

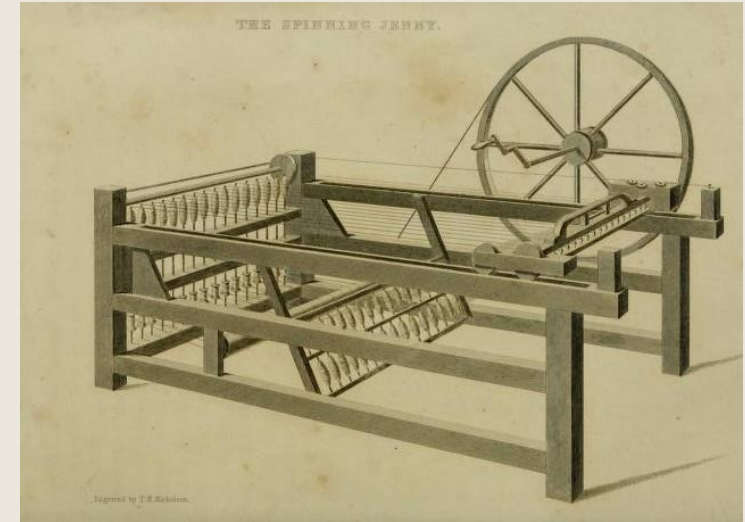
INTRODUCTION TO THE 20TH CENTURY



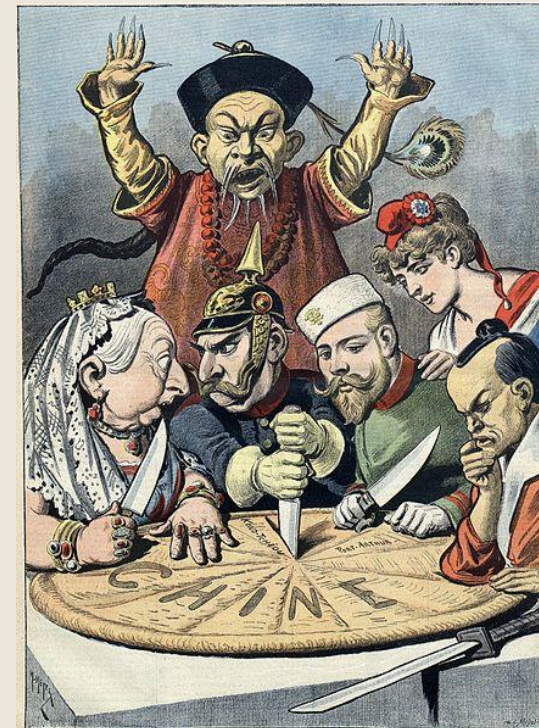
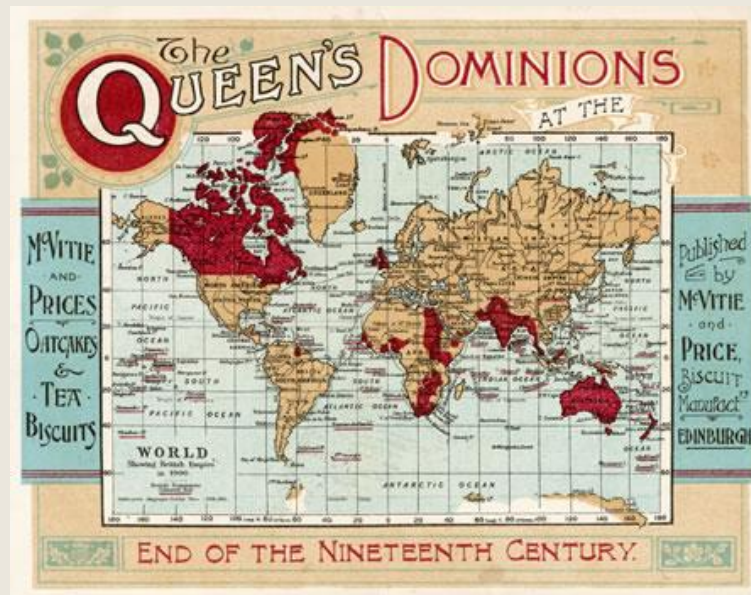
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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Industrial Revolution (18th – 19th centuries):
 - *Started in England*
 - *Agrarian societies become industrial and urban*
 - *Dramatic change in life*
 - *Textile industry, iron industry, steam engine (locomotives and ships), manufactured goods, transportation, communication...*
 - *Working classes: poor living conditions. Child labour, poor safety conditions, low wages*
 - *By the end of the 19th century: Labour reforms, Trade Unions*
 - *Emerging middle class*

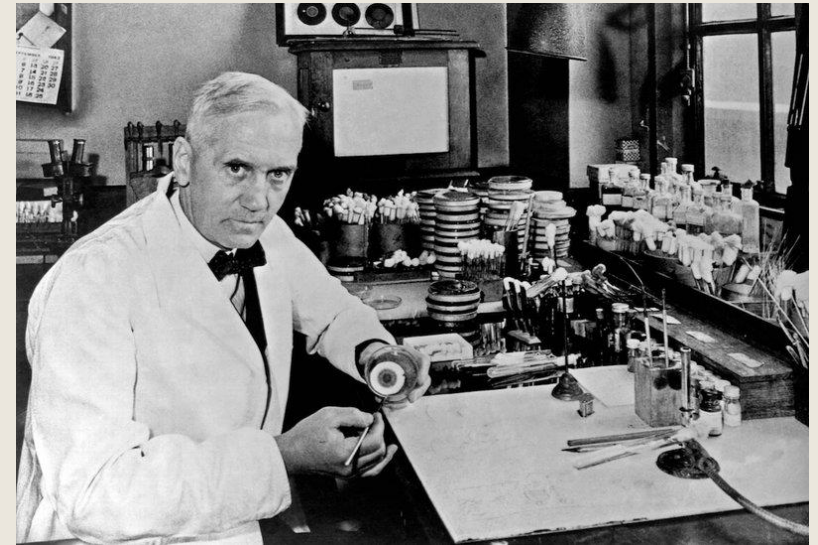


- Imperialism: the British Empire controlled $\frac{1}{4}$ of the planet
- England: The Victorian Era ends (1901)
- Decline of absolutism – Rise of democracies
- Socio economic and political problems derived from the Industrial Revolution lead to the First World War (1914–1918) and Russian Revolution (1917)



THE 20TH CENTURY

- Fast changes in lifestyle and society
- End of slavery in developed countries
- Two World Wars (WWI: 1914-1918, WWII: 1939-1945)
- Important advances in Science and Technology (nuclear weapons, cars, airplanes, computers, the Internet, radio, television...)
- The man goes to the Moon
- Einstein publishes his Theory of Relativity (1905)
- Longer life expectancy
- Advances in Medicine (antibiotics, transplants...)
- The USA becomes the first world power
- The world changes more in 100 years than in the previous centuries



Sir Alexander Fleming, (1881 - 1955) UIG / Getty Images

THE SOCIETY (LATE 19TH CENTURY – EARLY 20TH CENTURY)

- Upper class: land owners and businessmen who controlled politics and economy
- Middle class: Newly educated experts in industrial technologies, people who had studied in University, like doctors, engineers, and lawyers, teachers
- Underclass: Unskilled workers
- Women:
 - In England, the **suffragettes** fight for the right to vote. In 1918 in Britain, women over 30 could vote if they had property or were married to a householder. In 1928 all women could vote at the age of 21 (just like men)
 - In 1920 in the USA all women had the right to vote
 - Unusual for married women to work
 - In England, divorce was legal (from 1857) but very rare



LITERATURE

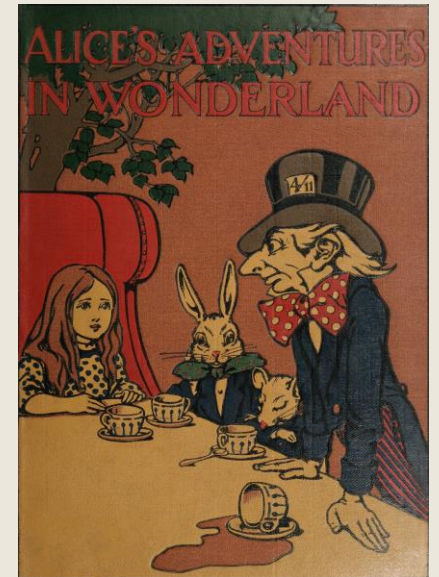
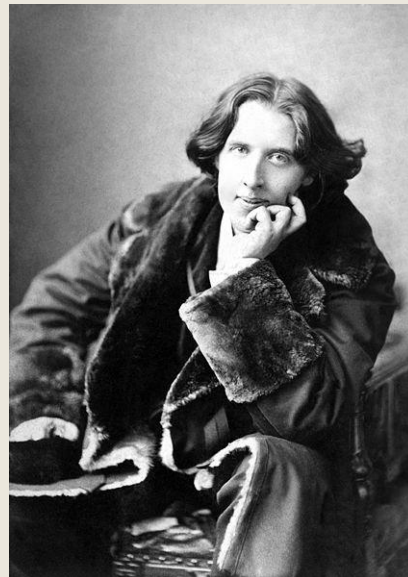
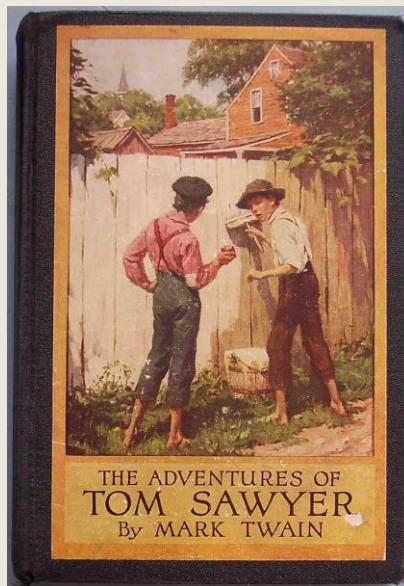
(LATE 19TH CENTURY – EARLY 20TH CENTURY)

■ England:

- Poetry: William Butler Yeats
- Lewis Carroll (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Through the Looking-Glass*)
- Thomas Hardy (*Tess of the d'Ubervilles*)
- Robert Louis Stevenson (*Treasure Island, Strange Case of Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde*)
- Joseph Conrad (*Heart of Darkness, Lord Jim*)
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (*Sherlock Holmes*)
- Oscar Wilde (*The Importance of Being Earnest, The Picture of Dorian Gray*)
- Rudyard Kipling (*Jungle Book, If, Kim*)
- Bram Stoker (*Dracula*)
- Henry James (*The Turn of Screw*)
- Kenneth Grahame (*The Wind in the Willows*)

■ USA

- Poetry: Emily Dickinson
- Literature of social revolt
- Herman Melville (*Moby Dick*)
- Mark Twain (*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*)
- Stephen Crane (*The Red Badge of Courage*)
- Jack London (*The Son of the Wolf*, *The Call of the Wild*)



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