

# Great Britain: Toward Democracy

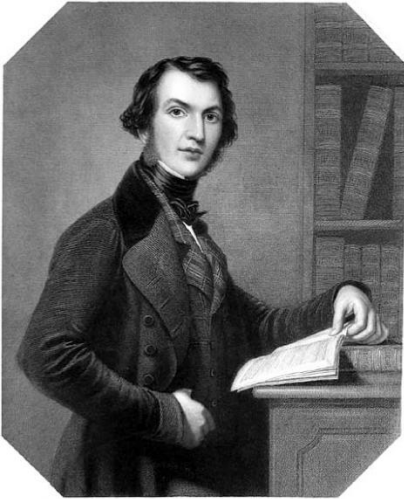
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## Introduction

- Britain is the epitome of a liberal state at this point. While it has problems, it is able to deal with them using current programs.
- There was a widespread belief in competition and individualism
- In Britain, workers already have unions that are accepted and supported. (Other countries are still struggling to create and gain governmental acceptance of unions.)
- During this time, a reform occurred to the country by way of a postal service. Rowland Hill proposed this idea in 1837. It was official in 1840.

## The Second Reform Act (1867)

- Now, workers are more responsible, and the political order must be expanded once again to include them.
- In 1866, Lord Russel introduces a reform bill that is defeated by a coalition of Liberals and Conservatives.
- Russel is soon replaced by a conservative, Lord Derby.
- Following Lord Derby, Benjamin Disraeli, a conservative minister, introduced another reform bill (1867).
- Disraeli's bill is amended again and again, making it even more liberal than the original proposed by Russel. It doubled the number of voters.
  - This helped the conservative party because they could take credit for it & the increasingly conservative middle class.



## Gladstone's Great Ministry (1868-1874)

- His reforms were mostly Liberal.
- There were exams for civil service positions. The purchase of officer commissions in the army was abolished. There was also a removal of Anglican religious requirements for the faculties of Oxford and Cambridge University.
  - The secret ballot was introduced by the Ballot Act of 1872.
  - The Education Act of 1870 gave the government the responsibility of running elementary schools.
  - All the reforms were beneficial because they improved the state and fixed items that led to discontent.

Gladstone

## Disraeli in Office (1874-1880)

- Disraeli succeeded Gladstone in 1874.
- This election had steep differences on the topics of religion, education, and alcohol. This led to a division among the British political system.

- Gladstone political ideals oriented towards individualism and pure capitalism. Disraeli believed in paternalistic values to ease class antagonisms.
- Disraeli was a better talker than practical worker. While he had a few specific ideas on how to reform the system, he did not accomplish very much with them.

Disraeli



### The Irish Question

- Irish nationalists sought to be separate from England and to establish their own rule of Ireland.
- Gladstone had addressed the growing concern of Irish rebellion. He had decided to get rid of the tax that the Irishmen had to pay to the Church of England.
- Gladstone, also, passed a Coercion Act to maintain order in Ireland as well as the right to the House of Commons.
- Gladstone tried to support Irish home rule, with little results. Ireland remained under the control of England.
- Charles Parnell was an important part of Irish nationalism. In 1855, he spoke the “Speech at Wicklow” that outlined the problems that Ireland had with Britain.

Charles Parnell

