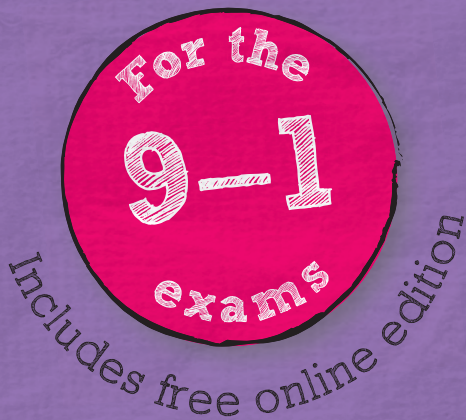


**REVISE AQA GCSE (9-1)**

# History

**BRITAIN: POWER AND THE PEOPLE**  
c1170 to the present day

# REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK



Pearson

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# History

**BRITAIN: POWER AND THE PEOPLE,  
c1170 to the present day**

# REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK

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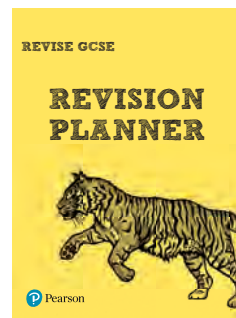
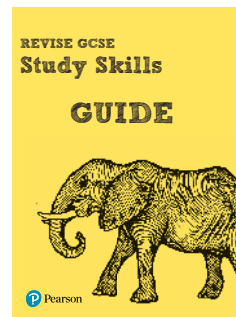
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#### A small bit of small print

AQA publishes Sample Assessment Material and the Specification on its website. This is the official content and this book should be used in conjunction with it. The questions and revision tasks in this book have been written to help you revise the skills you may need for your assessment. Remember: the real assessment may not look like this.

# Power and the people

For your AQA GCSE History Paper 2 thematic study, you need to know about changes over a time period. For this thematic study, Power and the people, the time period is nearly a thousand years. There was a lot of change over this time, so this timeline will help you place it all.

## Timeline

### 1066–c1450 Medieval Britain

1215 Magna Carta

1337 Start of Hundred Years War with France

1381 Peasants' Revolt

### c1450–c1800 Early Modern Britain

1642 Civil War begins

1660 Restoration of the Monarchy

1776 American Declaration of Independence

1789–1799 French Revolution

1832 Great Reform Act passed

1834 Arrest of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, GNCTU active

1868 TUC formed

1893 Independent Labour Party formed

1903 WSPU formed

1918 Vote extended to include some women

1928 Women vote on equal terms with men

1948 NHS founded; MV *Windrush* brings Jamaican immigrants

1970 Equal Pay Act

1984 Miners' Strike; Trade Union Act passed

1066 Norman Conquest

1265 Simon de Montfort calls representatives of the Commons to Parliament

1348 Black Death arrives in England

1536 Pilgrimage of Grace

1649 King Charles I executed

1773 Boston Tea Party

1819 Peterloo Massacre

### c1800–c1900 Industrial Britain

1833 Slavery abolished in British Empire; Anti-Corn Law League formed

1838 People's Charter published

1888 Match girls' strike

### c1900–present Modern Britain

1914–1918 First World War

1926 General Strike

1939–1945 Second World War

1968 Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech

1981 Brixton Riots

### CHALLENGING AUTHORITY AND FEUDALISM

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### EQUALITY AND RIGHTS

PM David Lloyd George: 1916–22  
PM Clement Attlee: 1945–51  
PM Margaret Thatcher: 1979–90

You will also study the importance of some key factors to help understand why things change: war; religion; chance; government; communication; the economy; ideas such as equality, democracy, representation; the role of the individual in encouraging or inhibiting (preventing) change.

## Now try this

Create a table with a row for each factor (for example, war) and a column for each time period (for example, medieval Britain). As you revise, add the events in the timeline to your table. This will give you an overview of the factors for your revision.

# Medieval Britain, 1066–c1450

For your study of Power and the people, it will help you to understand the context of each main time period. The government of England in c1170 was based upon the feudal system and the power of the king. Religion played a dominant role in society: the Church held a lot of power and authority.

## Factors: Government (the state) and the economy

The **feudal system** was developed by William the Conqueror in the 11th century. It was a hierarchy based on land ownership: land meant wealth and wealth meant power. It gave the king a lot of power.

The **king** owned all the land and granted some of it to his chief supporters – the **barons**. This meant that the barons had to stay loyal, or risk losing their land. In exchange for their land, the barons had to swear loyalty to the king, pay taxes, fight for the king and provide soldiers.

Most barons were given several areas of land, spread around the country. This was to stop them becoming too powerful in one area and challenging the king. However, the barons had a lot of power and influence.

The barons granted chunks of land called **manors** to their **knights**. The knights then became 'lords of the manor'. They had to fight for the baron and provide protection for his castles. In return, they could keep the wealth from their manors.

This wealth came from the **peasants**: ordinary people who farmed the land. More than 90% of the population lived in the countryside, working the land. Farming (especially the wool trade) was the basis of the economy. Free peasants would pay rent to the lord for their land, while **villeins** worked on the lord's land in exchange for their own land. Villeins were tied to the land and could not leave to work somewhere else.

## What about parliament?

**Change** At first, there was no parliament. The king ruled with the support of his council (his closest allies and advisers). This began to **change** during the medieval period.

## Factor: Religion

Religion was hugely important to people in the medieval period. The only recognised religion in Europe was Christianity. Everyone was very concerned with what would happen when they died. Whether they went to heaven or hell was of major, everyday importance.

- People placed great importance on the **will of God** – they believed most things happened because God intended them to.
- The importance of religion made the **Church very powerful**. Everyone was expected to go to **Mass** (the main church service) and follow the priest's instructions.
- **Religious leaders** (such as bishops) were as wealthy and powerful as the barons.

It was believed that kings ruled by '**divine right**', because God had chosen them. People also believed in the Devil, who was constantly trying to tempt people away from God.

The Church was central to people's religious lives, including baptism of babies, marriages, burying the dead. Following the teachings of the Church was vital if you wanted to go to heaven. The Church made rules about every aspect of life, down to what people could eat.

The leader of the Church, the **pope**, was one of the most powerful men in Europe.

## Factor: War with France

War was frequent in the medieval period, and England's usual enemy was France. Until 1453, the English king also controlled parts of France, causing tension with the French king. The two countries went to war six times in the 13th century. The Hundred Years War lasted from 1337–1453. War is expensive and fighting meant a constant demand for men and money. However, it also gave people opportunities to win royal favour, and the land and power that went with it.

## Now try this

Which of the factors on this page (government, economy, religion, war) do you think were the most important sources of power in this period? Choose **one** factor and give a reason for your answer.

Had a look Nearly there Nailed it! 

# King John and the barons

John became king in 1199, after the death of his brother, Richard. Richard I (1189–99) had been a very popular king, as had their father, Henry II (1154–89). John, however, was not popular.

## The dissatisfaction of the barons

In theory, the king had complete control over the country. In practice, he needed the support of his barons to rule effectively. John's style of government made him unpopular with the barons. In 1204, John lost his land in Normandy to the king of France, which made matters even worse.

### Arbitrary rule (government)

The war with France meant that John needed money. He began to impose huge fines on barons who displeased him. For example, in 1208, William de Briouze was fined 40 000 marks. In 1211, Robert de Vaux was fined 2000 marks for displeasing the king. In 1213, John de Lacy was charged 7000 marks to inherit his father's lands.

### Distrust of John (individual)

Not long after John became king, his nephew Arthur was murdered. Arthur was a possible rival for the throne. Some people said that John had killed Arthur himself, others that he had ordered the killing, but most agreed that he had been involved.

Medieval kings had a lot of power, but they were expected to do certain things in return. A good king ruled fairly, only raised as much tax as he needed to run the country, protected his kingdom and supported the Church. These factors had a role to play in why the barons opposed King John.

## Why did the barons oppose King John?

### Arguing with the Church (religion)

In 1207, Pope Innocent III appointed Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. John wanted to choose senior churchmen himself, and opposed Stephen's appointment. The pope retaliated by excommunicating John (removing him from the Church) and banning church services in England. In 1212, the pope said that it would not be a sin to kill John, and some barons began to plot against him. In 1213, John reached agreement with the pope, but the barons were worried that he would try to control the Church again.

### Lack of military success (war)

In 1214, John was defeated in France at the Battle of Bouvines. It was obvious that John could not retake Normandy, and he was nicknamed 'softsword'.

### Taxation (economy)

John used a tax called **scutage**. This was paid by knights and barons instead of fighting for the king. Between 1199 and 1215, John charged scutage 12 times, and the tax was higher each time. Many barons refused to pay scutage in 1214, and the 1215 tax was the last straw for many of them.

## Attempts at resolution

The loss of the Battle of Bouvines in 1214, and John's demand for more scutage, was the last straw for the barons. They began to plan to challenge him. They wanted John to agree to return to the **Charter of Liberties** Henry I (1100–35) had signed at his coronation. The pope eventually supported John and ordered the barons to remain loyal to the king – but his intervention came too late. In May 1215, London turned against John and supported the barons. John's position was very weak.

### Coronation charters

When a new king was crowned, he often issued a 'Charter of Liberties', promising his barons and knights that he would rule fairly. Henry I's coronation charter had promised to abolish the customs that people saw as unfair and oppressive, and return to the method of government used by Edward the Confessor (1042–66) before the Norman Conquest.

## Now try this

Give **three** reasons why the barons thought that John was not a good king.

# Magna Carta and its impact

King John met the barons at Runnymede in June 1215. The barons presented a list of demands to the king. John's weak position meant that he felt he had to agree. The list became known as Magna Carta.

## The terms of Magna Carta

Magna Carta is written in Latin. It contains 63 clauses, covering a wide range of issues, from taxation and standard measurements to the remarriage of widows.

**Clause 1:** The English Church shall be free from royal interference.

**Clause 2:** The fee an heir has to pay to get his inheritance (his father's land, from the king) will be no more than £100 for a baron and 100 shillings for a knight.

**Clause 12:** The king cannot charge 'scutage' or 'aid' without the agreement of the kingdom, unless it is to pay a ransom if the king is captured, to make the king's eldest son a knight or for his eldest daughter's first marriage.

**Clause 25:** Tax rates that have increased will go back to their old levels and will not be raised again.

**Clause 39:** No free man shall be arrested or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled by the king. He shall only be judged by the courts and laws of the land.

**Clause 45:** The king will only appoint people as judges, constables and sheriffs if they know the law and will follow it.

**Clause 52:** Anyone who has had land, castles or other rights taken by the king will get them back.

**Clause 55:** All fines that the king has charged unjustly will be entirely repaid.

**Clause 61:** The barons will elect 25 of their number to make sure that the king keeps to the terms of this charter.

## Short-term impacts

- John signed Magna Carta to buy time. He had no intention of keeping to it. So, when the 25 barons tried to put the terms of the charter into practice, John refused to accept that they had any right to force him to do anything. The pope wrote to John declaring Magna Carta invalid.
- Civil war broke out. At first, John was successful at fighting the barons, capturing Rochester in December 1215 and Berwick in January 1216.
- However, John did not have the money or support he needed to defeat the barons. This situation worsened when the barons joined forces with the king of Scotland and invited Prince Louis, the heir to the king of France, to invade and take the throne. Louis arrived with an army in May 1216.
- In October 1216, John died suddenly. His son Henry was only nine, but he was the rightful king and had the people's support. Prince Louis accepted this and went home. Henry was king – but the barons would rule England until he was old enough to rule by himself.

## Long-term impacts

Magna Carta is sometimes regarded as the foundation of democracy in England. In fact, most of its terms applied only to a small proportion of the population in 1215 (the barons and other nobles), and the implementation of the charter was down to the courts.

Although the vast majority of its clauses have now been **repealed** (reversed), or replaced by legislation such as the Human Rights Act, Magna Carta retains symbolic power as an ancient defence against tyrannical rulers, and as a guarantee of individual freedom.

Magna Carta was a powerful symbol for many of the people and groups who appear in this thematic study, including Simon de Montfort (see page 6) and the American revolutionaries (see pages 17–18). You need to know about the importance of **ideas** as a factor for change and this is a good example.

## Now try this

Which of the clauses listed on this page do you think King John would have found hardest to accept? Explain your answer in a short paragraph.

# Henry III and the barons

Henry III became king at the age of nine and a Council of Barons helped him to rule. Although Magna Carta was reissued, there were issues between Henry and the barons from the beginning.

## Issues between Henry III and his barons

Magna Carta was reissued on Henry's accession in 1216, again in 1217 and a third time in 1225.

Henry was very strong-willed and ruled in an **arbitrary** way (he didn't follow the rules).

Henry was very extravagant, and was always short of money. Each time he reissued Magna Carta, he demanded more tax.

Henry relied on a few close associates for advice, including his French half-brothers, the Lusignans. The barons felt isolated. In 1233, Henry was forced to sack some of his officials.

Henry lost two major wars with France, in 1230 and 1242.

Henry tried to reform local government, which angered the barons. They thought Henry was interfering in the way they ran the shires.

Throughout the 1230s and 1240s, Henry called his **parliaments** (another name for the king's council) more and more often in order to raise taxes.

### Issues

In 1254, Henry made an agreement with Pope Innocent that his son would take over the kingdom of Sicily. Innocent agreed to help pay for Henry's invasion. However, Pope Alexander IV demanded Henry repay the money (£90 000). It was a huge amount and Henry asked his parliament to repay it. Parliament kept refusing. In 1258, Alexander threatened to excommunicate Henry if he didn't pay.

## The barons' grievances

By 1258, the barons had had enough. They accused Henry of breaking the terms of Magna Carta. Their **grievances** (complaints) were very similar to those made to King John in 1215.

**Government**  
Some **sheriffs** were favouring the king and not applying the law fairly.

**Government**  
Royal favourites seemed to get better treatment.

**Economy**  
The king was raising too much tax to fund his extravagance.

### Grievances

**Government**  
The king's foreign friends had too much influence on the running of the country.

**Individual**  
The campaign to put Prince Edmund on the throne of Sicily did not benefit England, only Edmund and Henry. The barons did not see why they should pay for it.

To recap on King John and Magna Carta, see pages 3-4.

## The Provisions of Oxford

In April 1258, seven important barons demanded that a Council of 24 should rule alongside the king, to put an end to Henry's personal rule.

In June, the barons spelled out their demands at the king's parliament in Oxford. These demands were called the **Provisions of Oxford**. They also demanded that a king's council be created, with only a fifth of the members appointed by Henry, to advise the king on all matters. The king had no choice and swore an oath to uphold the Provisions.

Several royal castles were seized, and many foreigners were removed from their influential positions. Some were forced to leave England.

However, the barons could not agree how much change they wanted. Some were radical (extreme) and wanted major reforms, while others did not want to limit royal power too much. This disagreement led to a stalemate between the barons and the king.

One of the more radical of the seven barons was Simon de Montfort. You can revise him on page 6.

## Now try this

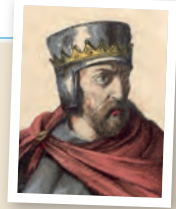
Many of the barons' grievances in 1258 had been addressed in Magna Carta. Why were they still an issue? Write a paragraph to explain your answer.



# Simon de Montfort

**Simon de Montfort** played a key role in the barons' rebellion against Henry III. He was a strong character and a successful military leader, and these qualities helped him to seize control of England in 1264. He is remembered today for increasing the importance of parliament.

## Simon de Montfort (1208–65)



Simon de Montfort, 6th Duke of Leicester, was very religious and was close friends with leading churchmen. He took pride in always keeping his promises and valued education. He was a **crusader** and a capable military captain.

- Born in France, the third son of the 5th Duke of Leicester, he came to England in 1230 to reclaim de Montfort land given to the Earl of Chester.
- He joined the Great Council in 1234. In 1238, he married the king's sister, Eleanor. Henry owed Simon a huge **dowry** (money paid by a woman's family to her husband), but never seemed to have the money to pay it.
- In 1253, Simon began to gather support against Henry. He played a leading role in the Provisions of Oxford and took control of England in 1264.
- He died at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

Despite Simon's close relationship with Henry, and his growing influence, he often came into conflict with the king.

Simon had very strong principles, and opposed the arbitrary way that Henry ruled.

Simon believed that Henry should obey the rules of Magna Carta and was heavily involved in the negotiations leading to the Provisions of Oxford.

### Simon vs Henry: reasons for conflict

Simon was short of money, and Henry's failure to pay Eleanor's dowry really annoyed him.

Henry put Simon on trial on two occasions for his actions as governor of Gascony. He was cleared, but lost prestige and felt insulted, especially as he'd been following Henry's orders.

Simon was among the barons who demanded that Henry's foreign advisers were removed. Despite his principles, he was keen to take advantage by seizing some of their land.

**Factors:** This was the beginning of the ideas of representation and democracy – that people should only pay tax if they were represented in government.

## Simon in power

After 1258, Henry made some compromises to keep power, but otherwise little changed.

In 1261, Henry got permission from the pope to break his oath to uphold the Provisions.

In 1263, Simon began to gather support, especially from knights and commoners, who he often supported against other barons.

In May 1264, Simon won the Battle of Lewes and captured Henry and his son, Edward. This made Simon the effective ruler of England. However, Simon's arrogance (and his son's money-grabbing) led to opposition among the barons. Simon had to rely more and more on the **Commons** (non-noble representatives from each county).

In 1265, representatives of the Commons were invited to parliament for the first time. Most tax was actually paid by non-nobles, and Simon offered to address their grievances in return for taxation. He even reissued Magna Carta.

In 1265, Prince Edward escaped. On 4 August 1265, Simon faced a huge army led by the prince at the Battle of Evesham. Simon's army was defeated. Simon himself was killed and his body hacked to pieces.

Simon's defeat ended the rebellion against Henry. The remaining rebels were severely punished and, within two years, the Crown had re-established complete control. However, the principle of representation had been created. Henry still felt that he needed to summon the Commons to parliament to agree taxes, and future monarchs continued the practice. This was the origin of the House of Commons.

## Now try this

Write a paragraph to explain why Simon de Montfort was so important to the development of parliamentary democracy.

# Peasants' Revolt: causes

In 1381, a local dispute over the collection of taxes became a full-scale rebellion against King Richard II (1377–99). This became known as the Peasants' Revolt.

## Causes of the Peasants' Revolt

### Economic factors

- Harvests halved from 1315 to 1320, and outbreaks of disease killed thousands of cattle and sheep. Food prices increased, and landlords increased rents.
- The poor struggled to survive and ceased **feudal service** (working unpaid for the local lord).
- There were rebellions. Manor houses were attacked, charters and records were burned.

### The social and economic impact of the Black Death

- The Black Death hit Dorset in 1348 and spread quickly. It killed nearly everyone who caught it, and the young and strong were at as much risk as the old and ill.
- The population fell by up to 50% and some villages were completely wiped out.
- This meant that the rich had to lower rents and raise wages in order to get people to work their land. Many peasants ran away to find work elsewhere, forcing wages even higher.

The Black Death is an example of the factor of **chance**.

### Political factors (government)

- In 1351, parliament introduced the **Statute of Labourers**, which limited wages to 1347 levels, and **sumptuary laws** restricting what people could wear, to reign in the peasants.
- Despite parliament's attempts, the balance of power had shifted – in 1376, more than 100 villages requested copies of the Domesday Book so they could challenge their lords.
- Richard was only 11 when he became king in 1377. His uncle, John of Gaunt, took control. There was instability at court as political rivalries divided the government in London.

The Poll Tax made Gaunt very unpopular. Many people thought that he was planning to take the throne from his nephew.

### The impact of war

- In 1377, a French fleet burned the town of Rye in Sussex and invaded the Isle of Wight.
- There were regular raids on the coast, disrupting trade and damaging ports and towns.

You can read about the Hundred Years War on page 2.

### The economy (taxation)

- To fund the war with France, Gaunt persuaded parliament to approve a tax of 4 pence per person in 1377. This was around two days' wages for a labourer, so much easier for the rich to afford. It was called the **Poll Tax**, because it was per person (poll meant 'head').
- A second Poll Tax was raised in 1379. At least 30% of taxpayers vanished from the tax lists.
- A third Poll Tax (two weeks' pay for a labourer) raised in 1381 was hugely unpopular.

This **political** suspicion of John of Gaunt was also a cause of the Revolt.

## Causation

This topic is about the **causes** of the Peasants' Revolt. '**Causation**' is the word historians use to describe finding out **why** something happened, and understanding causation is a vital historical skill. It's rare that any event has just one single cause, so be careful about answering questions about causation. Causation can be divided into three periods:

- **long-term causes** (things that happened many years before the event)
- **short-term causes** (things that happened more recently)
- **triggers** (the events that finally caused something to happen – not always the most important).

## Now try this

List **two** long-term causes, **two** short-term causes and **one** trigger for the Peasants' Revolt.

# Peasants' Revolt: events

When the third Poll Tax was set at 1 shilling (s) 4 pennies (d) a head in 1381, many peasants had had enough. With wages still fixed at 1347 levels, the tax left many destitute. The result was the Peasants' Revolt.

Compare this political action and its causes with that of the Chartists on page 22.

## Actions by rebels and government, 1381

**31 May** The king's tax collectors demanded taxes in Brentwood, Essex. One villager, Thomas Baker, said the village had paid, and refused to pay more. The tax collectors tried to arrest Baker, but the villagers forced them to flee.

**Early June** The protest spread throughout Essex. Peasants led by Jack Straw chased the tax collectors away, then marched to London. Protestors in Kent, led by Wat Tyler, freed John Ball and also marched to London.

**12 June** The two groups of peasants reached London and joined at Blackheath, together numbering several thousand. Many Londoners supported the rebels and opened the gates for them. John of Gaunt's palace at the Savoy was burned to the ground.

**14 June** Richard II went to Mile End to talk to the rebels and hear their grievances. These included: abolition of **serfdom** (peasants not free to leave the land they worked on), an **amnesty** (pardon) for rebels and the removal of corrupt officials. Richard promised to meet them again.

While Richard was gone, rebels attacked the Tower of London, destroying land-ownership and debt records. They killed the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Treasurer, and paraded their heads on long poles. (The two men were widely blamed for the Poll Tax.)

**15 June** Richard went to Smithfield to meet the rebels again. Tyler had more demands. Some observers claimed that Tyler was aggressive to the king, while others said he was agitated, but not threatening. The Lord Mayor of London stabbed Tyler, and one of Richard's bodyguards completed the killing. Richard calmed the situation, promising to meet the demands and offering the rebels a pardon.

**16 June** Many rebels left London and returned home, believing Richard's promises and thinking that they had achieved their aims.

**Late June** The pardon was revoked. Soldiers marched into Essex, Kent, East Anglia and Yorkshire to round up rebels. Between 1500 and 7000 rebels were killed.

## The role of religion

Many of the rebels were influenced by religious beliefs. For example, the Lollards were a group who wanted greater social equality and reform of the Church.

John Ball was a Lollard priest, well known for his radical sermons. He was imprisoned several times and banned from preaching in 1366. One of the first things the Kentish rebels did was to release Ball from prison. When the rebels met at Blackheath, Ball preached a sermon that became famous, because it demonstrated the growing importance of the **idea of equality**:

'When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?  
From the beginning all men by nature were created alike...  
Now the time is come, appointed to us by God, in which ye may  
(if ye will) cast off the yoke of bondage, and recover liberty.'



John Ball preaching during the Peasants' Revolt. This picture comes from a chronicle from about 1470. After the Revolt, John Ball was hanged, drawn and quartered on 15 July 1381.

## Now try this

You may want to look at page 7 as well as this one to answer this question.

Which factor do you think had more influence on how the Peasants' Revolt developed – the role of the individual or the role of ideas? Give a reason for your answer.

# Peasants' Revolt: impact

The 1381 Peasants' Revolt ended with the death of Wat Tyler and John Ball. Richard II reasserted his authority and went back on his promises. At the time, the Revolt might have looked like a failure, but it had significant impact in both the short term and long term.

## Short-term impact

Although the Peasants' Revolt did not achieve its immediate aims, it still had an impact. The ruling class had received a serious warning: the lower classes were capable of organising themselves into a force to be reckoned with. The rebels showed the powerful how vulnerable they actually were.

The rebels had demanded an end to bonded labour, and that all men should be free. Many landowners decided to protect themselves against further revolt by freeing villeins and reducing rents. By 1450, villeinage had ended in England: people could work for wages wherever they wished.

## Long-term impact

The ideas behind the Peasants' Revolt did not die away, especially the ideas of equality and individual liberty expressed by John Ball. As one of the first examples of ordinary people taking political action, the Revolt was influential for later movements.

- In the 17th century, the Levellers were inspired by the ideas behind the Revolt.
- John Ball's slogan was also used by early socialists in the 19th century. Socialist writer William Morris wrote a book called *A Dream of John Ball*, in which a time-traveller tells Ball about the 19th century. Ball realises that, 500 years later, his hopes for an equal society have yet to be met.



John Ball's saying 'When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?' was used as a Leveller slogan.

- The same idea was regularly used by labourers in forming the first trade unions and many Victorian social reformers were influenced by the ideas behind the Revolt.

Revise the Levellers on page 15, social reform on page 25 and trade unions on pages 27–28.

## Did the 'peasants' revolt?

Most of the rebels involved in the Peasants' Revolt were skilled workers and artisans, rather than peasant farmers. The rebels were portrayed by the ruling class as a violent rabble, but many were educated and literate.

Some historians have argued that the Peasants' Revolt was actually caused by the aspirations of the middle class as much as the complaints of the poor.

## 1989–93: Another 'Poll Tax'

In the 1980s, the system of local taxation was replaced with a 'Community Charge' (an equal amount to be paid by each adult, regardless of income). It quickly became known as the 'Poll Tax' and was immediately unpopular. People thought it unfair that the poor had to pay the same as the rich. Thousands refused to pay, and people disappeared from the electoral roll (used to administer the tax), just like in 1379.

In 1990, 200000 people protested in London and fighting broke out between protesters and police. The protesters had designed their march to follow the route of the 1381 Peasants' Revolt. Riots and protests took place across the country. In 1993, the Community Charge was replaced by the Council Tax – very similar to the old system.

## Now try this

Identify and explain **two** similarities between the reaction to the Poll Tax in 1381 and the protests against Poll Tax in 1989–93.

# Early Modern Britain, c1450–c1800

'Early Modern' Britain falls between Medieval and Industrial Britain. Historians use different dates for this period but, in this course, it runs from around 1450 to about 1800. Government, economy and religion were still factors of change, and **new ideas** caused change too.

## Early modern society: change and continuity

	In 1170...	In Early Modern Britain...
Factor: government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kings were appointed by God, so a powerful king could do what he wanted.</li> <li>The nobility depended on the king for their land, and land meant money and influence.</li> <li>There was no parliament. The king ruled with the support of his council. This began to change throughout the medieval period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monarch still had a lot of power, but this (and the divine right to rule) was often challenged.</li> <li>Land ownership still depended on the monarch. Land brought wealth and power but now so did other sources, like trade and politics.</li> <li>Parliament grew in importance and began to challenge royal authority.</li> </ul>
Factor: economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 95% of the population lived in the countryside. The economy depended on farming, especially the wool trade.</li> <li>Most peasants were tied to the land and could only work for one lord, often without pay.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Villeinage had ended by 1450. People could move around to find work.</li> <li>Britain was still an agricultural society. The economy still depended on farming and the wool trade.</li> <li>However, more people were beginning to move to towns.</li> </ul>

## Factors: religion and ideas

Was religion as important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religion was still of central importance. People still believed that things happened because it was God's will. Going to heaven was a real concern.</li> </ul>
Was Catholicism the only religion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. By the 16th century, Europe was deeply divided by religion.</li> <li>Martin Luther's calls for reform spread quickly, and Catholics and Protestants were in constant and bloody conflict.</li> </ul>
What happened to the English Church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1527, Henry VIII's wife, Catherine of Aragon, was too old to have more children and Henry needed a male heir. The pope refused to let Henry divorce Catherine to marry Anne Boleyn.</li> <li>Henry took control of the English Church and was made Supreme Head of the Church by parliament in the Act of Supremacy in 1534.</li> <li>England was still Catholic, but the pope's power in England ended. Henry married Anne in 1533. In 1536, he began to <b>dissolve</b> (close) Catholic monasteries and take their wealth.</li> </ul>
Impact: Break with Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It caused deep divisions as rival factions fought for control of the throne and the country. Each side tried to set people's beliefs and persecuted opponents.</li> </ul>
Who were the Non-Conformists?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They were Protestants who were not part of the English Church. <b>Non-conformism</b> spread, with new groups such as Methodists, Quakers and Baptists all attracting followers.</li> <li>They believed in ideas like <b>equality</b> – important in the English and American revolutions.</li> </ul>
What was the impact of new ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The universities, which taught science, increased their influence.</li> <li>Scientists like Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton challenged the Church's ideas of how the universe worked. Andreas Vesalius and William Harvey discovered that the Church's theories about the human body were wrong.</li> <li>In the 18th century, Enlightenment ideas that focused on reason rather than belief and philosophical ideas like liberty and equality further challenged the power of Church and state.</li> </ul>

## Now try this

Identify **one** person or group who you think had more power in the early modern period than in the medieval period and **one** who had less power. Write a sentence giving your reason for each choice.

# Pilgrimage of Grace: rebellion

The Pilgrimage of Grace was the most serious rebellion against the Crown since the Peasants' Revolt. It started in Lincolnshire, in October 1536, and spread throughout the north of England. There was no single cause. The focus was religious but it featured a mix of social, economic and political factors.

## What were the causes of the Pilgrimage of Grace?

Political/government	Social	Religious	The economy
Advisers like Thomas Cromwell and Richard Rich were seen to be leading the king astray, and many people wanted them removed. They were not nobles, which meant the nobility didn't like their influence over the king.		Lots of people wanted a return to the 'old ways' of religion, such as the old Catholic masses.	Poor harvests in 1535 and 1536 had caused high food prices and widespread hunger.
Many people were upset that Henry VIII had divorced Catherine of Aragon, and that Princess Mary had been declared illegitimate (not the child of married parents, and therefore not in line to the throne) by the 1534 Act of Succession.	The people of the north felt isolated and cut off from London, and were angry at being neglected.	There were rumours of taxes on baptisms, marriages and burials.	Taxes had increased.
		The 1535 prayer book was unpopular, especially with Catholics in the north.	
	The dissolution of the monasteries following the first Dissolution Act of March 1536. Lots of people were upset by the religious change, but also because monasteries had played an important social role by providing education, hospitality for travellers, help for the poor and medical care for the sick.		
Anne Boleyn, Henry's wife, had a reputation for witchcraft and many people thought she had 'bewitched' the king into divorcing Catherine.			

Compare the role of religion in the Pilgrimage of Grace with its role in the Civil War on page 13.

## How the rebellion spread

Many people in Louth, Lincolnshire were already unhappy about the dissolution of the local abbey. Rumours began to spread – that the local church would have its silver confiscated, that churches would be closed, that junior clergy would be sacked.



The rebellion soon spread throughout Lincolnshire, and the gentry began to join. A list of demands, called the Lincoln Articles, was sent to the king. Over 10000 protestors went to Lincoln to wait for Henry's reply. When they heard that the king was sending an army to Lincoln, the rebellion melted away.

However, some rebels had gone to Yorkshire, and revolt spread quickly throughout the north. This was because many people in the north of England were Catholics who hated Henry's religious changes. The royal castle at Pontefract was captured and there were revolts in Cumbria, Lancashire, Northumberland and Durham. Soon around 40000 men had joined the revolt, including nobles (such as the Percys), knights and gentry.

## Robert Aske and the Pilgrimage

Robert Aske was a lawyer, and a member of the gentry. He was caught up in the Lincolnshire rebellion and became leader of the Yorkshire rebels. Aske gave the Pilgrimage its religious identity. (A pilgrimage is a special religious visit to a holy place.) He insisted that the rebellion was peaceful.

Aske wanted to maintain high standards so that no one could accuse them of being a mob or rabble. He did not want to frighten more nobles from joining. The rebels marched under religious banners and their processions were often led by priests and monks. Aske wrote a 'Pilgrim's Oath' and everyone who joined had to swear to protect the Church from the king's interference. It was a significant challenge to royal authority over the Church.

## Now try this

Why do you think the people involved in the Pilgrimage of Grace called their protest a 'pilgrimage'? Write **one** sentence explaining your answer.

# Pilgrimage of Grace: impact

Henry VIII tried to pretend that the Pilgrimage of Grace was a minor rebellion. However, many historians now think that it was the biggest internal threat that Henry faced during his reign. Around 40000 men in rebellion had implications for Henry's authority: it was a major threat.

There was a risk that the pope could instruct all Catholics to assist the Pilgrimage, which would have made Henry's position even weaker.

There was a risk that another country could use the disruption caused by the rebellion to attack England in the south. With Henry's army engaged against the rebels in the north, there would have been little to stop a landing on the Kent/Sussex coast.

The rebels were not just 'common' people. Nobles were also involved: a group the king usually relied on for support.

## Why was the Pilgrimage of Grace a threat to royal authority?

The king could not use local militia to stop the uprising in case they joined the rebels. This meant that troops had to be brought in from other areas of the kingdom, and it would have been very difficult for Henry to have gathered together an army that was big enough.

The anger about Henry's religious reforms was not confined to the north. If the rebels had marched south, it is almost certain that others would have joined them.

## What was Henry's reaction?

The king sent an army (The Army of the North), led by the Duke of Norfolk, to Yorkshire. However, the army was only around 8000 men, so Norfolk knew he had to negotiate with the rebels. He met with them and sent a list of grievances to the king.

Henry received the rebel demands, but didn't reply for several weeks. He knew that it would be difficult for Aske to keep such a large group organised. Henry bought more time by asking the pilgrims' representatives to explain points that he said he didn't fully understand.

Finally, Henry asked the leaders to meet and put together a detailed set of demands. At the same time, Norfolk was ordered to end the rebellion using any methods necessary.

The nobles leading the rebellion met in Pontefract in early December and wrote a list of demands: the 'Pontefract Articles'. Robert Aske and the non-noble pilgrims were not invited. Nine of the demands were on religion and six were about politics. The others covered a combination of social, political, economic and religious matters.

The Articles were presented to Norfolk at Doncaster on 6 December. Just as Richard II had done when dealing with the Peasants' Revolt, Henry tried to buy time by agreeing to some of the protestors' demands. He promised pardons, a parliament in York and that no more monasteries would close before that parliament met. The rebels agreed to disband.

A new revolt broke out at Beverley. Henry used this as an excuse to go back on his promises and crush the rebels. Around 200 people were executed, including 38 monks and 16 priests. Robert Aske was hanged in chains at York.

Once the rebellion was crushed, Henry began to speed up his religious reforms and the rest of the monasteries were dissolved.

Compare the reactions of Henry's government to that of Richard II on page 8 and to that of Charles I during the English Revolution on page 14.

## Impact of the uprising

The Pilgrimage of Grace was a total failure:

- ✓ Henry came out stronger than before. He accelerated the reforms the rebels had resisted.
- ✓ Henry made it clear how he would deal with opposition, so was less likely to be challenged again.
- ✓ The power of Henry's government was therefore reinforced.

Make sure you stay focused on explaining **how**. Avoid just describing the events.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph explaining how Henry's reaction to the Pilgrimage of Grace caused it to fail.

# English Revolution: causes

The 1640s was a time of upheaval in England. In a single decade the country saw civil war, the execution of King Charles I (1625–49) and the removal of the monarchy. Together, these events are called the **English Revolution** (1642–49) and they had a lasting impact on British society.

## Causes of the English Revolution

### Religious factors

Ever since Henry VIII's split from Rome, religion had been a dividing force in England.

- James I (1603–25) had faced a Catholic plot to blow up parliament in 1605 and this led to anti-Catholic feeling.
- William Laud, the Archbishop of Canterbury and one of Charles' closest allies, was pushing through a new Prayer Book. He was accused of trying to reunite the English Church with Rome.
- Charles was married to a Catholic and accused of being a Catholic himself, and of favouring Catholics over Protestants.
- At the same time, the Protestant Church was divided between traditional **Anglicans** and groups like the **Puritans**, who were becoming more influential.



Portraits of Charles I showed off his extravagant dress and superior attitude.

### Political (government) factors

Charles I believed that he ruled by Divine Right (that he had been chosen by God to rule) and that this meant he was entitled to rule without the interference of parliament.

- Some strong kings could manage this, but Charles was weak and this meant that he was over-influenced by favourites such as his father's friend, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham and, later, Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford.
- Charles avoided calling parliament unless he needed money. This made Charles unpopular with the gentry, and angered parliament.

### Economic factors: taxation

During times of war, the king was entitled to charge coastal counties a fee to help protect them and to pay for the navy. This was called **ship money**.

Charles expanded ship money to cover the whole country, and used it to avoid calling parliament. This made people very angry, as they were being taxed without their consent.

Ship money was a key cause of the Civil War. The slogan 'No Taxation Without Representation' was widely used during the 1630s.

### Individual personalities

Religious divisions and unreliable kings were nothing new. However, in the 1640s, there were several charismatic, radical men who felt able to stand up to the monarch. Oliver Cromwell became the most important, but he wasn't alone: others like John Hampden and John Pym were very popular, and radicals like Richard Overton and Gerrard Winstanley contributed to lots of new ideas about how **society** should function.

### Government: Scotland

In 1603, James VI of Scotland succeeded Elizabeth I to become James I of England. Since then, the two countries had shared a king. The two countries were very different and Charles' attempts to rule both increased the tensions between them. This was another key factor.

You can revise the Puritans on page X and Charles' conflict with parliament on page 14. For more information on figures like Overton and Winstanley, see page 15.

## Now try this

Which of the factors on this page (government, religion, the economy, individuals) do you think played the biggest part in causing the English Revolution? Write a paragraph, giving **two** reasons for your answer.



# Charles, parliament and Civil War

Charles I believed he was chosen by God to rule (the Divine Right of Kings) and did not have to involve parliament. This meant he had a difficult relationship with the Commons. As more people began to believe that parliament should have more of a role in government, this triggered civil war.

## Charles vs parliament

### 1625–1629: Early disputes

- Charles continued to favour his father's allies, angering the Commons.
- Charles bypassed parliament by using forced loans to raise money.
- In 1628, parliament tried to force Charles to address their concerns by agreeing to a Petition of Right.

Although this is a thematic study, it is important to be clear on the order of events.

### 1629–1640: Charles ruled without parliament

- Charles responded to the Petition of Right by dissolving parliament, and refused to call it again for 11 years. This period is called Charles' **personal rule**.
- Charles used a range of tolls and fees to raise money, but the most unpopular was ship money. Many refused to pay and were imprisoned without trial. Some, like John Hampden, became heroes for opposing Charles.
- At the same time, the Scots grew angry about Archbishop Laud's new Prayer Book and invaded England in 1640. In April, Charles was forced to recall parliament to raise money to fight them.

### 1640: Parliament responded

- The Commons were angry with Charles and refused to help him. Parliament lasted three weeks before Charles dissolved it again, giving it the name '**The Short Parliament**'.
- Charles still needed money, so he called parliament again in November 1640. He tried to exclude his opponents, but parliament was more rebellious than ever. John Hampden and John Pym led the opposition to the king.
- Laws were passed abolishing ship money and customs duties, giving parliament control of the army and removing the king's right to dissolve parliament. This parliament sat until 1660, giving it the name '**The Long Parliament**'.

### 1641–1642: Opposition intensifies

- In December 1641, parliament presented Charles with a 'Grand Remonstrance': 204 clauses listing all their objections to Charles' rule.
- Charles took his time responding and, when he did, offered very little.
- On 4 January 1642, Charles marched into parliament with armed soldiers. He tried to arrest five Members of Parliament (MPs), including John Pym. The attempt failed, and Charles was forced to leave London.
- In August 1642, Charles set up his battle standard at Nottingham. The first major cavalry battle of the Civil War took place the following month.

### Key individual: John Pym (1584–1643)

- ✓ Elected to parliament in 1614.
- ✓ A Puritan, who led the opposition to Laud and the new Prayer Book.
- ✓ Involved in an attempt to **impeach** (put on trial) the king's favourite, Buckingham.
- ✓ Later led the parliamentary reforms restricting Charles' powers, and drafted the Grand Remonstrance.

For this thematic study, you do not need to know about the events of the Civil War, but you do need to understand **what caused it** and **why it was important**. Other monarchs had disagreements with parliament before, including Charles' father, James I. The opposition of 1640–1642 was different because parliament was not just challenging the king's decisions, but his right to **make** those decisions: the Divine Right of Kings.

## Now try this

Why was Charles unable to control parliament after 1640? Give **two** reasons.

# Political radicalism

During the English Revolution, ideas were commonly discussed that would once have been unthinkable. This sudden development of political radicalism meant that many people at the time thought that the world was turning upside down. The ideas had lasting impacts.

## Cromwell and the New Model Army

The New Model Army (NMA)	Post-war politics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created in February 1645 by parliament. <b>Oliver Cromwell</b>, an MP and successful soldier, was put in charge of the cavalry.</li> <li>The first fully <b>professional</b> army (it contained full-time soldiers, not men just called up to fight).</li> <li>It was based on <b>ability</b> rather than social status. This meant that it was open to new ideas and that social was much less important.</li> <li>It was run on strong religious principles. Cromwell was a devout Puritan. Every regiment had a minister, and soldiers often sang hymns before battle.</li> <li>Hugely effective and key to parliament's victory in the Civil War. This gave army leaders a lot of influence in parliament. Cromwell had a lot of authority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliament wanted to dissolve the NMA as it was no longer needed. However, many of the soldiers were political radicals with strong ideas about how the country should be governed.</li> <li>A split emerged between parliament and the army radicals. They disagreed over what to do with the king, who should vote in parliament and how much religious toleration should be allowed – as well as unpaid soldiers' wages and pardons for actions taken during the war.</li> <li>Representatives from each regiment met at Newmarket to discuss these matters. On 29 May 1647, they published the 'Solemn Engagement', stating that the army would not disband until they were satisfied.</li> </ul>

## The Putney Debates

By October 1647, five of the most radical cavalry regiments had elected new **Agitators** (known as the New Agents) to represent them in parliament. Not every member of the army agreed with the New Agents, so debates were held in Putney in October and November 1647.

Many of the soldiers were influenced by the **Levellers** and wanted major reforms, such as every man having a vote and a reorganisation of parliamentary **constituencies**. They wanted the House of Commons to have more authority than the king and Lords. They also believed that all Englishmen had natural rights, including freedom of conscience and equality before the law.

Cromwell did not want to overthrow the king, and thought giving every man the vote would lead to chaos. He wanted the vote limited to landholders. The Agitators, on the other hand, felt that the soldiers deserved these rights in return for their service during the war.

**Constituencies** are the areas of the country that elect an MP to parliament.

## New radical groups

The Levellers	The Diggers
<p>A political movement, the Levellers believed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>political power should come from the people</li> <li>more men should have the vote</li> <li>everyone should be equal before the law, and be free to follow their own religion</li> <li>tithes (taxes paid to the Church) and excise duties (sales tax) should be abolished.</li> </ul>	<p>Founded by Gerrard Winstanley, the Diggers went further than the Levellers, believing that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>nobody should own property</li> <li>that everything should be shared equally and that everyone should work</li> <li>people should live and work together in small self-sufficient communities.</li> </ul>

These radical groups drew on ideas from the Peasants' Revolt. See pages 7–9 for more on the Revolt.

## Now try this

Why do you think groups such as the Diggers and Levellers were seen as a threat by the people in power? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

# English Revolution: impact

Parliament and the army argued about what to do with the king. At first, Cromwell opposed removing Charles I, but eventually parliament decided to bring Charles to trial in 1648. Their decision had significant short-term and long-term impacts on British government.

## Trial and execution: significance

Charles was tried for high treason and tyranny, accused of acting in his own interests, not the country's. This was significant because, although kings had always been expected to protect their realms, they had never before been tried in a court for failing to do so.

The trial took place in Westminster Hall in London. Charles refused to plead or to accept the court's authority. God had made him king and only God had the right to remove him. His trial took place without him. Charles could not hear the evidence against him or question witnesses. Eventually, he was found guilty and executed by beheading on 30 January 1649.

### The opening words of Charles I's statement at his trial

I would know by what power I am called hither... Remember, I am your King, your lawful King, and what sins you bring upon your heads, and the judgement of God upon this land. Think well upon it, I say, think well upon it, before you go further from one sin to a greater... I have a trust committed to me by God, by old and lawful descent, I will not betray it, to answer a new unlawful authority.

Compare Cromwell's leadership to that of Simon de Montfort on page 6.

## The significance of Cromwell and the Commonwealth

A year of unrest: the monarchy was abolished and England ruled by a **Commonwealth** (a democratic state without a monarch). A rebellion in Ireland was mercilessly put down. Several prominent Levellers were imprisoned in the Tower.

By 1650, Cromwell was firmly in control. The king's son (the future Charles II) led an uprising in 1650–51, but was defeated. Cromwell turned his attention to stable government.

Cromwell asked parliament to design a new constitution. It failed. In April 1653, Cromwell expelled the members, dissolving parliament. In December 1653, Cromwell became Lord Protector. He had refused the crown, but was king in all but name.

Cromwell died in 1658, and his son Richard became Lord Protector.

Cromwell tried to ensure stability, but was very unpopular. He held strict Puritan views. He stopped Christmas celebrations, banned women from wearing makeup and closed theatres. Since his death, he has divided opinion. Some see him as a good man who fought for liberty and fairness against a tyrannical and unfair king. Others argue that he was a dictator, and that his rule was as undemocratic as the monarchy had been.

## The Impact of the English Revolution

	Short-term impact	Long-term impact
Government	Richard Cromwell was unable to hold the country together. In 1660, the monarchy was restored and Charles II became king. Everyone involved in the trial of Charles I was tried for treason, even the dead.	Although the monarchy was restored, it was clear that the king ruled only with the consent of parliament. Parliamentary authority had increased and an unpopular king could, and would, be replaced.
Religion	Charles II was relatively tolerant of religious differences, possibly because he had Catholic sympathies. Non-conformist groups such as the Quakers were persecuted, however. His Catholic brother, James II, succeeded him in 1685.	James was deposed in the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. Parliament invited the Protestant William of Orange to rule instead. In 1689, parliament declared that no Catholic could succeed to the throne. The ban was only lifted in 2013.

### Now try this

'The restoration of the monarchy meant that the English Revolution had little long-term impact.'  
 Do you agree? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

# American Revolution: causes

On 4 July 1776, the leaders of Britain's 13 colonies in America met in Philadelphia and declared independence from British rule. This was the first time any British colony had declared independence and was therefore a direct challenge to royal authority.

## The American colonies

In 1775, there were about 2.5 million Europeans and Africans living in 13 British colonies along the eastern coast of North America.

- Around half had arrived as **indentured servants** (people who are tied to a particular employer). The companies who founded the colonies gave workers free passage in return for four (or more) years' labour. After their term was up, they were free, and sometimes given land.
- From 1619, African slaves had been brought to America to work on tobacco and rice plantations.
- About 50 000 migrants were convicts who had been transported to the colonies instead of being sent to prison.
- Many other people left Britain for the colonies because they wanted political and religious freedom. The Pilgrim Fathers in 1620 were Puritans, a Catholic colony was set up in Maryland, and Pennsylvania was a place where Quakers could escape persecution.

## Relations: British government and colonists

The colonists were generally very independent: their loyalty was to their own area, so it was not usual for them to unite as they did in the 1770s.

A number of factors caused this to change:

War	From 1756–63, Britain fought the Seven Years War with France. British soldiers were sent to the colonies to protect them from French colonists in Quebec.
Economy	The British government wanted the colonies to pay towards the cost of this military protection. The colonists argued that they paid customs duties, but the British imposed a series of further taxes and duties including the 1765 <b>Stamp Act</b> .
Ideas	The colonists were furious. They had no MPs in the British parliament and argued that there should be no taxation without representation. In December 1773, a group of colonists boarded an East India Company ship and tipped all the tea it was carrying into the harbour. This became known as the <b>Boston Tea Party</b> .
Government	In retaliation, the British closed Boston harbour to all shipping until the colonists paid compensation. In March 1776, Britain repealed the Stamp Act but passed the Declaratory Act, stating their right to make laws for the colonies and people of America.

## Powerful ideas

The **Loyalists** wanted to remain part of the British Empire. Many benefited from trade with Britain, but others just felt a strong connection to Britain because it was where they or their families had come from and they wanted a compromise.

The **Radicals** believed that the colonies had the **right to representation**: they should be able to send MPs to the parliament that taxed them or made laws applying to them. Many Radicals were professionals, such as lawyers and journalists.

**Radical pamphleteers** like Thomas Paine argued forcefully for American **independence from royal authority**. Paine's pamphlet 'Common Sense' sold over half a million copies in a few months and was hugely influential, attracting a lot of support for independence.

## The Stamp Act, 1765

The Stamp Act was a tax on paper. Printers had to use 'stamped' (taxed) paper to produce most printed material. The tax had to be paid in sterling, not in the local currency, which made it more difficult to pay. This tax was fiercely resisted. Many tax collectors resigned in protest.

## Now try this

Give two examples of how the actions of the British government made protest more likely in the years 1765–1776.

# American Revolution: impact

In 1775, the tension between Britain and the American colonies turned into war. Against everyone's expectations, in 1783, Britain lost America. This was significant: it was the first time a colony had broken away, and this resistance to royal authority had a huge impact on politics in Britain.

## Reaction in Britain

The rebellion in America divided opinion in Britain.

Some people (mainly conservatives) argued that the government had every right to make laws for the colonies: what was the point of having an empire otherwise?

The American colonies were essential to Britain's position as a world power and loss of control in America would be a disaster.

They were determined to crush the revolution by any means necessary.

Influential liberal politicians thought that a heavy-handed approach made rebellion more likely, not less.

The idea of no taxation without representation was already widespread in Britain among those excluded from the political process. Some radicals used the situation to pressure the government for change in Britain.

Economists such as Adam Smith argued that colonial restrictions on trade damaged Britain's wealth and power: free trade was better.

## War of Independence

The British government was determined to hold on to the American colonies, and sent the army to put down the revolution. At first, it looked as though the British would win easily. In February 1778, the French joined in against the British. French money, soldiers and ships tipped the balance decisively. By 1781, the British army was surrounded. They surrendered at Yorktown to the American and French armies.

When he heard about the defeat at Yorktown, the British prime minister cried out in despair that it was all over. In 1782, parliament passed legislation saying that they would not continue to use force against the colonists.

### Introduction:

#### 1776 Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

## Impact and significance

Impact	Significance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first time a colony had become independent from its European ruling power: many saw this as unnatural and evidence that the world was changing.</li> <li>The ideas of independence, basic human rights and individual liberty took root. France had helped the colonists fight for independence, and just a few years later had its own revolution.</li> <li>Radical colonist Thomas Paine went to live in France and became very involved in the French Revolution (1789).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Britain wasn't ruined by the loss of the American colonies, largely because the empire grew in other directions.</li> <li>Trade with India and Canada grew. The import of raw materials from these colonies fed the Industrial Revolution, creating new sources of wealth.</li> <li>Support for the radical ideas behind the American Revolution led to demands for political change at home: such as changes to the voting system and the end to corruption among the political elites.</li> </ul>

## Now try this

For Paine's role in the American Revolution, see page 17. For the impact of the American Revolution on British politics, see page 20.

The American Revolution was a significant development in the spread of some important ideas. Compare the summary of Magna Carta on page 4 and the extract from the Declaration of Independence above. Which key ideas can you find in both? Give **at least two** examples.

Had a look Nearly there Nailed it! 

# Industrial Britain, c1800–c1900

Many historians refer to the 19th century as a century of change. Several factors led to this change in Britain.

## Factor: the economy

- The population grew rapidly: between 1801 and 1901, from 16.3 million to 41.6 million.
- Increased **industrialisation**: Britain was no longer an agricultural economy. People moved to towns and cities to work in factories: by 1851, over half the population were living in urban areas.
- Cities grew extremely fast. Manchester's population grew from 89 000 to 700 000, and Glasgow's grew from 43 000 to 762 000.
- This rapid **urbanisation** led to overcrowding and poor living conditions.
- Working hours were long and factories were noisy, dirty and dangerous. The constant stream of people from the country meant that employers could keep wages low.

Industrialisation and urbanisation meant that land was no longer the main source of money and power. Industry and trade were a new path to wealth and influence.

## Factors: religion and ideas

People had different ideas about how to solve new social problems such as overcrowded living conditions.

'Laissez faire'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government should not interfere in how people lived or ran their businesses.</li> <li>• The importance of 'self-help'.</li> <li>• The state should not restrict individual liberty more than strictly necessary.</li> </ul>
Social responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government had a moral duty to look after the welfare of its citizens and put right social injustice.</li> <li>• It was everyone's duty to help the less fortunate.</li> <li>• Many social reformers were motivated by their religious beliefs.</li> </ul>

As wealth spread to new social classes, the idea of **democratic representation** also spread.

## Factor: communication

- **Railway** expansion meant people and goods could be moved quickly and cheaply.
- The railways allowed newspapers to be distributed nationwide, overnight: people were better informed and more literate.
- Sending **letters** had been very expensive. The 1835 national 'penny post' made it possible for nearly everyone to send letters.
- The invention of the **telegraph** in 1837 meant long-distance messages could be sent very quickly.

The speed of communication was a huge change. Before, the fastest message was the speed of a galloping horse. Now decisions could be made (and ideas spread) more quickly.

## Factor: government

Parliament in the 19th century was dominated by two political parties, the Whigs and the Tories.

- The **Whigs** believed that political power belonged to the people and that the monarch was only in power because of an unwritten contract with the people. They believed in religious toleration and supported the calls for economic and political reform that increased after the American and French revolutions.
- The **Tories** supported the monarchy and opposed change to the constitution. They supported the established Church and opposed religious toleration.

Later, the Whigs merged into the Liberal Party and the Tories were renamed Conservatives.

## Factor: War

When the Napoleonic Wars (1803–15) with France ended after the British victory at Waterloo, the labour market was flooded with returning soldiers, pushing down wages. Wounded soldiers, and the families of men who had been killed, got no support from government and faced extreme poverty.

## Now try this

For example, soldiers returning from **war** pushed down wages (**economy**), leading to pressure for social change.

Factors help us explain why things change. Change is often caused by connections between more than one factor. Suggest **two** examples of how linked factors caused change in this period.

# Radical protest

The American Revolution, with its slogan of no taxation without representation, struck a chord in Britain. Many people began to campaign to extend the **franchise** (the right to vote) early in the 19th century. They believed having the vote would give them the power to improve their lives.

Very few people had the vote. In some boroughs, virtually all adult male homeowners could vote. In many counties, a few landowners could vote. In 'corporation boroughs', no one could vote: MPs were chosen by the corporation (council), usually elected by a small group of property owners.

Voting was not secret – voters stated their vote publicly. This led to intimidation.

MPs were unpaid, so only the rich could afford to stand. Corruption was widespread, with voters bribed or bullied.

**Why were there demands for voting reform in the early 19th century?**

The constituency boundaries were out of date. Most new cities had no MPs, and some constituencies had declined in size and had very few inhabitants (rotten boroughs).

The universities of Cambridge and Oxford elected two MPs each. Only holders of doctoral and master's degrees could vote, which excluded the majority.

## Rotten boroughs

88 of the 406 constituencies had fewer than 50 voters. Some villages with seven voters had two MPs! This made it easy for the local landowner to influence the outcome of the election. Very often his chosen candidate was not even opposed. Because they were 'in the pocket' of the landowner, they were also called 'pocket boroughs'. These boroughs were frequently bought and sold.

## Conservatives vs Radicals

Conservatives	Radicals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite the unfairness in the system, they believed passionately that it should not be changed.</li> <li>Some argued that the British system was the best system possible.</li> <li>Some thought that extending the franchise would cause a disaster because working people were not able to make informed decisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaigned for electoral reform and <b>universal male suffrage</b> (one man one vote).</li> <li>Radical newspapers, such as <i>Cobbett's Political Register</i>, widely distributed.</li> <li>150 Hampden Clubs, which debated political reform, were set up all over the country by 1817. (Named after John Hampden, who led the protest against ship money in 1637.)</li> <li>There were frequent demonstrations, some of which descended into riots, such as the Spa Fields riots in London in 1816.</li> </ul>

## Factors: war and ideas

Many people in Britain had been very shaken by the impact of the French Revolution. While some people were influenced by the spread of radical ideas, others were worried. The war against Napoleon (1803–15) allowed the conservatives to accuse anyone who wanted change of being unpatriotic, or worse, a dangerous revolutionary.

For more on ship money, see page 13.

## The Peterloo Massacre

On 16 August 1819, 60,000–80,000 people gathered in St Peter's Field, Manchester, to demand electoral reform and hear radical speaker Henry Hunt. Just after the meeting began, local magistrates asked the military to arrest Hunt and disperse the crowd.

Cavalry charged into the crowd with swords drawn. About 15 people were killed, hundreds injured (people hid their injuries to avoid persecution for taking part).

## The Six Acts

The government response to Peterloo was to crack down on protest. The leaders of the protest were charged with treason.

The government passed the Six Acts, which limited public meetings to 50 people, allowed magistrates to search any property and restricted publications.

The massacre was called 'Peterloo' in a reference to the Battle of Waterloo (1815).

## Now try this

List the **three** things that reformers wanted to change.

# Great Reform Act, 1832

Throughout the 1820s, many politicians, especially Whigs, began to call for electoral reform. This was partly because they were influenced by ideas like representation and democracy, and partly because they were worried that, if they didn't, there would be a revolution.

## What caused reform in 1832?

In 1830, Lord Grey became prime minister. He was a Whig, and wanted reform. The Commons passed two reform bills, but the Tory-dominated House of Lords refused to pass them.

There were riots in London, Birmingham, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Yeovil, Sherborne, Exeter and Bristol. The Bristol riots were some of the worst in England in the 19th century. Public buildings and houses were set on fire, there was more than £300000 of damage and 12 people died. The government feared that, unless there was reform, there might be a revolution.

In 1832, a third reform bill passed through the Commons and the Lords. Lord John Russell, the minister responsible, said that there would be no further reform. The Act was final. Russell became nicknamed 'Finality Jack' as a result.

## The 1832 Great Reform Act

- 56 rotten boroughs were disenfranchised entirely (lost their MPs). Another 31 were allocated one MP instead of two.
- 67 new constituencies were created, mainly in towns and cities (42 towns and cities now had MPs).
- In the counties, small landowners, tenant farmers and shopkeepers could now vote. This increased the electorate to 650000.
- In the boroughs, all householders, and anyone who paid £10 a year or more in rent, could vote.
- However, women were explicitly barred from voting. Some men who had been able to vote under the old system lost the right to vote.

The electorate increased by 78%, but the vote was still based on property ownership. Only one man in five could now vote.

A cartoon from 1831 called 'The reformers' attack on the old rotten tree'. The reformers' weapons are labelled with their different groups and motives. The names of the rotten boroughs are written on the branches and birds' nests. The rotten trunk contains a vipers' nest ('vipers' nest' means a group of corrupt people).

The words in the speech bubble are: 'You take our house when you do take the prop that dost sustain our house - you take our lives when you do take the means whereby we live.'



## The impact of the Great Reform Act

The Great Reform Act pleased a lot of people. Before 1832, only 10% of men had the vote. This increased to 20%. However, it still excluded a lot of people. The voting qualification was based on property, whether you were in a borough or a county, and £10 (£10500 today) was too high for many people - especially the skilled labourers and craftsmen who had been some of the most vocal protestors.

The Reform Act did not have the desired effect of calming demands for change. Despite Lord Russell's insistence that the Great Reform Act was final, **pressure for further reform** and political unrest increased after 1832. Some of the people excluded by the Great Reform Act campaigned for further extension of the franchise, and other protest movements, such as Chartism, spread rapidly.

For more on Chartism, see page 22.

## Now try this

What does the cartoon above tell us about views on electoral reform before the Great Reform Act? Give **three** examples.