

Timeline

1819	The Peterloo Massacre takes place. 60,000 people gather in Manchester to protest their lack of representation in parliament. A government organised militia attacks them killing 15 and injuring 600.
1831	Cholera , a disease spread by dirty water, breaks out killing 50,000 people. Further outbreaks take place in 1837, 1838, 1842.
1832	The Great Reform Act is passed in parliament , This act gives many middle class men the right to vote.
1836	Chartist movement by William Lovett set up in response to the working class not being given the right to vote in the Great Reform Act.
1854	John Snow discovers the cause of cholera.
1861	Louis Pasteur discovers Germ Theory.
1867	The Second Reform Act gives over 1 million working class men the vote.
1875	The Public Health Act 1875 is put in place ensuring that all town councils have to ensure they provide: clean water; clean streets; a rubbish collection service; and street lights.

Key people

Henry Hunt	Henry Hunt, a radical speaker, who was supposed to make a speech at St Peter's fields before the Peterloo Massacre. He was a leader in calling for reform to the parliament.
William Lovett	Leader of the Chartist movement who believed in peaceful protest. Lovett's main aim was to improve the lives of the working class.
Louis Pasteur & Robert Koch	Louis Pasteur discovered Germ Theory in 1861. This inspired his rivalry with Robert Koch. In 1876 Robert Koch discovered that different bacteria cause different diseases. Pasteur then discovered how vaccines worked. Both men were eager to find as many different germs and vaccines as possible. Their work inspired microbe hunters.

Key Terms

Industrial Revolution	A change from a society that focuses on farming to a society that focuses on mass production. Fewer things made by hand and the majority of things made by machines in large factories.
Public Health	Health of the population as a whole.
Laissez Faire	French word meaning 'leave alone'. The government did not get involved in peoples' everyday lives. This meant the government focused on law and order and not public health.
Parliament	A group of people, voted for, who are responsible for making laws.
Representation	An individual, group or community are given the right to have their point of view heard as part of running the country.
Reform	Make changes to something , usually laws.
Germ Theory	The theory that bacteria causes disease and infection.
Specificity	The theory that specific bacteria causes specific diseases
Microbe hunter	A group of scientists inspired by Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch who aimed to discover as many germs (microbes) as possible.
Anaesthetics	A substance that numbs pain.
Antiseptics	A substance that kill bacteria to stop injection.

Key Questions

How did living conditions change during the 19th Century?

- As the Industrial Revolution spread across the country, factory owners built back– to-back housing in the cities to accommodate as many workers as possible. This led to overcrowding and filthy conditions. Street toilets were known as privies and were shared by lots of families.
- The working classes often got their water from a pump which pumped from the ground. This water was contaminated because there were no sewage systems. This led to cholera outbreaks in the 1830s, 1840s and 1850s.
- The government's laissez faire attitude began to change. In 1858 they spent £3 million to build a sewage system which was completed in 1866. Following the completion of the sewage system cholera outbreaks stopped.
- The government also put the 1875 Public Health Act in place to ensure that people were able to live in a much cleaner environment.

How did people campaign for representation in the 19th Century ?

- In 1832 a group of radical speakers gathered together large groups of people to demand change. The most famous of these gatherings was at St. Peter's Field. However, the government violently stopped this from taking place.
- The Peterloo Massacre forced campaigners to change their tactics. They could no longer gather and protest. The reformers wanted to be seen as respectable by the government so they would be trusted to be given the vote. This worked and in 1832 a large number of middle classes were given the vote.
- The Chartists took a similar approach. They peacefully tried to petition the government to give the working classes the vote. However, they were not as successful as they were not taken seriously by the government. This led to them taking more violent action and striking.

How did the development of scientific knowledge impact the 19th Century ?

- Louis Pasteur's and Robert Koch's work on microbes and germs allowed for better prevention and treatment of disease.
- Joseph Lister was inspired by Louis Pasteur's Germ Theory. Lister created the first antiseptic using carbolic acid. Patients were far less likely to die from infection after having surgery.
- Before the 19th Century there were very few effective ways to stop a patient feeling pain this led to many patients dying from shock and limited the types of surgeries that could be done. The development of anaesthetics, such as chloroform, allowed safer and more complicated surgeries to take place.

How much change took place during the 19th Century ?

- The Great Reform Act allowed the middle classes to vote. The Second Reform Act did allow over 1 million working class men to get the vote. However, by the end of the 19th Century, only 2.3 million men had the vote and women still did not have the vote.
- Scientific discoveries, such as Germ Theory improved the quality of medicine and treatment people could receive. Surgery was improved significantly with the discovery of anaesthetic and antiseptic.
- By the end of the 19th century the government no longer had a laissez faire attitude towards public health. The government had built the sewage system and introduced the Public Health Act 1875. However, public health was still poor. For example in 1899, 40 percent of the men who wanted to fight in the Boer War were too unhealthy to be soldiers.



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