

Social History of England

Unit 1

Chaucer's England : Field, Village and Manor House

In Chaucer's England, one can see the modern mingling with the medieval and England emerges as a distinct nation. There is a birth and general acceptance of English language. The Saxon and French words blended into English tongue. Chaucer who has had long hours in court circle, had the culture of medieval France at his finger's ends. Chaucer is the first one to introduce English sense of humour. The main feature of new born England can be seen in Langland's religious allegory Piers the Plowman. The spirit of it lived on in the religious earnestness of English forefathers. English Puritanism is older than the Reformation.

Langland and Gower bewailed the corruption of medieval society and religion. Wycliff hammered out a programme of change. It was enforced in the form of English anti-clericalism and English Protestantism. England began to develop social classes peculiar to herself. There was a breakup of the feudal manor and the commutation of field- selfelorn was proceeding. The rebellious farmers demanded that all English men should be free men. This movement cut at the base of the existing social fabric. The employers are not old feudal lords. The cloth trade re mould the society of England. By following the policy, sea power must be maintained in home waters. National self consciousness began to replace the local loyalties and rigid class divisions. Hence in the 100 years' was, to plunder france, the king and nobles are supported by a new force, a democratic Jongoisism of the modern type. The institution of Justices of the peace makes departure from inherited feudal Jurisdictions. It is a reversal of the movement towards bureaucrats royal centralization. Local influences were used for the king's purposes. The new

classes express the nation's anger at the war by land and sea. They demand better order and strong justice at home.

The most important change during the time of Chaucer was the break up of the feudal manor. Farm leases and money wages take the place of cultivation of the lord's demesne. There was a great transformation of the English village from a community of semi bondsmen. The result in the individualist society in which all are legally free. This change broke the mould of the static feudal world. It opened new possibilities to trade, manufacture and agriculture. In the medieval England they followed the method of cultivation called "open field". It means a village community working huge unenclosed fields on a principle of strip allotments. Their long narrow strips were scattered over the open field. Each farmer had a certain number of arable strips. The strips were not enclosed. The vast open field was surrounded by movable hurdles. This system of cultivation was sound as the aim of each farmer was to raise food for family rather than for the market. It saved the expense of fencing. It had the advantage of individual labour and public control. It bound the villagers together as a community, and gave the poor his own land and his voice in the agricultural policy.

The peasant cultivators were a self-governing community, but in relation to the lord of the manor, they were serfs. They were bound to the soil. The farmers owed the serfs field service on certain days of the serfs. This medieval England produced the best wool in Europe. The woolsack was the true wealth of the king and his subjects. Sheep-farming and shepherd's life were common in medieval England. The peasants rebelled against the lords and demanded that they should work on their own lands. The labourers demanded higher wages from the farmers. Slowly labourers servile attitude changed and they fled to other towns where they were given higher wages. Such flights of labourers left the lands hopeless.

Later on, during Chaucer's age, the lords could not cultivate their demense lands and consented to commute field services for cash. It became earlier for the serf to borrow enough shillings to buy his freedom. Many peasants kept sheep. By sale of wool, they obtained enough money to buy their freedom.

The lords could not to the free labourers as the price of labour was too high. So they let their demesne on lease to a new class of yeoman farmer. These farmers took over the lords' cattle on a lease. The lord's family had been so far, fed by the produce of the home farm. Now that it was let the old relationship continued on mutual basis. Thus there was the emergence of new class of substantial yeomen. Some of them formed the lord's demesne; others took over the strips in the old open field. This led to the prosperity of the farmers. The English of the English yeomen is his independence, his hearty good nature and his skill in archery. The wide gap between lord and villain in the feudal manor is filled up now. The villain serf is becoming a yeoman farmer. The peasantry are divided as employers and employees. There is a quarrel between two classes of peasants, the small farmer and the landless labourers, whom he hired. Both of them could have worked together on equal status on the lord's demesne before, but now there is a change in their ranks. The landless labourers were backed by the parliamentary Justices. Though their protests were suppressed by imprisonment, the victory came to the wage-earner. Due to the Black Death, there was shortage of labour. Prices rose, but wages rose faster. During this period, the landless labourer were lucky.

Many social revolts were inflamed by Christian Democracy. They taught the labourers to demand freedom and justice in God's name. the Parish priest who belonged to the same class sympathized with their desire for freedom. They practiced Christian idealism. The rebels had lost all respect for the privileges of the rich churchmen. The rich monasteries or laymen took the title

of the parish and starved the parson. They were hated by the priests. As a result, the monasteries were unpopular and suffered the violence of the rebels. In London Wat Tyler's men beheaded the Archbishop of Canterbury, as he represented the unpopular government. In revenge, the Bishop of Norwich raised an army to defend themselves. Thus there was a constant war between the conservative elements and the equalitarians.

The unpopular poll-tax provoked much agitation against the oppressive administration in Essex and Kent. Headed by a parish priest John Ball, the half-armed villagers and townfolk rose and invaded the manor houses and burnt charters and annor rolls. Following some murders, the gentry fled from their homes to hide in the woods. Then the London mob and a party among the aldermen opened the gates to the rustic armies. The governing class was panicked and surrendered their royal fortress of the tower to the rebels. Corrupt leaders were murdered. The corrupt Archbishop Sudbury's head was placed over London bridge. The boy King Richard II met their London army and granted free pardon for all the rebels. After this concession, the rebels were satisfied. Wat Tyler was murdered at Smithfield in the presence of mob, he led by Mayor Walworth. Thus the upper class recovered its courage and controlled the rising in London. The charters of liberation were repeated by parliament. Due to the rebellion, serfdom was abolished in England. Many of the serfs won this freedom at the price of divorce from the soil. Though the country's wealth increased, there was greater inequalities. The feudal manor had been a community of serfs. They were poor, but they are bound to their lands. The modern village under the squire was a society of wealthy farmers, village craftsmen and landless labourers. From 12th century to the 19th century, the form of society changed. The Yeomen's descendants became great land owners and politicians.

The nobles were more powerful than the nobles as his military resources were commanded by the nobles. In Chaucer's days, life was somewhat safer and comfortable. The farms and cottages of the poor were built of logs of wood. The floors were usually bare earth and the roof was thatched. Many got wealth by feeding sheep and sale of wool, meat, cheese and vegetables were part of the diet. Most of them planted peas, beans in their lands. The farmers had their oxen and pasture. Bacer was a common dish on the cottage tables. Every villager needed timber from the trees to build his cottage and cook his food. In the waste lands, they had pasture. The comfort of the villager diminished as the cornfield encroached on wild nature.

The wasteland and the woodland swarmed with game. By 1389, the commons complained in parliament that labourers and servants keep hunting in parks, during the Christmas service at church. Thus a law was enforced prohibiting such rampant hunting. Yet sporting gentry and peasants hunted small birds like thrushes and larks.

The gentry spent their leisure time in hunting the deer with horse and hound. The break up of the feudal manor and it opened the way to agricultural improvement. It encouraged the new farming methods. Lord Berkeley was a great improver of his land, a 14th century coke of Norfolk. During Chaucer's age, men were clad in long gown and plain hood. But Chaucer's contemporaries abandoned the gown for a short crat or jacket and hosen. In Richard II's court, coats and hosen blazed with colour. Men of high rank were rich gowns trailing behind them on the ground. Men and women of fashion were enormous head-dresses of fantastic shape.

With much absurd and ephemeral luxury came in much comfort and new habits of life. The plunder of France had been poured in England during the 100 years' war, revolutionized the primitive economy of the English feudal household. The French nobles, taken in war stayed in England honoured guests and taught English men fashions in their clothes and dishes. Consequently the merchant class enjoyed to supply luxury things to the fashionable men.

Chapter II

Chaucer's England: Town and Church

In the 14th century, the English town was still a rural and agricultural community as well as a centre of industry. Outside lay the town field unenclosed by hedges, where every farmer cultivated corn in his strip. It was laid down by parliamentary statute that in harvest time, apprentices should be compelled to work in the cornfield. Even London was rustic in character. The town was insanitary and there were outbreaks of plague. Its houses stood amid gardens, orchards and farmyards. The preoccupation of these little towns was to keep the privileges of self government and the monopoly of the local trade. The first duty of the burgher was to play his part in the city military, to defend the walls against the French or Scottish raiders. For the purpose of war and police, and public works, a man might be called on for personal service by the civic authorities. None thought about liberty consisted in avoiding public works. There were no rights without duties.

Political strife ran strong in the streets of every town of England. It is about the politics of the craft and of the town which concerned about the burgher in daily life. There was a struggle between the inhabitants of the borough with the king's sheriff or the monks of the Abbey. In London, there was huge threat to health of the noble men. Thus they fled to other cities. People were careless about sanitation. The richest citizens of London were on par with the great territorial nobles, as they lent money to the government. In 1290, Edward I expelled the Jews from England. Thus the Englishmen were asked to undertake their financial life without the Jews.

The English merchant lent money to the government for the hundred years' war. Thus they took advantage of the need the king had of them. So they bargained for commercial advantages. The Hundred Years' war was an attempt to keep open the market for wool and cloth trade in France.

English national policy was changing according to the king's necessities and rival interests. The English marine began to be a powerful force as Edward III cleared the channel of foreign pirates. The fleet that defeated French was composed of the merchant ships of many different towns. Many of the English goods exported through the staple consisted of raw wool. The men who lent money to the king were the staplers who exported wool to feed the foreign towns. The taxes levied at the staple on exported wool were the great source of royal revenue. The London- Calais merchants had extensive business and personal connections with wool growing districts. Weaving had been an occupation of most of the villagers. In the 12th and 13th centuries a better class of manufacture was conducted by weavers' gild in London. In the 13th and 14th centuries, there was steep decline in the production o standard cloth. Once it was done by hand but now it was done by water power.

Reformation

Reformation started in Europe in England in the sixteenth century. The major idea was to remove the evils of religion. This movement undertook the mission of eradicating the evil practices of Pope. It started during the reign of Henry VIII. At last England was extricated from Popish domination.

The causes of the reformation are : 1) abuse of power by Pope 2) Protesting voices from the clergy 3) monasteries became corrupt places 4) religion is condemned as a mass of silly superstitions 5) the preaching's of Wycliffe and Lollards exposed the corruption in the religious institutions. The reformation led to the rise of nationalism. The renaissance made people's mind, vibrant and resourceful. It gave vent to the frustrations of the common people to the Popal authority.

The church demanded so much of money from common people. Due to the impact of humanists, the authority of powerful people was evestioned and removed. The major theme of the movement was anti-clericalism. The clerical body exercised great authority common people. They held themselves to be far superior to the layman. The people felt that the religion was of no use to them. The separated themselves from the Roman church and joined the protestant denomination started by Martin Luther. John Wycliff, the morning star of the reformation was responsible for the revolution in religion.

The immediate cause for reformation in England is King Henry's determination to divorce his royal queen Catherine. And his remarriage with Anne Boleyn. It became political as England terminated foreign interference in English. Henry VIII commanded Pope Clement VIII to allow him to divorce his wife. The Pope was unwilling to this proposal. By 1529, Henry VIII assembled the Reformation parliament. It resulted in the break between Rome and England. The Acts of Annates stopped the income of the Pope from the Bishops. Eventually, Henry VIII passed the Act of Supremacy and declared himself the Head of the church in England. Pope's power were squashed by the King.

The reformation movement gave room for England to improve her economic status. The English church became national and operated without the interference of any external authority. The king assumed more power as he held control over the church. In Parliament the influence of the church became vulnerable.

The dissolution of the monasteries was the outcome of the reformation. The power of the Pope was nullified eventually cardinal Wolsey was succede by Thomas Cromwell. The gross indifference of monks for spiritual cause was brought to the notice of the king by Cromwell. Both coveted the wealth of the monasteries and resolved to dissolve them. The religious revolution started by Henry proved to be solid as it weathered the vagaries of time.

Unit II

Chapter VI

England at the time of Shakespeare

Shakespeare and Edmund Spenser were children of that period. The works of Langland, Milton and Wordsworth were the outcome of the religious philosophy of that period.

The first year of Elizabethan saw a crisis in the social life of every Parish. The English prayer book of Cranmer was read in place of Latin mass. Shakespeare transformed Plutarch's "Lives" into his own "Julius Caesar" and "Antony and Cleopatra". Others followed the bible for religious England. English sailors had fascination for sea and adventures.

The population of England and Wales had crossed 4 millions and most of them were engaged in industries. Many cultivated the land and tended the sheep. The average town was not overcrowded and had many orchards, gardens, farmsteads with many shops. There were clothiers, miners and everymen working for a more general market.

London of Queen Elizabeth was the most fashionable city in the kingdom. It exercised a social, intellectual and political influence that led to the success of the protestant revolution in the 16th century and the parliamentary revolution in the 17th century. Due to its large population, food was required in vast quantity. Kent was called the fruit garden of London, rich with apples and cherries. In all the south-eastern centuries, wheat and rye were cultivated. English corn was exported. Cambridgeshire and rose valley sent great quantities of wheat through Lynn. There was the cultivation of Oats, wheat, rye and barley according to the soil and climate.

English society in town and country was strongly conditioned by the religious differences of neighbors. Parish clergy men were working hard to remodel the church establishment. Queen's religion was acceptable to the English.

Unit II

Chapter III

England in the age of Caxton

The fifteenth century witnessed chaos and rebellion in England. The whole social fabric was upset by the state of misrule. The social disorder caused the struggle among landholders for more land.

In Caxton's England, there were many savage battles, ruthless murders and selfish malevolence. The struggle among the lords remained within themselves the Battle of Agincourt (1415) justified English aggression plunder of France. Kings and barons were admired by their citizens and spurned in their failures. Lollards could not dislodge Papal supremacy. The long conflict between the parliament and the crown culminated in the great securities of national liberty. The impact of Italian renaissance reflected itself in the architecture of the day. The invention of the printing press was boon in 1476. In Europe, John Guttenberg had introduced printing. Books in English were printed for the first time in 1483.

Consequently, books became cheaper and plentiful. Caxton helped the spread of knowledge by translating European books into English. He printed the works of Chaucer, Gower, Langland and others. Thus printing press refashioned religion and social life.

The wars of the roses continued for 30 years. Only the nobles took part in the war. In 1461, York's son won the battle of Towton and declared himself King Edward V. but Henry became king again. Edward defeated Earl of Warwick. Henry VI was arrested and killed. Edward IV was able to maintain peace until 1483. His son Edward V could not be a king for long years as Richard, Duke of Gloucester declared himself a king. Edward and his brother were believed to

have been murdered by their wicked uncle Richard. The usurper Richard III was disturbed by both Yorkists and the Lancastrians. Henry defeated Richard III and became a king of England.

The church had overpowered Lollards and priests became powerful and influential. The leaders of the church took part in state politics. Thus the church became corrupt. Some bishops spent their money in building magnificent colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. These institutions had well-endowed colleges and well stocked libraries. These universities were the house of the decaying scholasticism of the middle ages. The wealth of the monasteries was diverted towards educational institutions. As a result, many grammar schools were established. Local schools imparted elementary education throughout the century. Public schools like Eton and Westminster provided higher and all round education. England emerged a land of enlightened people.

Women were doomed to a life of hard work and drudgery. Aristocratic ladies displayed excess of delicacy and decorum. Courtly ladies exhibited false pity and sentimentality. The church considered women as source of all evil. Child marriage was the order of the day. Girls who disobeyed the wishes of their parents were severely beaten. Most married ladies in high society had lovers who wrote platonic love poems on them.

Through this century saw unrest, wars and chaos in the beginning, it concluded with settled dynasty with the arrival of printing press, education was modernized.

Social life in the Elizabethan age

English society in the 16th century was neither traditional nor severe. It was not based on equality. The Elizabethans were fond of freedom and showed eagerness to explore new islands. The Tudor peerages had great households. But they have lost independent military due to the wars of Roses. The House of Lords was a less important body in Tudor age. The old aristocrats had a steep fall and the new aristocracy was in ascendance. The decay of the old nobility enhanced the importance of gentry class. The influence had risen due to the distribution of the monastic estates, vitality of commerce and land improvement in the new age. The squire was integral part of the society. The landed gentry co-existed with the commercial class. All the scholars in the universities were called gentlemen.

There was steady rise of merchant class. The area of their trade expanded to Spain, Portugal and France. They had trade centres in the East and West Indies. They discovered new lands. Due to their overseas trade, their wealth increased. Yeomen also emerged as powerful class. Being owning their lands, they were farmers to gentlemen. They gave university education to their sons. The wage earners were the last section of the society. Lawyers enjoyed prominent positions in government offices. The wage earners have no power in the commonwealth. Though many were poor, there was a spirit of independence through all classes. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, all classes had more freedom. It was an age of Spenser and Shakespeare. Much importance was given to literature in England. With the decline of Tudor dynasty, the rule of Stuarts began. The number of travelers increased. Hence there were more taverns in towns during the Elizabethan period. These taverns provided tasty food, good drinks and comfortable boarding to the travelers. Some of the servants in the taverns had alliance with robbers to rob helpless travelers.

Elizabethans spend their leisurely time in the taverns. The notable taverns are: the mermaids' tavern and the Friday's street club.

The amicable atmosphere of the era was due to the power of Queen Elizabeth, exercised through the privy council and the prerogative courts. They put an end to the terrorization of the judges. Due to the growth of the industries, unemployment was rampant. To redress such grievances, poor law was passed in 1601. The law took care of the beggars. The overseers of the poor in every parish were forced to buy material to give work to the unemployed. In times of shortage, the justices of peace controlled the price of grain and attempted equal distribution of grain.

The grammar schools were popular in the age. Oxford and Cambridge were revised under Queen Elizabeth. Any gentleman is required to have graduation in the university.

Great importance was given to discipline. The students lived with their teachers. There were nearly 100 grammar schools in this period. Spanish Armada was a historical event in the period. The English fleet, under the command of Lord Howard and Sir Francis Drake, defeated Spanish Armada. Thus England emerged as a strong naval power.

Colonization of English in the 17th century

English colonization started in the reign of James I. the discovery of the new world diverted English attention to the expansion in the east. They successfully set up colonies in Virginia, New England and the West Indies islands. Spurred by the spirit of adventure and conquest, the English men made expeditions to other new lands. The climate for colonization was conducive. The English kings provided large amount of money for the explorers to go on travels. Even private companies like Virginia Company joined in this enterprise. Their aim was to amass large

amount of fortunes and create another England in the foreign land. Puritans were later on exiled to such islands as a measure of punishment. Lord Baltimore was exiled from England on account of his conversion to Catholicism. Thus he created Mary Land in America.

Puritans were also called as 'Pilgrim Fathers'. They landed on Massachusetts, a cold barren land. They dreamt of promoting it as a puritan colony. Puritans flocked to this place in large numbers and named the puritan colony after their Spenser Boston. But the settlers in Virginia were not motivated by religious cause. They looked for a free land. Unemployed craftsmen were given chances for success in these colonies. The government exiled prisoners of war and criminals to these colonies. Sometimes young men were kidnapped and sent as slaves to Virginia and Barbados. Thus slave trade flourished in Virginia and West Indies.

Unit III

Chapter IX

Restoration England

The period between 1660 and 1688 was called as restoration period. The puritan regime came to an end with the crowning of Charles II as king of England in 1660. Following this event, the parliament, the Anglican Church, the law courts and the old system of local government were also restored. Religiously, it returned the bishops, and the prayer book in the place of Puritanism. It means the restoration of the nobles and gentry.

The upper class people embraced Anglicanism. The Roman Catholics were denied entry into national government. During this period political parties formed. The upper class was divided into Whigs and Tories. The Tories were the supporters of the king and the Whigs supported the parliament.

In this period, science flourished and it was used for the development of agriculture, navy and engineering. The royal society of science was founded in 166. As a result, most of the superstitions beliefs were lost.

The restoration era saw a change in the English theatre. Women's roles were acted by women actresses. The vulgar restoration plays created a hostile attitude in the minds of the civilized people. Censorship was severe. A community library was set up in London by Tennyson. With the restoration of the monarchy, the fortunes of the cavalier families developed. Sports and entertainments were uncommon in the puritan rule. But they were revived during the restoration period. Plague and great fire were the two great national calamities of the period. This period gave peace and it attained its perfection in the age of Queen Anne.

Age of Queen Anne (1702-1714)

The period of Queen Anne was called a golden age in the history of England. It was a period of great prosperity, agricultures and commerce. Under the able administration of the Duke of Marlborough, England enjoyed religious unity, wealth and vigor.

Good harvest and cheap food in the feature of Anne's England. During her period they exchanged agricultural products between one district and the another. There were theories about new modes of cultivation. The social hierarchy consisted of the Duke, the Squire, the yeoman, the free holder and tenant. Sir Roger de Coverley who is pictured by Addison in 'The Spectator' is a typical squire of the time. He was more generous and hospitable.

Women's education was totally forbidden. Girls learn to read, write and do other domestic chores. Parents arranged the marriages of their daughters. Divorces were not sanctioned legally. Drunkenness was much prevalent among all classes. Another social evil was gambling. Tobacco smoking was a common habit with many people. Dueling was a harmful social evil among gentlemen. In 1712, a club of young men called Mohocks terrorized the land owners.

Coal and woolen industries were much popular during Anne's age. Lord Dartmouth and Wilkins were the most important owners of coal mines. These owners were callous towards the workers. Many explosions took place in the coal mines. Coffee houses were the special feature of Queen Anne's England. They were the centres of social life. In Queen Anne's England, there were 500 coffee houses in London. The Tories, the Whigs, the clergymen, doctors – all these people have particular coffee house to visit. Men visit these places to discuss politics and religion.

The religious activities of the period consisted of the establishment of many religious societies and charity schools. They promoted Christian life in individuals and families. London was the centre of business. It enjoyed complete self-government in a democratic manner. Horse racing

and cock-fighting were common country pastimes. The peace and prosperity strengthened its national character.

Humanitarian Movements

In the 18th century, there were Methodist and Humanist Movements. Religious conviction of people made them perform acts of philanthropy and kindness. Some philanthropists evinced keen interest in serving the poor.

The population explosion was due to the improved medical service. Medical practitioners exhibited a sense of devotion in the practice of their profession. Lady Montague introduced the method of inoculation and reduced the ravages of the disease. Edward Jenner discovered the small-pox vaccination. To alleviate the sufferings of sick people, 150 hospitals were built. Captain Coram built a founding hospital for the bastard children, Handel and Hogarth served in this noble cause.

The condition of the prisons in England was very poor. General Oglethorpe exposed the wretched condition of the prisons. The debtors' prison was managed by the criminal minded jailors. This was brought to the attention of the parliament. It was considered to be national disgrace. The government was indifferent to such prisons and so when Oglethorpe became the governor of Georgia, one of the American colonies, he transported the debtors and prisoners to the American colonies. Slave – trade was prosperous at that time. Africa had formed a slave market for Europe. Britain involved in the slave trade. William Wilberforce emerged as an anti-slavery propagandist. John Howard was the prison- reformer. An act was passed by the parliament in 1807, abolishing slave-trade. The humanitarian movements had purifying effect on the sick England. Such movements taught the oppressed people the methods of protest.

To prevent the corrupt system of warehouse, the poor law Amendment Act was passed. The humiliation meted out to the inmates of the work house was addressed and they implemented measures to safeguard the rights of the poor. Those who earn meager amount as wages were provided monetary relief. The paupers received their aid from the relief fund. To remove the evil effects of the Industrial Revolution, many measures were taken. Police system was introduced. Henry fielding and his brother set up 'Bow Street Runners' to keep a watch over thieves and robbers. Jenary Bentham exposed the absurdities of the existing legal system and appealed for reforms. The judges were independent dispensers of justice. Salvation Army was found to abolish evils in the society. Teetotalism was started to eradicate the social evil of drinking alcohol, under the banner of "Blue Ribbon Army".

Agricultural revolution

In England, many radical changes occurred in the field of agriculture in the latter part of the 17th century and in the early part of the 18th century. The causes for Agricultural revolution are many. Open field system was wasteful, as every one of the three fields was not used for agriculture purposes. The old system of distribution of land led to waste of time. More food was needed to meet the needs of population. The landlords are eager to follow the modern methods of cultivation. In the era of Stuarts and George I, the enclosure of open field was affected by mutual consent of the parties concerned. Private Acts of parliaments were passed, though though there were protests from individual owners to the new order of the day. The commission paid compensation to the farmers. George III sped up the change by passing these revolutionary Acts. Hence he was appreciated as 'Farmer George', by his subjects. Those who had smeagre strip of land for their livelihood had to leave their land.

Farmers did away with their old system of cultivation and chose the scientific rotation of crops. Many acres of wasteland had been enclosed for arable lands. Charles Townshend experimented with crop rotation. He pointed out that by growing turnips along with two kinds of grain and clover, the soil could be enriched. By this method, farmers did not have to leave any part of their land fallow. Besides that, fodder was available for the livestock during winter. Thomas Coke experimented with this idea Robert Bakewell experimented with the long term period of cattle. Blackwell's new breed of sheep was called the 'Leicester Sheep'. The first important inventor of the revolution was Jethro Tull.

Another consequence was the exodus of the villagers to London and other towns. The distressed farmer deserted his village to try his fortune in the new industrial towns. By 1820, England had become largely urban on account of mass migration. Goldsmith's poem "The Deserted Village" speaks about the migration.

Industrial Revolution

Industrial Revolution changes the lifestyle of people and man has won over nature. England was transformed from an agricultural country to a manufacturing country with machines.

Industrialization commenced with John Kay's 'Flying Shuttle' in cotton industry. It helped in increasing the speed of weaving. The old handloom was replaced by power loom. The spinners could not match the speed of the weavers and there was a demand for more cotton. Spinning Jenny was invented by Hargreaves which could work faster. It was modified by Richard Arkwright and it was operated by water-power. Spinning mule was invented to improve the speed of production.

Iron industry is a major industry of England. This industry needed wood charcoal. Abraham Derby was a pioneer in the use of coke in furnaces. In 1705, New Comen made a steam engine he pump water out of coal mines. James Watt invented the steam engine.

In the 18th century, three great engineers revived the old bad roads, John Metcalfe designed many chief roads in Lancashire. John Mc Adam's new process of road lying was a boon to the travelers. Many measures were taken to improve the navigation of rivers. It helped in industrial transport. Canals had been built and used in the era. Pioneering work was done by the Duke of Bridgewater and James Bindley. They linked the Worsley coal mines to Manchester. He was called the father of inland navigation.

The first locomotive was invented by George Stephenson. The first line between Stockton and Darlington was opened in 1825. Steam was used for water transport. After that, there has been remarkable progress in all matters connected with ocean navigation. Due to the industrial revolution, the population increased. There was redistribution of land in England. The capitalist class emerged as supreme power. Many factories were set up. As a result, many women and

children were employed. There rises a need for parliamentary reforms. At the same time, there were some disadvantages also. Due to the overcrowded cities, there was problem of sanitation and livelihood. Beautiful villages became deserted places and factories were constructed in their places. The whole atmosphere was polluted due to the smoke. English writers like Ruskin and Charles Dickens denounced the evil effects the revolution. Moreover, poor workers were exploited due to the free trade during the industrial revolution.

Unit IV

The main features in the age of Dr. Samuel Johnson

The peaceful social condition was favorable for the development of art and culture. The sites of the new country houses were reconstructed for aesthetic purposes. The new buildings appealed to the eyes of the people. Art became part of ordinary life, Georgian style town halls, rural mansions, cottages and garden tool houses were very impressive. Craftsmen produced goods of beautiful design and execution. China glass, silver plates, beautiful bound books, chairs and cabinets were in use. People admired the pictures of Hogarth, Reynolds, Romney and Zoffany. The literary works of Thomas Gray, Goldsmith, Cowper, Boswell and Burke were welcomed by people.

Social condition was amicable for the growth of art and culture. There were wealth, leisure, civil peace and personal liberty. Art and life were human oriented and not mechanical. The influence of aristocrats coloured many aspects of life and politics. The aristocrats were integrated and looked for quality in everything. They inculcated a refined sense to the bourgeois and professional class who gave fantastic ideas to the nobles. In spite of the vagaries of fashion in art, the tone of the eighteenth century was conducive to high quality of arts. England was abundant with beautiful things of both native, new and foreign. The landscape was beautiful with hedges of bramble and hawthorn. There were new plantations of oak and beech.

All classes of people enjoyed perfect happiness in their lives. It was a free and easy society. Oratory was at its highest. People had passion for Greek, Latin, Italian and English poetry. Dr. Johnson was the greatest figure in the 18th century literature. He produced dictionary of the English language in 1747. It was a stupendous work achieved by one man.

Scotland at the end of 18th century

Scotland was a poor, rural, agricultural society with a population of 1.3 million in 1755. There was no home rule, but the union with England opened way for the Scottish enlightenment and expansion of trade.

In the east and south of the highlands, the old townships were replaced by larger enclosed farms. Crofting communities were established. Sheep farming was profitable at the end of the 18th century. Potatoes grown in the fields and vegetables in the garden varied the staple food of the people. New forests covered the hillsides in many parts of Scotland.

There was the sales of linen and cattle to England. The cash flows from military service and the tobacco trade was dominated by Glasgow Tobacco Lords after 1740. Merchants invested in leather, textiles, iron, coal and sugar. They laid foundation for the emergence of the city as a leading industrial centre after 1815. Scotland produced linen, cotton, jute and woolen products.

In the highlands, much vanished besides the hereditary jurisdictions. After the suppression of the 'Forty Five', the whole manner of life and society was swept away at a blow. The highlands became one with the rest of Scotland for the first time in their history. Thousands of Scots chiefly lowlanders took up positions for power in politics, civil service, army and commerce. The main focus was upon the poor. The landlords, gentry and their servants were not subjected to the control of the parish. The construction of the first roads through the highlands effected a change. Crofting communities were set up. Justice and administration were loyal and national. They are no longer rural or personal. By 1800, great changes took place. Rich suburbs and law tenements had spread over the surrounding land. These social changes occurred due to the American and West Indian trade, in tobacco and raw cotton.

The Presbyterian establishment in 1690, the land was purged of heretics. Blasphemy was made a capital crime. The church of Scotland was fragmented. These fractures were prompted by issues of government and patronage. In the early 19th century, Dr. Chalmers gave revival to the Scottish religion. The churches got strength in the Evangelical Revival of the later 18th century. Consequently, the main Presbyterian church was under the custody of moderate faction which supported the enlightenment in the cities.

The Causes for the War between England and Revolutionary France

The French Revolution was a historical event in the 18th century. The French King Louis XIV was luxurious and remained indifferent towards the intense sufferings of the common people of France. The French revolutionaries rebelled against the unjust monarch and established the French Republic. There was a massive murder of nobles and aristocrats. It started with the breaking open of the Bastille prison in 1789.

England decided to dethrone Napoleon and initiated a war against him single handedly. But England's allies kept away from these wars against Napoleon. The period of war between 1806 and 1815, was full of misery and suffering for the English people. England had to spend so much on the war. As a result, there was scarcity of food to the increasing population. Common people could not afford the high prices of commodities. Consequently, the working class sought relief from the poor law authorities to maintain their existence. To alleviate the sufferings of the agricultural class, a corn law was passed in 1815, prohibiting the import of foreign corn until Britain corn reached the price a quarter. The high price of corn benefitted the landlords only. Thus the poor remained poorer by the wars.

Following the war with France, the prices of coal and iron declined. Half a million soldiers, sailors and others were fired from service. Eventually, there was an acute problem of

unemployment. To reduce the price of corn, England had to import corn. So Robert Peel repealed the corn law in 1846. There were many protests against the government in St. Peter's Field. It was called the Manchester Massacre. After the French revolution, the English army and navy became the properties of the nation. In the Battle of Trafalgar, Lord Nelson proved the supremacy of English navy. Lord Wellington defeated Napoleon in 1815 in the Battle of Waterloo.

To remedy the situation, the poor in England wanted Parliamentary reform. The first Reform Bill was passed in 1832. The French Revolution made a deep impact upon England. They voiced for the abolition of monarchy system. Burke and Paine expressed their feelings and thoughts about democratic form of government. Paine glorified the French cause in his "Rights of Man". The Battle of Waterloo and Trafalgar raised the prestige of the English army and navy.

Unit V

Cobbett's England

Napoleonic war made England the unchallenged power in the world's seas. At the same time, the work of her inventors and mechanics with her great natural resources in coal had placed her ahead of all foreign powers in the industrial arena. In 1815, Corn Laws were passed. Hence a heavy duty was imposed on imported corn. The aim was to protect the wheat growers of England. The Corn Laws helped to restrict the import of foreign corn. As a result, poor men suffered much and British landlords had the monopoly of the market at the cost of the common people. Corn Laws were repealed. The potato crop in Ireland failed and there was a famine. To rescue the starving millions, Peel managed to have the Corn Laws repealed in 1846.

Cobbett speaks of the old fashioned labourer sharing his employer's meal on equal terms except that the farmer might reserve for himself a stronger brew of beer. In the winter of 1830, the starving field labourers marched about in a riotous manner demanding a wage of half a crown a day. Cobbett but everyone complained that farmers were imitating their betters, abandoning old homely ways. In 1830, agricultural labourers in Cobatt's beloved Southern England had rebelled in protest against their low wages.

The government did not interfere in the economic matters of the nation and so there was free export and import affecting the lives of the poor. They were exploited. To leave the workman unprotected by the state as to wages, hours and factory conditions. While denying him the right to safeguard himself by combination, was unjust. It was not laissez- faire, but liberty for the masters and repression for the men. 'Laissez – faire' means free trade. The workers were demanding the legalization of trade unions.

Anti-slavery movement was led by William Wilberforce. With his joint efforts, slave trade was forbidden by a parliamentary Act in 1807. As a result, the slaves in England were set free. The game Laws preserved the well-stocked estates, swarming with pheasants, partridges and Lares for the use of the owners. They inflicted punishments on the poachers. In 1816, a law was passed punishing anyone with net for trapping rabbits with seven years' transportation. More than 200 offences were punishable by death. It was illegal for anyone to buy or sell game.

Cobbett understood that unrest among the poor was caused by unemployment and hunger. It was not motivated by a desire to overthrow English society. Cobbett could see no solution to economic distress without a reform of parliament. In an attempt to regain his popularity, he supported many causes in 1820. He expected radical reforms in England's political and economic system.

Victorian England

The English landlord never meant to exploit the labourer. Their agriculture was based on an aristocratic social system. When free trade was introduced in England, this prosperity was affected in large level. The democratic leanings of the town-bred electorate did not acknowledge the latent merit of the rural aristocratic system. Hence there was a sharp decline of agriculture in the last years. Moreover, American agriculture overthrew the flourishing agriculture in 1875. The landed aristocracy could not compete with the democracy of American farmers. English agriculture was spoilt by the influx of American food. Many farmers migrated to industrial areas in pursuit of better life. In the first phase of the decline of agriculture in 1875, the production of wheat decreased substantially. Another factor that contributed to the fall of agriculture was the introduction of frozen meat from Australia, New Zealand and south America. English farmers

concentrated only on corn and wheat and rejected other crops. Hence, they could not sustain themselves when there was depression in Britain.

There was marked change in the social life in the wake of industrial revolution. The luxuries of the past became common. Food, bedding and furniture were plenty. Electric light was used in the place of oil lighting. Working class began to enjoy holidays. Family parties were common occurrences. Due to the advent of railways, there were many holiday resorts. There was the emergence of women and they exhibited their skills in athletic games. The traditional outfit of English women changed. Riding Bicycle became a fashion among women. Queen Victoria was a role model and her people had a picture of perfection before them to follow. Queen Victoria became a symbol of dignity, simplicity and solidarity. Her own domestic virtues and integrity demanded high standard of morality from everybody in the society.

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