavers Throwing Overboard the Dead and Dying” (1840)
DEMOCRATIC GROWING PAINS

- 1816: end of war w/ France; Corn Laws instituted
- 1818: Anti-Corn Laws League (CLs repealed in ’46)
- 1832: 1st Reform Bill passes
- 1834: Poor Law Amendment Act & workhouses
- 1838: 6-pt. People’s Charter of 1837 submitted (suffrage, ballot, districts, annual, property, payment)
- 1839: Chartist Convention, Parliament rejects petition; riots
- 1867: 2nd Reform Bill passes
- 1884: 3rd Reform Bill passes
CHILDREN: LABOR, SAFETY, & EDUCATION

- 1842: Mines & Collieries Act
- 1844: Factory Act
- 1847: Ten Hours Act
- 1870: Elementary Education Act
- 1878: Disraeli’s Factory Act
- 1889: An Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
THE WOMAN QUESTION

- 1839: Child Custody Act
- 1841: funding of Governess Benevolence Fund
- 1848: Queen’s College funded (trains governesses)
- 1857: Matrimonial Causes Acts passed
- 1864: 1st of 3 Contagious Diseases Acts (also in 1866, 1869)
- 1866: John Stuart Mill presents petition for female suffrage

WILLIAM H. HUNT’S “THE LADY OF SHALOTT” (1887-1905)
THE WOMAN QUESTION

- 1869: “College for Women” opens; reopens in ’72 as Girton C.
- 1869: Josephine Butler takes on leadership of Ladies National Association (newsletter The Shield); J. S. Mill’s On the Subjection of Women
- 1870: 1st Married Women’s Property Bill passed
- 1877: Annie Besant & Charles Bradlaugh publish American Charles Knowlton’s pamphlet Fruits of Philosophy (1832)
- 1882: primary Women’s Property Act passed
- 1886: repeal of Contagious Diseases Acts
- 1918: law passes allowing women 30+ to vote
MEDICAL ADVANCES

- 1792: York Retreat opens; moral management
- 1837: Dr. Matthew Allen's *Essay on the Classification of the Insane*
- 1840: Vaccination Act (free smallpox vaccination)
- 1845: County Asylums Act & Lunatics Act
- 1846: R. Liston performs amputation on *anesthetized* patient
- 1848: Public Health Act creates General Board of Health, in response to Cholera epidemic (1848-49)
- 1864: first Contagious Diseases Act passes

PERIOD DEPICTION OF BETHLEM HOSPITAL IN LONDON (“BEDLAM”)
BRITISH IMPERIALISM
(A FEW SNAPSHOTs)

• 1815: British East India Company seizes Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
• 1819: East India Company buys Singapore; expands in India
• 1829: colony of Western Australia founded
• 1839: 1st opium war w/ China begins (tea, silver, trade)
• 1842: opium war ends; Hong Kong ceded to British; commercial ports of Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Nagpo, & Shanghai opened (ends Canton System—trade monopoly)
• 1858: Indian mutiny (begun in 1857) ends; British East India Company dissolved; India becomes British Crown Colony
• 1882: British military occupation of Egypt; becomes British protectorate in 1914