

The Victorian Age (Three Periods: Early Mid, and Late) (Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*)

Industrial Revolution

- Technological innovations/manufacturing--move from land (farming) to the cities (urban manufacturing centers)
- Enclosure Acts--economic transformation. By 1865, urban population in England is roughly 50% greater than the rural population
- Higher standard of living for some but poverty and harsh living conditions for many. The Condition of England Question: Time of Troubles (1830s and 1840s)
- 1832 Reform Bill and Chartist movement/Factory Acts (women and children)/Democratization and Individualism
- Travel (railroad) and Communications//Printing and Reading

Education

- Elementary & secondary, higher education/public and private, social class/gender
- Curriculum
- Teachers/Teaching

The Woman Question

- Separate Spheres Doctrine (Middle class women): How do the sexes complement each other?
 - How were men and women different?
 - What should be the relationship between men and women?
 - Which “womanly” qualities were innate, which one socially constructed?
 - What activities and pursuits were suitable for women?

1851 Great Exhibition/British Empire (Britain as the workshop of the world)

Victorian Aesthetic Theory: Dickens—Relationship between illustrations (visual) and texts (words): realism (description) and “seeing”