

The answers to the questions of Social justice.

Part 1. Preface.

Time and again people ask

Why Labor?

Why should they get my vote?

What have they ever done for people?

Like most questions it can be answered in long form or short form.

The short form answer is that there exists in society a battle between ideologies. On the one hand, there are those who believe that all men and women are created on earth as equals and while we are here on the planet we have two obligations – the obligation of looking after each other and the obligation of looking after the planet on which we live.

On the other hand, there is a group who believe in a world where there are the haves and the have nots, where if you work hard you will be rewarded more than the person who works less hard. They believe that the individual is paramount and we live in an economy not a Society. Also that your lot in life is determined by the circumstances of your birth. If you are born into a well off circumstance then you deserve that life, born into hardship and poverty, then you deserve that one. This ideological argument is full of intellectual and moral holes.

It doesn't take into account the duty we believe we have to look after all of society for the common good, that the dignity of being part of society is a right no matter the age, gender or circumstance of the individual. This includes but is not limited to the right to have a job and to be decently paid for that job, the right to have access to a first class Education and a first class Health system paid for by the community and which benefits the whole community.

We believe that all persons should have the right to own property and that everyone should have dignity during their whole life.

Material wealth is a transient thing that can only be utilised whilst we are living, however good thoughts and deeds for the society in which we live are timeless.

The sharing of the great wealth of the nation is our goal, for the benefit of everyone. After all, individuals can only live in one house at a time, drive one car, caravan, aeroplane or boat at a time and whilst they are entitled to own each of those material things the gathering of wealth for its own sake is a waste of resources and opportunities for others to live their best lives.

The Labor Party was formed as the political arm of the trades unions, to represent the working people in the governing body of Australia.

This document describes the history of the struggle to achieve a degree of fairness and Social Justice in Australian Society. It is the long answer to the Question.

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It is a struggle which is ongoing and which can only be achieved by hard work by members supporting their elected representatives.

The whole focus of the Labour movement over the years is as a combination of workers with a common set of values. It is not about individuals and some misguided notions of leadership. The whole movement and their collective values are the prize for all workers.

It highlights some of the struggle of earlier working class communities in history. Such history is being repeated as you are reading these words. Examples of these repetitive historical circumstances are shown at Part 14.

The struggle for a fair society is never ending and the authors of this document believe that the Australian Labor Party will continue to develop policies for all Australians to achieve that fair and balanced society.

Part 2. INTRODUCTION:

The Australian Labor Party is Australia's oldest political party. It was formed in 1891 in Queensland under the Tree of Knowledge at Barcaldine in Queensland.

Australian Labor history is one of struggle by the working class. It is a struggle for the dignity of a decent life and a living wage, the struggle for Social Justice and a fair distribution of the fruits of society.

The background to this struggle has been a changing society; change which has been confronting, continuous, and unrelenting. Change where power structures in society have ebbed and flowed, for and against organised Labour, where the power of individual groups of wealthy and therefore influential individuals have sought to control the one "problematic" input to their money making ventures, the worker.

The roots of that change began back in the 1700's in rural and agricultural England at the start of the 1700's, with the invention of agricultural equipment. This was followed by technological improvements in the smelting of iron ore and the invention of process based machinery. These changes are known collectively as the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions.

Change has continued to the present day. The latest change has been the introduction of computers, which appeared in commercial quantities in the late 70's and early 1980's. At the time of writing (2019) – a short 39 years ago.

Such change always advantages some parts of society and disadvantages others.

What hasn't changed is the struggle to have a fair distribution of the results of those technological advances into more utopian society where everyone's ideals are satisfied.

In other words, the means to have a life with sufficient nutrition, shelter and wages for oneself and family, in a fair and balanced society.

The Australian Labor Party has a set of values (See Part X) which strive to achieve this balance by advocating against the excesses of Capitalist values. It is a Democratic Socialist party which strives for Social justice.

This document provides a history of the struggle of the working man/woman and the changing world in which they have lived for the past 300 years.

When you have read this introduction and history of working class struggle, you will see that whilst the parallels across history are not so stark, those parallels are still there.

For example the powerful still try to stop the combination of workers into Unions or at least try to significantly curb organised Labour.

Powerful people seek to better themselves at the expense of the general public (high profit growth with little growth in wages) and oppose the needs of the general population in health provision and seek to curb as much as possible the getting of wisdom through education (funding of private schools above and beyond public schools funding).

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All of this is done through the enactment of laws in our State and Federal Parliaments. The Labor Party was formed as the Political wing of the Union movement. Organised Labour (The Unions and Labor Party) cannot change society without representation in the Parliament to make laws which help to provide social justice and balance society.

The Union Movement and the Labor Party are in accord in their goal of making a fairer society.

As well as a history of the struggle of the working class and formation of unions, we will explain the workings of the Labor Party, its rules, its policy formulation and the way it governs itself. Some of the terms used may be new to you, so we also have a glossary of definitions of political and Labor Party terms and acronyms.

Part 3 Timeline of the struggle for Social Justice (simple and short points)

Pre 1700 England –

- Primarily an Agricultural economy
- Labour intensive
- Semi feudal
- Used a Commons farming system

1700 – Beginning of the Agricultural Revolution.

- A wealthy landowner, Jethro Tull invented a “Seed Drill” which ploughed the ground and planted seeds at the same time
- Need for less Agricultural Labourers
- Move from Commons farming to larger enclosed fields.
- Landowners were only ones allowed to be elected to the Parliament
- Enclosure acts by Parliament (the Landowners) in the 1700’s and 1800’s (over 6000 Acts of parliament), not only deprived the working agricultural labourer of a job but the ability to keep his own livestock on the enclosed common land.

1750 onwards –

- The use of coking coal to smelt larger amounts of iron
- Movement of Agricultural labour from the land to the cities.
- New farming methods caused more food to be produced more people born
- Wages of Agricultural workers reduced to poverty levels.
- Industrialists and Landowners held all the power.
- Low industrial wages, long hours and unsafe conditions

The responses of the working class –

- Much dissatisfaction seeing the Landowners and industrialists with fabulous wealth on the backs of the workers
- Grinding poverty following a long hard day at work
- No education
- No health system
- Crowded housing
- Draconian laws

Crime and Punishment –

- Movement of labour from the country to new industrial towns had caused poverty. Poverty breeds crime. Theft of food and clothes.
- Such crimes were punishable by death
- Crimes were commuted to Transportation to the colonies where labour was scarce.
- At first the American Colonies were the destination for the convicts as well as Indentured servants such as debtors who sold their labour to write off their debt.
- Convicts could be controlled by harsh punishment.
- Removing convicts from the towns and cities of England rid them of much crime.
- The lack of a socialist element in society, didn't address the causes of crime or help the general health of the people.
- Public hangings were commonplace.

Specific examples of responses to the way the working man was treated.

In 1775 -1783 – War of American Independence (13 British Colonies)

Reasons

- No representation in the UK Parliament
- Military style colonial Government
- High Taxes
- Treated as lesser persons in British society.

In 1785 – A new place was needed for the Criminals (Convicts)

- Australia was chosen as that place.

In 1787 - The Mutiny of the Royal Navy at Spithead and the Nore

Reasons

- Poor pay
- Pay withheld for 6 months at least
- Sailors confined aboard ship to stop desertion
- Brutal punishment for minor infringements on the whim of the Officers.
- Poor and rotten rations

In 1787 – The first fleet left England for Australia, arriving on 19th -20 January 1788.

In 1789 – The beginning of the French Revolution

Reasons

- France had sided with the Americans in their revolution for reasons of enmity to Britain rather than reasons of equity and fairness. However:-
- The French saw the emancipation of the American Colonies as an example of the fight against oppression of the nobility.
- The war had bankrupted France and taxes were high for the workers but not the gentry and nobility who were exempt.
- The Clergy and nobility were exempt from almost every burden of Government Tax and regulation.
- Harvests failed in several seasons in previous years.
- The French people tried to change their lot peacefully through the Estates General (Parliament).
- The Bastille was stormed in July 1789.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was passed in August 1789.
- The age of Enlightenment was up and running in France (New ideas about the treatment of people and equality).
- The catchcry of the Revolution was Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood.

1799 – The response to the general agitation of the working classes following the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions.

- 1799 Combination Act
- 1800, 1799 combination act repealed and replaced with another Combination Act.
- Both acts prohibited the combination of workers into what we now know as unions.
- They prohibited withholding labour (Striking)
- They prohibited bargaining for wages or hours of work

1924 – Repeal of the Combination Act

- Many Trades Unions had already formed
- Despite the prohibition on their formation
- The repeal was also too late and workers were outraged.
- The “Establishment” also used other laws to keep worker in their place. Such as the Conspiracy Laws and the law of Contract under the Masters and Servants Act of 1823.
- The laws were still heavily slanted against the worker and toward the employer.
- The people who made the laws were the landowners.

Unrest continued because of the way the workers were ignored.

Examples of unrest. (see part 4 for expanded explanations)

- 1816 Spa Fields riots.
- 1817 Derbyshire rising.
- 1819 The Peterloo massacre.
- The Cato Street conspiracy.
- Chartists.
- Luddites.
- The Swing Riots.
- The Tolpuddle Martyrs.
- The Rebecca riots.

The Story in Australia: From the ACTU website.

<https://www.actu.org.au/about-the-actu/history>

1788-1849

In this period New South Wales was settled as an English Penal Colony after the landing of Captain Phillip on 26th January, 1788. The majority of First Fleet, the convicts, certainly deserved to be called workers, and their struggles were a lead up to Unionism in Australia. Some notable occurrences were:

1791

Convicts Strike: demanding daily issue of rations, not weekly issue.

1804

Castle Hill Rebellion: protest on conditions and rations.

1822

James Straiter, convict shepherd sentenced to 500 lashes, one month solitary confinement on bread and water, and five years penal servitude for ... "inciting his Masters' servants to combine for the purposes of obliging him to raise the wages and increase their rations".

1828

Masters and Servants Act of NSW provided that ... "servants could be imprisoned and have their wages forfeited for refusal to work or for destruction of property, and that Masters found guilty of ill-usage should be liable to pay damages up to 6 months wages".

1829

Typographers, supported by carpenters, successfully strike for payment in sterling, against currency reform, which threatened the value of wages.

1830

Shipwrights Union formed.

1831

Boatbuilders Union formed.

1833

Cabinetmakers Union formed.

1838

Society of Compositors strike and win wage increase of 5s.5d. per week.

1840

Society of Compositors campaign to restrict the number of apprentices. The Government uses convict compositors as strike- breakers.

1843

Economic depression leads to the formation of the Mutual Protection Society to protect the

interests of the middle and working classes of N.S.W.

1844

The Early Closing Movement seeks the reduction of working hours from 14 to 12 per day.

1848

Political activity of the working class leads to the formation of the Anti-Transportation League.

1850-1900

This period saw the early development of Australian Trade Unions. Legislation had existed in Britain that outlawed unions, similar in intent to the Masters and Servants Act, until the passing of the Trade Union Act in 1871. The English and Irish anti-union legislation was not particularly successful in those countries, nor did it prevent Union activity in Australia. Transportation ended in the eastern states in 1853, in W.A. in 1868. Various craft unions were formed. Gold was discovered in Bathurst in 1851.

1850

Stonemasons Union formed.

1854

The Eureka Stockade results in the deaths of 10 Irish, 2 Scots, 2 Canadians, 2 English, 2 Germans and 1 Australian.

1856

The 8 Hour Day Movement is formed by the Stonemasons in Melbourne and Sydney. Melbourne Trades Hall Committee helps unions to co-operate with each other.

1869

Men of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, Victoria, demand wage payments for their labour and official tenure of the Station.

1870

The Sydney Trades and Labor Council formed.

1873

The Amalgamated Miners Association formed.

1873

The first Seamans Unions formed in Sydney and Melbourne.

1878

The Seamans Union organises the maritime strike against the use of cheap Chinese labour by the Australian United Steam Navigation Company.

1879

The Inter-Colonial Trade Union Congress - the forerunner of the ACTU - is formed. Congress unanimously opposes Chinese immigration.

1881

The N.S.W. Trade Union Act is passed giving union rights and registration.

1882

The Victorian Tailoresses Union is formed, as is the Waterside Workers Union.

1884

The Intercolonial Trade Union Congress is attended by women delegates.

1885

The first Board of Arbitration resolves the dispute in favour of the workers.

1886

The Shearers Union formed.

1890

Employers form the employers unions - the Pastoralists Union, the Chamber of Manufacturers and the Steamship Owners Association.

1891

The Shearers Union strike over freedom of contract.

1892

Miners strike in Broken Hill over wage cuts and employment of scabs.

1894

The Shearers Union strikes again on same issues. The Masters and Servants Act is used against the Union - 23 years after England proclaimed the Trade Union Act.

Women win the right to vote - for the first time in the world - in South Australia.

1896

Intercolonial Trade Union Congress resolves to extend the restrictions on Chinese immigration to all non-European peoples.

1900-1939

The experience of the 1890's convinced Unionists that legislation establishing Arbitration and Conciliation Courts was required. During the period to 1904 the Australian Labour Federation was formed, the first Labor Government in the world was elected in Queensland and the first Federal Labor Government was formed in 1904.

1901

Union membership 97,200 (population 3,774,000). NSW Industrial Arbitration Act passed.

1902

Women in NSW and Commonwealth receive the right to vote.

1904

Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission established.

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1907

The Minimum Basic Wage is established by Mr Justice Higgins in the Harvester Award.

1911

Union membership 364,700

1912

Strikes in Brisbane over the Tramways Co. refusal to recognise members' right to wear Union badges.

1918

The Australian Workers Union formed by rural worker organisations.

1920

44 hour week awarded to Timber Workers and Engineers. Others follow suit.

1921

Union membership 703,000.

1926

Federal Crimes Act amended to apply to Unions - known as the "Dog Collar Act".

1927

ACTU is formed.

1930

Women are receiving 54% of male wage rates. During the Great Depression the Industrial Court abandons the "needs" concept of wage fixing and introduces a 10% wage cut.

1931

Union membership 769,000.

1937

The "Dog Collar Act" is applied to waterside workers who refuse to load scrap iron for shipment to Japan.

1939-1983

World War 2 had a big impact on the Australian workforce. Women entered the workforce in large numbers and, for the first time, many earned wages close to male rates. Large scale post-war migration started to change the nature of the workforce and Australian culture. The Liberal-Country Party was elected to govern Australia for almost 30 years. Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War generated a mass anti-war movement involving some Unions. The short term of the Whitlam Labor Government (72-75) saw a number of significant reforms including equal pay (in principle).

1939

As a result of the Second World War, women replace male workers in a wide range of industries. Work based child care facilities are provided and most receive 90% of male rates.

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200 of Cumeragunga (NSW) Reserve's 300 Aboriginal residents pack their bags and leave. The mass desertion is both a spontaneous protest about life on the reserve and an industrial action to deprive the management of their agriculture labour.

1941

Annual Leave of one week becomes standard. Union Membership – 1,076,600.

1945

Total membership of unions affiliated with the ACTU reaches 300,000. Two weeks annual leave is introduced.

1946

Men replace women in industry. Child care centres are closed. Union Membership – 1,284,300. Aboriginal workers on stations in the Pilbara, Western Australia, go on strike for better wages and conditions; the strike lasts until 1949.

1948

Queensland Railways strike runs for 9 weeks. Queensland meat dispute - following a campaign organised by the ACTU. 40 hour week is gained. Prime Minister Chifley restores penal provisions.

1949

The Coal Strike for 35 hour week and Long Service Leave result in the use of troops under the "National Emergency (Coal Strike) Act".

1950

The female wage rate is lifted to 75% of the male wage rate.

1953

Cost of living increases are abolished by the Australian Commission. Penal powers over unions give "teeth to the Act", allowing heavy fines and jail sentences to be applied to Unions, officials and members who participate in industrial action.

1956

Union Membership – 1,690,200.

1957

ACTU restructures its Executive to allow Unions from each industry group to elect a Representative Member.

1963

Annual Leave of 3 weeks becomes standard.

1965

ACTU files claims to remove the discriminatory clauses in the Federal and State Awards relating to the employment of Aborigines.

- Pastoral Industry Award
- Station Hands Award
- Cattle Station Industry (NT) Award

1966

Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission hands down a decision to grant Aborigines on Northern Territory Cattle Stations equal pay with Europeans from 1st December 1968.

1967

A Federal Referendum gives a massive "YES" vote for Aboriginal people to gain Australian Citizenship and Federal control of Aboriginal affairs. Aborigines thereafter are to be included in the Census.

1969

The ACTU's Equal Pay Case paves the way for women to receive pay equal to that of men performing same duties by 1975.

1971

Union membership – 2,436,600.

1972

The ACTU's second equal pay case results in the principle of equal pay for equal work being established.

1973

Four weeks annual leave.

1975

Wage Indexation is introduced as the main method of wage fixing. Trade Union Training Authority (TUTA) established.

1977

The first work related child care centre since the Second World War is opened at Ryde.

1979

ACTU expands after the merger of the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Association (ACSPA). The right of women workers to 12 months unpaid maternity leave is achieved.

1981

Wage Indexation is abandoned. 38 hour week is achieved in Federal Metal Industry and other awards. ACTU expands after the merger of the Council of Australian Government Employee Organisation (CAGEO).

1983-1999

The Accord between the ACTU and the ALP, and the election of a Federal Labor Government in 1983 ushered in a new phase in industrial relations. Unions became involved in tripartite processes and significant changes were made to industrial relations legislation. Maternity leave, occupational superannuation, then later, family leave became award entitlements. Structural problems in the economy were addressed by unions through award restructuring. A policy of strategic Unionism was adopted which saw the amalgamation of

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some 300 Unions into 20 "super" Unions. Enterprise bargaining became the main avenue for wage increases. In the latter part of this era, conservative State and Federal Governments initiated anti-worker and anti-union legislation

1983

The Accord ushers in a new era for industrial relations and economic management. Cost of living adjustments and a centralised system of wage fixation are introduced. ACTU Congress elects first woman to the ACTU Executive.

1984

Job Protection Case. National Occupational Health & Safety Commission is established. Union membership – 3,028,500.

1985

Queensland power industry dispute leads to draconian anti-union law passed by State Parliament. ACTU Congress expands to incorporate State Public Service Unions. The ACTU's test case on adoption leave is successful.

1986

The Accord Mark 2. Introduction of Universal Superannuation for Australian workers.

1987

ACTU Congress elects 5 women to the ACTU Executive. The two tiered wage system is introduced. Unions begin a drive for industry and award restructuring.

1988

ACTU/CAI issue joint statement on participative practices (industrial democracy). Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904 is replaced by Industrial Relations Act 1988. Structural Efficiency Principle is introduced.

1989

Unions embark on Award Restructuring process.

1990

ACTU drive to reform the Australian Education and Training system.

1992

Enterprise bargaining is introduced into Industrial Relations Act. Union amalgamation accelerates. ACTU supports the process of reconciliation with Australia's indigenous people. ACTU wins Parental Leave test case.

1993

Victorian Government introduces legislation to reduce award and union coverage. ACTU Congress launches the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Trade Union Employment Development Strategy.

1994

Industrial Relations Reform Act 1993 comes into operation.

1995

Jennie George elected as first woman President of the ACTU. ACTU wins Personal Carers' Leave Test case.

First Organising Works Program begins to train new organisers.

1996

Conservative Howard Government elected - introduces Workplace Relations Act, reducing workers entitlements under awards and severely limiting unions' capacity to organise and pursue members' interests.

1998

MUA dispute - union movement stands together and, with community support, wins a great victory against employer and Government attacks on the right to organise and be a Union member.

1999

Second wave of anti-union legislation from the Howard Government is defeated by a combination of Union and community activity. Unions @ work adopted by ACTU as blueprint for renewal and rebuilding of the Union movement. Greg Combet appointed Secretary of the ACTU.

The Union scorecard:

- The right of workers to form a Union which elects its own independent representatives;
- Award to ensure that employers observe minimum wages and working conditions;
- Equal pay;
- Long service leave;
- Pay loading for evenings, nights and weekends;
- Paid public holidays;
- Periodic wage increases;
- Maternity/adoption/parental leave;
- Annual leave and leave loading;
- Protective clothing and equipment provided by the employer;
- Occupational health and safety laws;
- Compensation for injury;
- Occupational superannuation;
- The right to be given notice and to be consulted about changes at work (eg new technology, planned retrenchments, new working arrangements);
- Personal Carer's leave.

2000-present

More recently, unions and the ACTU have led a community campaign against the Howard Government's industrial relations laws 'WorkChoices'.

2000

Sharan Burrow elected President of the ACTU.

2001

Several high-profile corporate collapses, including Ansett Airlines, results in a campaign by

Union movement to secure workers' entitlements. Federal Government responds by introducing workers' entitlement safety net scheme – GEERS. ACTU takes landmark Reasonable Hours Test Case to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

2002

Cole Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry targets Unions and their members.

ACTU holds Working Hours Summit. Unions in the Construction Industry begin securing 36 hour week for members.

2004

A union-led campaign for fair compensation for asbestos victims of James Hardie culminates in the largest personal injury settlement in Australian history.

2005

Unions launch the Your Rights at Work community campaign against the Howard Government's proposed new workplace laws. On November 15, more than half-a-million Australians, many linked by a Sky Channel broadcast, gathered in capital cities and towns in a national day of protest.

2006

Howard Government's WorkChoices laws come into effect in March, ripping away protection from unfair dismissal, reducing basic workers' entitlements, and neutering the independent industrial umpire.

2007

Jeff Lawrence appointed Secretary of the ACTU.

Rudd Labor Government elected as a result of massive public backlash against WorkChoices.

2008

Labor Government bans new Australian Workplace Agreements (individual contracts).

2009

Fair Work Laws replace Workplace Relations Act (WorkChoices) and provide Australian workers with strong collective bargaining rights, protection from unfair dismissal and a robust safety net. An 18-week universal paid maternity leave scheme is announced in Federal Budget following 30 year Union campaign.

2010

Ged Kearney elected President of the ACTU. She replaces Sharan Burrow, who has been elected General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation.

2011

National paid parental leave scheme begins.

Unions launch Secure Jobs. Better Future campaign to improve the rights and working lives of the 40% of the Australian workforce employed in insecure work.

2012

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Labor Government passes legislation to abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission.

A Fair Work Australia ruling gives social and community sector workers pay increases of between 23% and 45% over the next eight years.

Dave Oliver elected Secretary of the ACTU. He replaces Jeff Lawrence.

Part 4

A longer history of the factors which led to the combination of workers into Unions and finally the Australian Labor Party.

England in the early 1700's

While it might seem irrelevant to talk about another country in another century, it is from history and change that we might learn what is actually happening in our society today.

At the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, England was a mainly agricultural Society and the type of farming practiced was called "Common" farming, where strips of land or portions were put aside for various types of cultivation and at different times of the year.

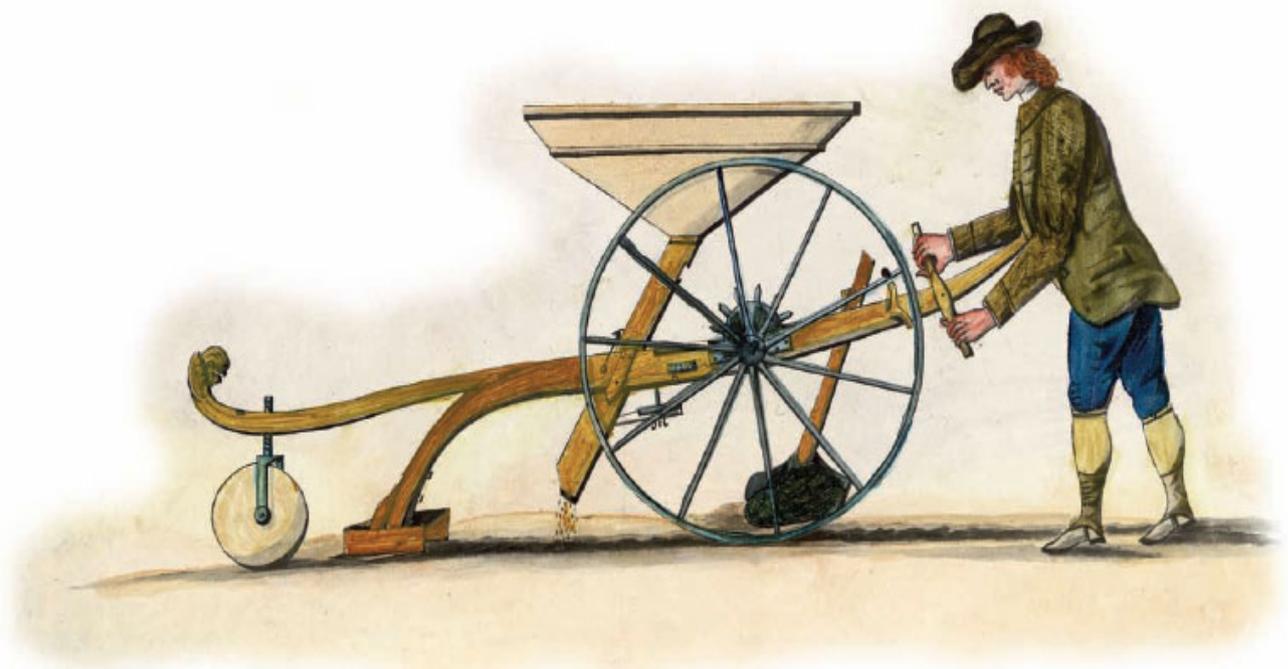
Common agriculture was a feudal system, which the Lord of the Manor apportioned to his tenants as well as the associated rights which went with the portions. The Lord of the Manor had been granted his Manor by the Crown and he passed his rights onto other tenants and told them how to farm.

Society was rural, made up of hamlets and villages and dominated by small shires and Manors ruled by the Landed Gentry. There was no hygiene as we know it today, no education and hardly any industry, apart from small cottage industry.

Many of the villagers lived along with their animals. When they were not outside and grazing on the common land. Their dwellings were owned by the Lord of the Manor or landowners and were tied to the land. They were known as "Tied" cottages.

The keeper of the peace was the Magistrate, who was also in almost all cases the landowner. The Parliament was made up of representatives who met in Westminster in London. The only eligible people to sit in the Parliament were landowners. They made the law of the land.

The Start of the Agricultural revolution



Time Life Pictures/Getty Images

Jethro Tull's Seed drill

In 1701, one of these landowners, named Jethro Tull, a farmer from Oxfordshire invented a seed drill which was the first Agricultural machine with moving parts. Not only did it dig up the soil but it also buried the seed from a hopper on the machine. It could be used by one man.

Previously this process had been done by manual labour, either burying by hand or scattering seed which might not germinate. So it reduced labour, was quicker and also was less wasteful.

The common method of farming didn't lend itself to this type of new application and so farmers started to change their farming practices and enclose the land.

Enclosure wasn't a problem because the landowners were the only ones who could be Members of the Parliament and so they passed Enclosure Acts changing the commons law on individual tracts of land.

As the 1700's progressed more and more tracts of land were enclosed because of these new and more productive farming methods. In 1700 to 1710 there was 1 enclosure act, 1710-20 there were 8, and by 1790 to 1800 there were 506. In the next ten years (1800-10) that rose to 906. The number of enclosure acts in the 19th century (1800's) was about 6000.

Affects of the changes to Agricultural practices?

As agricultural practices changed and machinery took over the manual labour of the farm workers, there were numerous changes to the conditions of the workers.

1. Not so many workers were needed.
2. Those workers that were needed didn't have common land on which to have a pig, a goat, chickens or a cow or indeed a kitchen garden. So their lot became dire in the winter when they could not grow vegetables or feed an animal.
3. Many of their dwellings were in the way of the enclosure so they were evicted and their houses demolished.
4. The farms became more productive and returned a larger return to the farmers
5. Many workers were reduced to poverty, having no job and wages for those who did have a job wages were reduced.
6. There was a movement from the villages and hamlets to the new manufactures in factories in newly created towns.
7. People's health deteriorated because they could not afford food.
8. Concentration of workers in the new Industrial towns caused diseases such as flu, whooping cough, cholera, typhoid, tuberculosis and measles to flourish.

Other Infrastructure changes.

Roads and Canals.

Once the farming practices had changed and the supply of goods improved it was imperative to have a decent transport system to get the goods to Market.

Gradually the roads became better due to being upgraded and the system of canals started to be dug and transport of Agricultural and Industrial goods improved.

The Influence of the Church and religion on the population

From the Middle Ages through to the 1700's and beyond, religious life was also very important in the villages and hamlets of the United Kingdom. Salvation of the Soul was of paramount importance and everyone was expected to go to church on Sundays and say their daily prayers.

Coupled with the living (the appointment of the local Vicar) of the Parish was the Squire of the Parish, who had an enormous amount of power in the religious life of the parish. They normally had their own pew and the service didn't start until they were present.

Whilst the priest had salvation in his grasp for the souls of the parishioners, he normally did what the Squire said.

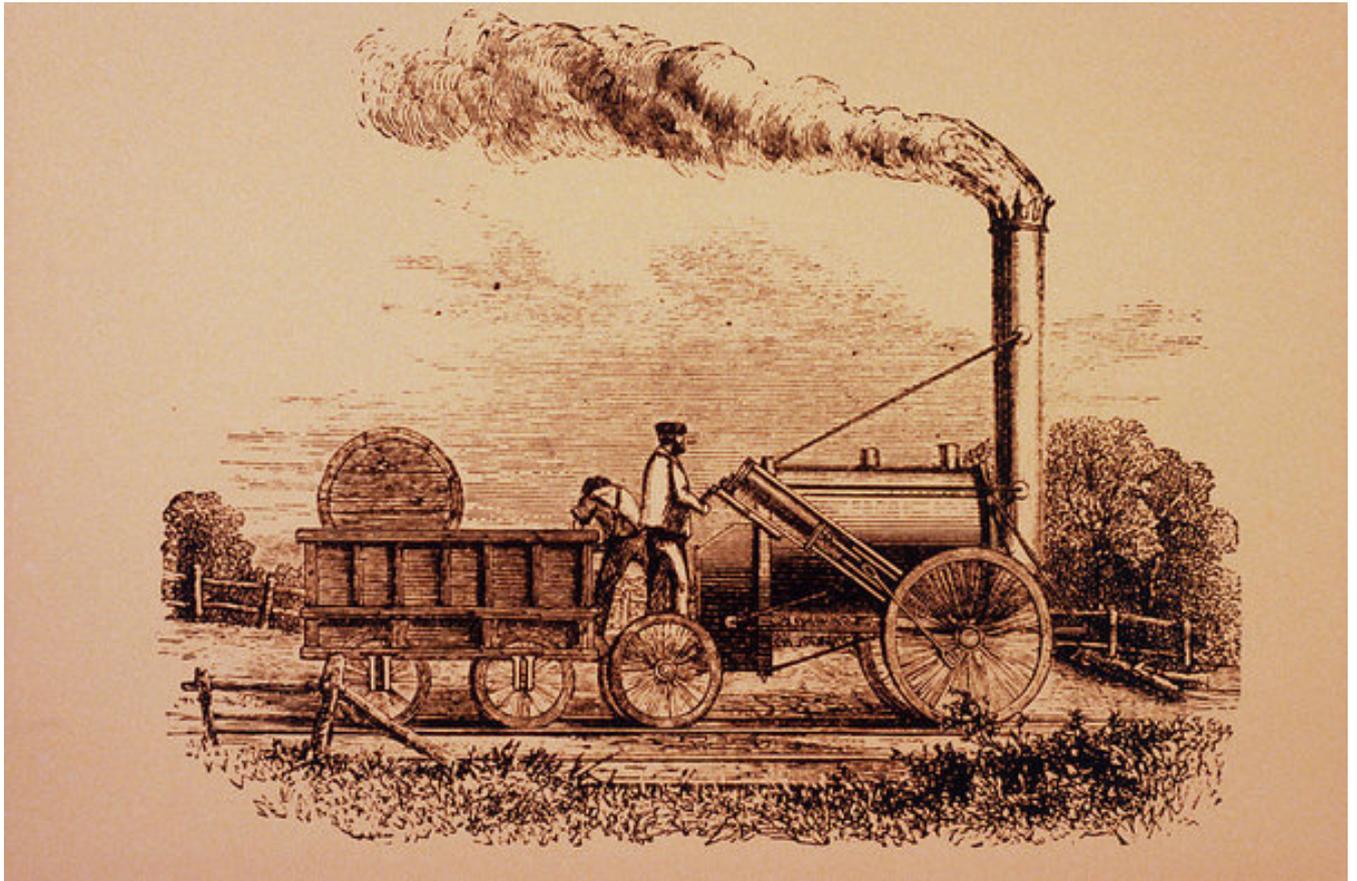
So the Squire had power over,

- a) Work
- b) Pay

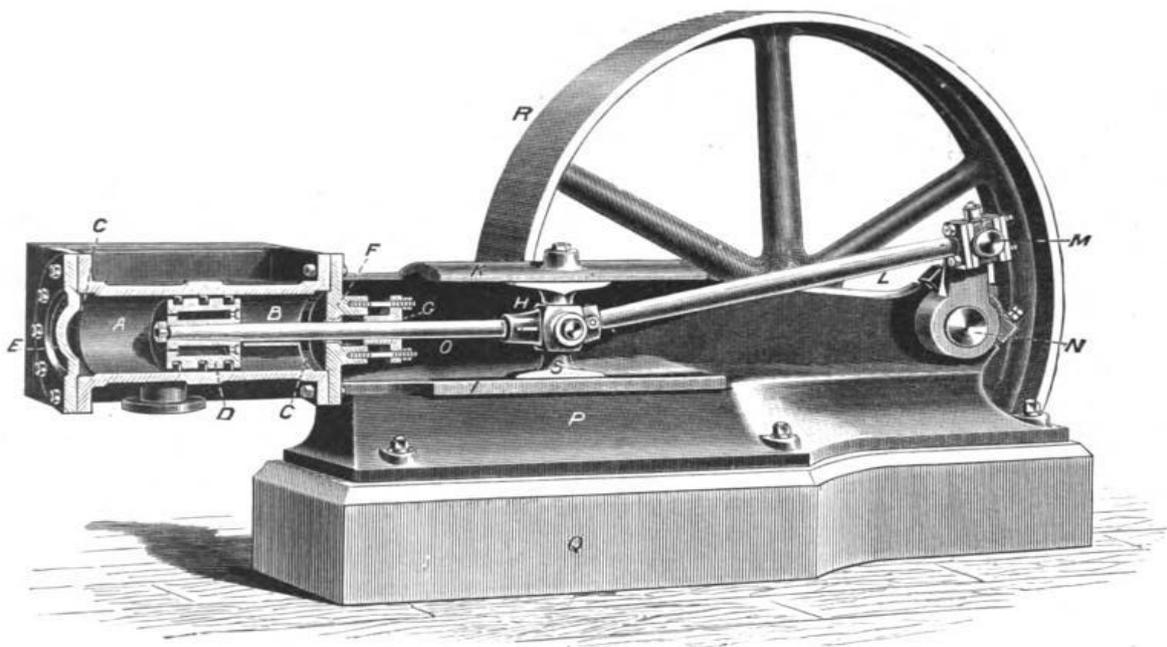
- c) Housing
- d) Punishment (he was normally the magistrate as well)
- e) Religious life.

The Worker had no power at all and very little prospects of living a quiet life if they didn't toe the line which the squire trod.

The Industrial revolution.



Stephenson's Rocket.



Stationary Steam Engine. (Used in mines to pump out water)

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Along with the Agricultural Revolution there were near parallel advances in new inventions during the eighteenth century.

They affected and improved production in the following industries:-

1. Textiles.
2. The Steam engine
3. Iron making
4. Invention and use of machine tools.

The textile mills of the Midlands and North of England greatly increased productivity with Steam and Water powered machinery, especially in the processing of cotton (the gin) and the manufacture of cloth (Power looms).

As well as water power, steam power allowed the Mills to be more flexibly located and productivity increased by at least 40 times.

When the techniques of brass smelting were applied to iron smelting, larger lengths of iron could be cast, enabling the first bridge to be built of Iron at Ironbridge in Shropshire across the river Severn which opened in 1781.



The Iron Bridge across the Severn Gorge at Ironbridge.

New techniques in Iron making also allowed for greater quality of machinery and the introduction of machine tools allowing even better machines to be made.

What all of this meant to the working man.

As the eighteenth century progressed and more and more agricultural workers were disenfranchised from their traditional farm work, they moved to the towns. Better agriculture also meant better food and there was a population explosion.

The traditional guilds and mechanics who had always served an apprenticeship of at least 7 years were assailed by a new type of itinerant mechanic, who hadn't been apprenticed and was therefore cheaper and much more sought after.

The trades professions (Guilds) were unable to supply the necessary number of workers for this explosion in work and so they diminished in importance. Whilst the trade situation was good, then the working man flourished. However in times of war and when there was a downturn in trade, they suffered badly.

Casual work flourished and all the power to hire and fire was in the hands of the mill owners, the mine owners, the factories and the gentry. They also made the laws.

Discontent with the situation was rife.

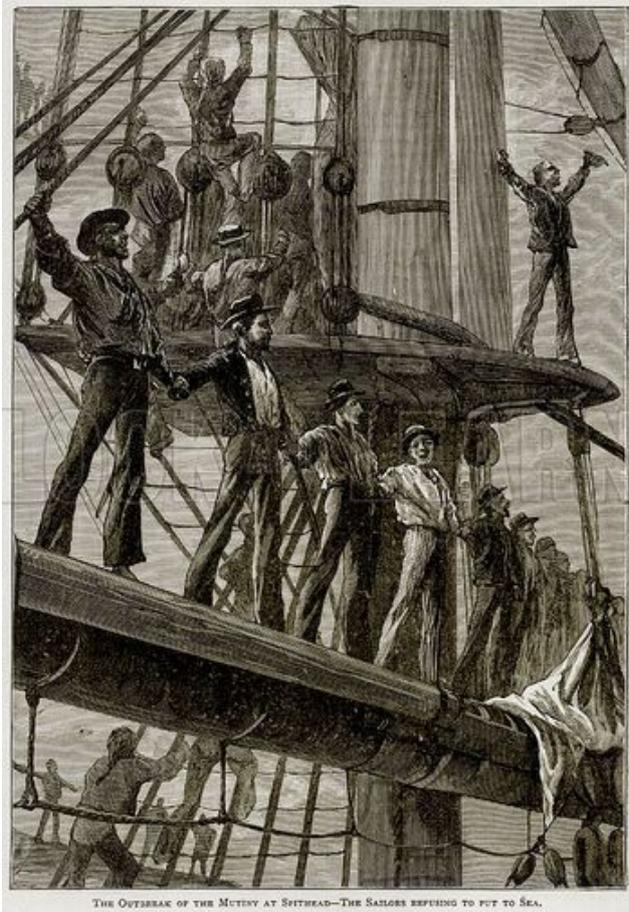
It had been tradition for the Parish to look after their own poor and so the Workhouse was established as the place to house the poor and also to make them work. The conditions were deliberately made harsh and the work was hard, especially to deter the able bodied from thinking they could have free accommodation and food.

By the end of the Napoleonic wars (Lots of Royal Navy sailors and soldiers being demobbed) and poor harvests, the poor law Unions were a place of horror and filth. As time went on they became homes for the elderly and infirm and in 1929 were mainly given over to the Parishes as hospitals to look after their elderly and infirm inmates. They were finally abolished in 1948 when the National Assistance Act of 1948 came into being. (This was the beginning of the Welfare State in Great Britain).

As all of this activity was going on in a changed Agricultural and Industrial scene in the UK, the plight of the worker was getting worse and worse.

Workers started rightly to protest and wanted to combine into Unions to try and work toward better working conditions.

Perhaps the first real act of revolt against the treatment that workers had to endure was the Mutinies in the Royal Navy at Spithead and the Nore in 1797.



The outbreak of the mutiny at Spithead-The Sailors refusing to put to sea.

The Royal Navy had been the pride of England, but the way Sailors were recruited and treated left a lot to be desired. In times of war with various countries in Europe, the Navy used to obtain sailors for the fleet by impressments.

Naval Squads (press gangs) used to scour ports and impress men for service in the Royal Navy. They would also stop merchant ships in the English Channel and take Merchant seamen for Naval Service.

Whilst the pay of Naval sailors hadn't been bad in the mid 1700's, towards the end of the century, it had dropped badly compared to price rises for certain goods. The pay rate had been set in 1653 and had not been raised since (a pay freeze of nearly 150 years). Pay was also withheld for at least 6 months to stop desertion and sometimes for up to 2 years.

The food was poor and was mainly Salted Pork and Hard Biscuit. The water supply of sailors was taken from the rivers of England, which were also used as open sewers by the population and was therefore putrid. Scurvy (a lack of vitamin C) was rife in the Navy. Many Sailors died from Scurvy.

Working a sailing ship was extremely hard physical work as was serving the guns in battle.

Punishment was severe and at the whim of the Captain of the ships. Many were brutal and harsh. The lot of the Sailors was also one of restriction. They were not allowed ashore very often, due to the temptation of desertion.

In 1797 England had been at War with France for 5 years as a result of the French Revolution (see French Revolution below)

The pay of an able seaman was 9 and three quarter pence per day or 22 shillings and 9 pence per lunar month. The sailors wanted an increase to 30 Shillings per month, with it being paid regularly every 3 months in cash (not Paper). They also asked that prize money be divided in three with one third to be equally divided among the ship's company.

A deputation from the Admiralty which had been sent to Portsmouth to negotiate with the sailors thought that after promising to put their grievances before the King, they would return to duty. They refused until some concrete proposal was agreed to.

Once this was done the Mutineers at Spithead were pardoned.

From there the mutiny widened to include the North Sea Fleet based at the Nore – Sheerness in the Thames estuary.

It finally finished with the Sailors returning to duty, but the main ringleader was hanged. Several others were hung and many severely flogged.

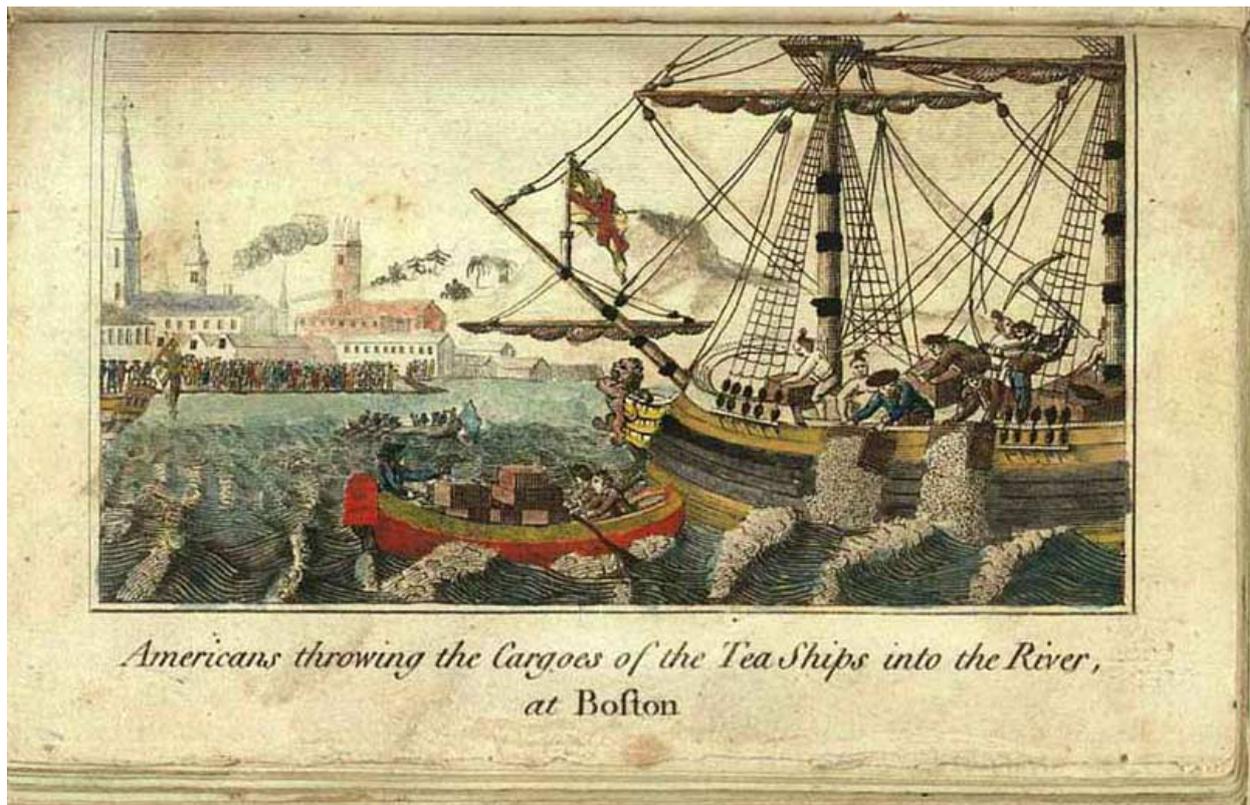


The leader of the Mutiny at the Nore. Peter Parker being hanged after trial by Court Martial.

After the mutiny had finished the Parliament passed the **Unlawful Oaths Act 1797** (37 Geo. III, c. 123) which was aimed at clandestine organisations being formed by the swearing of an Oath.

Later, in 1834, this Act was to be used against the Tolpuddle Martyrs (See Below).

The American War of independence. (1775–1783)



The Boston Tea Party

Dissent wasn't just in the home country of England, it was also fermenting in the 13 American colonies. The colonist's main problems with England were the taxes (The Stamp Act) being levied and not having any representation in the Parliament in England. This culminated in the Boston Tea Party, where the group calling itself "*Sons of liberty*" destroyed a shipment of Tea on a ship in Boston Harbour.

Britain responded with the closure of Boston Harbour and other punitive measures. The colonists then decided to form Militias and the conflict gradually worsened, with British Army regiments being used to disarm the militia, which they failed to do. Armed conflict ensued and the 12 colonies signed the declaration of independence on 4th July 1776. In 1778 the French allied with the 12 colonies and several engagements were fought, ending in the surrender of the British Army at Yorktown Virginia in 1781. The war dragged on overseas between the French and British and the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, which recognised the independence of the American colonies.

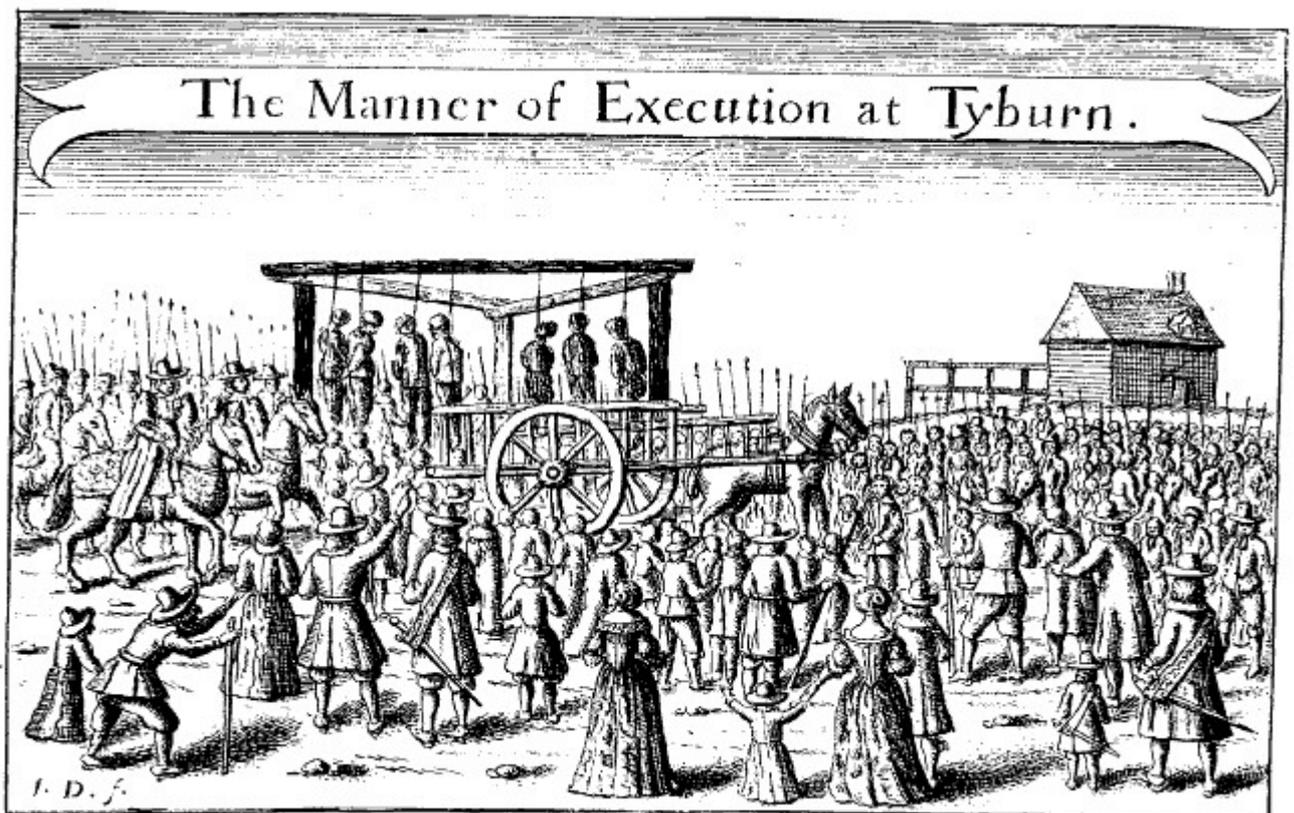
This had a direct bearing in the history of Australia and this story of the fight for social justice, which is described in the next section.

Crime and Punishment in the Eighteenth Century.

Britain in the 1700's was a rapidly changing country. The Agricultural revolution had invigorated Agriculture but it had changed the Agricultural workers lot. The lands were being enclosed at an ever increasing rate and the new industrial towns were springing up at the same rate due to movement from the country to the new towns. In good times, labour was plentiful and cheap but there was a new feeling about the hours being asked by the factory workers and the age of the children who were working long arduous hours.

Poverty due to low wages led to crime and the powerful didn't want to have anything to do with criminals. The ordinary worker was to work and not be heard. They were to obey and like their lot.

Naturally the rise in population toward the end of the Century caused shortages of jobs and many people lived in squalor. They turned to crime. Punishments were harsh and theft was a crime which in most cases was punished by death by hanging. In London this was at Tyburn and was open to the public.

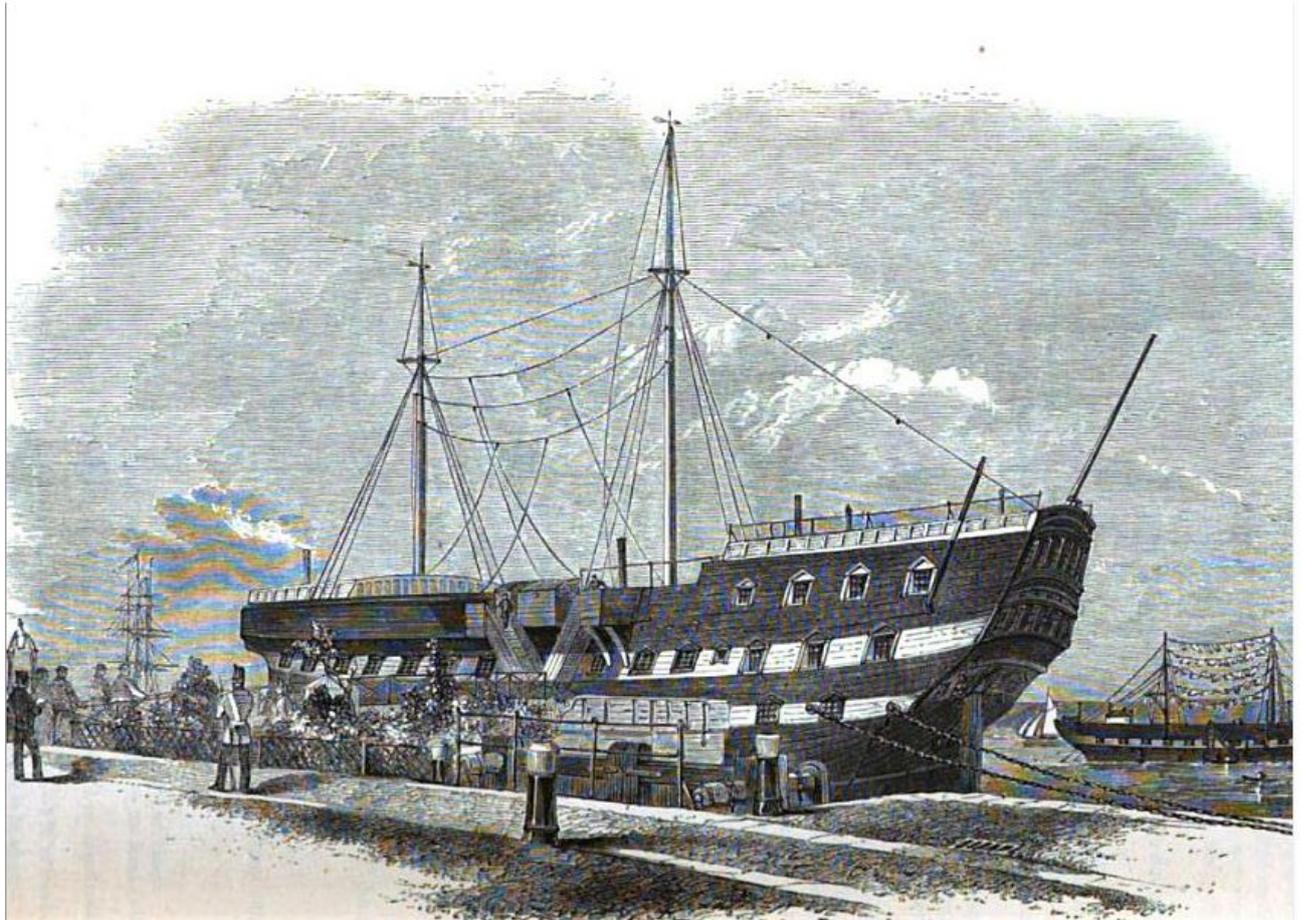


Public Executions at Tyburn in London

However the new American colonies needed people and labour and so the transportation system sprung up. Rather than death, the convict could be transported as free Labour to the New World.

This had several advantages. Cheap (free), obedient Labour and the criminals were gone from the streets of the English towns.

With the independence of the one colony where the majority of convicts could be sent the criminals were now housed in Hulks. A hulk was a demasted and converted Royal Navy ship which floated on the Thames and at Portsmouth and were used as dormitories for the convicts.



Hulks used as Prisons.

In 1770 James Cook had discovered the East Coast of Australia and his Botanist, Joseph Banks suggested that Terra Australis would be a good destination for the riff raff from the prisons and hulks of England.

In 1785, orders in council were issued in London to form a Penal Colony in New South Wales.

In 1787 the first fleet of 11 ships left England and sailed for Australia, arriving here on 18th January 1788 at Port Botany. By 20th January all the ships of the fleet had arrived. They carried 1373 souls of which 793 were male and female convicts.

All were under the harshest of military discipline.

The French Revolution 1793



The reign of terror in France following the Revolution

Meanwhile on the continent in France the people were not happy either. Theirs was a Feudal society where the nobility had the largest say and their lot was arguably worse than in England. This was abolished in 1789, but there was still unrest in the countryside. The assembly (Similar to Parliament) on the same day (August 4th) adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

Once again they had been excluded from any decision making process, had no representation and poverty, ignorance and distress caused by high taxation were rife. The taxes were levied by the Crown to fight foreign wars.

The French people wanted *liberté, égalité, and fraternité* (Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood).

Unable to come up with an agreed constitution, some of the more radical reformers arrested the Royal family in August 1792.

A wave of violence followed in the streets of Paris where counterrevolutionaries were murdered in their hundreds.

The King and Queen were sentenced to death and went to the guillotine in January and September 1793 respectively.

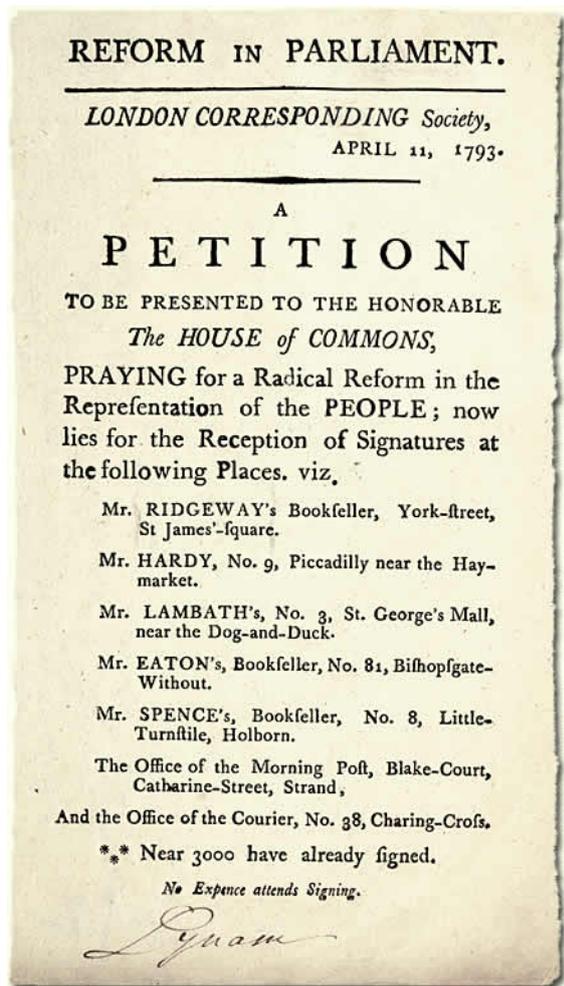
The extremists (Jacobins) seized power in June 1793 and there followed a 10 month reign of terror where hundreds who were suspected of sympathy toward the old regime also were guillotined.

Naturally change was afoot in Europe as well as England and this social change was seen with great suspicion and fear by the powerful classes in the UK. This was especially the case after the Royal Navy mutinies at Spithead and the Nore in 1797.

French Revolutionary Wars 1793- 1802

Instead of embracing change, the powers that be doubled down on dissent. Firstly they went to war against France, their traditional enemy. Mainly because France was a world power and like England had a colonial empire. The way to stop France becoming more powerful than England was to attack them. Such was the case for the next nine years with a short break of a year and then another war with France (Napoleonic wars) between 1803 and 1815 (12 years).

The first Combination Acts.



Petition to Parliament by London Corresponding society 1793 – seen as a threat similar to the unrest in France.

Meanwhile back in England the domestic situation was still a threat. After all the English didn't want their own Revolution. So they doubled down on making sure it didn't happen.

The first Act against the combination of workers into Unions was in 1799. In 1800 it was immediately strengthened and here is some of the wording.

"Whereas it is expedient to explain and amend an Act [39 Geo. III, c. 81]...to prevent unlawful combinations of workmen ... be it enacted ... that from ... the passing of this Act, the said Act shall be

repealed; and that all contracts, covenants and agreements whatsoever ... at any time ... heretofore made ... between any journeymen manufacturers or other persons ... for obtaining an advance of wages of them or any of them, or any other journeymen manufacturers or workmen, or other persons in any manufacture, trade or business, or for lessening or altering their or any of their usual hours or nine of working, or for decreasing the quantity of work (save and except any contract made or to be made between any master and his journeyman or manufacturer, for or on account of the work or service of such journeyman or manufacturer with whom such contract may be made), or for preventing or hindering any person or persons from employing whomsoever he, she, or they shall think proper to employ ... or for controlling or anyway affecting any person or persons carrying on any manufacture, trade or business, in the conduct or management thereof, shall be ... illegal, null and void....”

Basically no one was allowed to negotiate shorter work, larger pay or better conditions.

What this showed was a complete intransigence by the people who had the power. By hook or by crook they were going to hang onto that power.

There were basically four types of working class.

1. **Out and out slavery** which is normally characterised by the slaves from Africa.
2. **The convict class** who were put to work in Australia for rations and clothing and who were subject to military style (harsh) discipline.
3. **The indentured person** who was wholly the property of his master. Such people were apprentices, but there was also the debtor, who sold himself to a master in order to discharge his debts.
4. **The free worker**, who had no representation other than as an individual who had to accept the work he was offered and for the wages that the “Master” deemed he could afford. Any dissent was also harshly punished by the magistrates (who also happened to be the same class as the worker’s Master).

The Consequences of the Combination Acts and the treatment of Slave Labour generally

It is important to realise how impotent the individual labourer or worker was at this time and the parallels with convict or assigned workers in Australia.

There was no ability to reason with the Masters who controlled them, their conditions of work and their wages.

Despite the prohibition on combination, many workers did combine and fought back against the oppression they were under.

Many movements were formed but the consequences of having no voice led many times to violence against the Master who owned the works and also the establishment (The State) which approved of such relentless treatment of the poor.

Examples of some of these movements and incidents were as follows.

1. **1816 Spa fields riots.** Because of the prolonged war with France, many businesses had closed down, people were unemployed, and wages for those with jobs were low and prices for food high. The Spa fields meetings were organised by a Group called Spenceians, followers of a radical called Thomas Spence. Spence was a radical reformer who believed in 4 basic principles.

- all land would be held in common by each parish
- profits from the rents were to be used to support the administration, public libraries and schools of the area
- each parish would choose a representative for a national assembly
- every adult male would be a member of the militia

Source <http://www.historyhome.co.uk/people/spence.htm>

A group of workers who followed Spence's ideas had a meeting at Spa fields near London. Someone broke into a gunsmiths and the group marched on London with the idea of taking over the tower of London and the Bank of England. They were met by soldiers and 300 were arrested for rioting.

The 4 ring leaders were charged with treason but were all found not guilty because the main witness (John Castle) in the first trial (That of Arthur Thistlewood) was an informer for the Crown who had infiltrated the Spenceans as a spy, In the trial of the other three the crown offered no evidence.

Further reading:

<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/c-eight/distress/spafield.htm>

2. **1817 Derbyshire rising.** A group of unemployed workers armed themselves and marched on Nottingham. When the Army appeared they fled. The leaders of the march were later caught and beheaded. 30 more men were transported to Australia.

Further reading:

<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/c-eight/distress/pentrich.htm>

3. **1819 The Peterloo massacre.** 60,000 unemployed or low paid workers gathered for a meeting in central Manchester to listen to a speech by an Activist named Henry Hunt who wanted to talk about government reforms. Henry Hunt had also spoken to the crowd at the Spa Fields riots. The army arrived and in their zeal to arrest Hunt they killed 11 of the gathering and badly injured a further 400. The Government did nothing about the violence because the soldiers had been obeying orders.

Further reading

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/the-peterloo-massacre#>

4. **1820 The Cato Street conspiracy.** A group of unemployed and hungry radicals decided to blow up the Parliament just like Guy Fawkes. They were led by a man called Arthur Thistlewaite. The same Thistlewaite who had been a ring leader of the Spenceans at the Spa Fields riots. They were betrayed and captured. Thistlewaite was hung and beheaded.

Further Reading

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/cato-street-conspiracy>

5. **Chartists** were a large group who wanted a people's charter to be adopted by the Government. Among their demands were the changes to the property requirement for MPs, changes to Electorates and generally much better representation by the Working class. There were two groups. Those who advocated peaceful change and those who wanted change by violent means.

6. **Luddites** were Mill workers such as croppers who were highly skilled and made cloth in the Textile Industry. They were disenfranchised when new frame making technology was introduced and could be operated by an unskilled worker with much greater productivity. Naturally they didn't like losing their livelihood and formed groups called Luddites. They used to write to the mill owners and signed their letters with the name Edward Ludd. The Mill owners were less than sympathetic, which led to the croppers marching on the Mills with the intention of breaking the new frames. Much frame breaking occurred and this forced the Parliament to enact the Frame Breaking Act where there were harsh penalties for those who transgressed the law. What had once been a cottage industry, now became a Mill one, with the army called out regularly to protect the Mills from outraged unemployed and highly skilled croppers.

7. **1830 The Swing Riots.** These were in response to Agricultural machinery, especially the mechanical threshing machine which had made many labourers redundant and unemployed. In 1830 with no relief in sight many farm labourers attacked the threshing machine and like

the Luddites broke the machinery. Nineteen of the rioters were hung and 505 were transported to Australia and a further 644 imprisoned.

Further reading

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/politics/g5/>

8. 1834 The Tolpuddle Martyrs.



James Loveless John Standfield James Brine
James Hammett George Loveless Thomas Standfield

Names of the Tolpuddle Martyrs who were transported to Australia.

Tolpuddle is a small village in the county of Dorset in the South of England. It was an agricultural community. Much like the rest of England, after the Wars with France and failed harvests, wages had been reduced from a standard to live by to 9 shillings a week and unless they had children who also earned a living the large families of the time found it very hard to exist above the poverty level.

In the light of the swing riots, (close to them in southern England) six men in Tolpuddle met and discussed a different way to try and discuss with their employers, their wages and conditions.

The combination Act of 1800, had by this time been repealed (1824), but the prevailing attitude of the owners of the land hadn't changed.

Six men met under the Sycamore tree in the village to discuss their plight or in the house of Thomas Stanfield, the oldest member of the group.

Basically they agreed that they would not work for less than 10 shillings a week.

The oath they swore was administered in Standfield's house in Tolpuddle and was to be their downfall.

A local Landowner and Magistrate James Frampton, hated the idea of unions and had bad memories of the French Revolution.

By foul means he manipulated one of the oath takers and obtained evidence of an oath, illegally taken.

Before arresting the six men he wrote to Lord Melbourne who advised Frampton to arrest and prosecute them under section 25 of 57 Geo. III, c. 19, the **Unlawful Oaths Act 1797** which had been passed after the Mutiny at the Nore.

All six men were arrested and arraigned before a Grand Jury, made up of Foreman William Ponsonby, (Brother in law of Lord Melbourne), other members of the jury included James Frampton, his son Henry, his step brother and several of the magistrates who had signed the arrest warrant. The Judge Baron Williams was anything but impartial.

All six men were found guilty and sentenced to 7 years transportation to Australia. Five of them left immediately and ended up as assigned servants in New South Wales and George Loveless, who was ill, left later when he had regained his health. He went to Van Diemens Land.

The population of England was flabbergasted at the severity of the sentence and 200,000 people rioted in London in their support.

Meanwhile the word was sent out to Australia to treat them as harshly as they could be. But before any real damage could be done, they were pardoned and allowed to return to England, such was the outrage at their sentence.

This case illustrates the determination of the Landed gentry, to maintain their position in the English Society. It shows their stark lack of reasonableness and fairness and their manipulation of the justice system to punish workers for being nothing less than they were – honest workers.

Further reading:

<https://www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/story>

Also this pamphlet written by James Lovelace is very interesting reading, especially about the way he was treated as a an assigned convict in Van Dieman's land, especially his master's attempt to have him flogged.

<https://www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/shop/products/martyr%E2%80%99s-account-%E2%80%93-victims-whiggery>

9. **1839-1843 The Rebecca Riots.** Transport was extremely important for trade in England as a result of the Industrial Revolution and so the roads needed to be maintained. A system of tolls on the turnpike roads was implemented to pay for their upkeep. Many found that going short distances through the toll gate disadvantaged them greatly and between 1839 and 1842 a series of attacks on the toll houses occurred. They were burned to the ground. The man who first did this was dressed up in women's clothes, borrowed from a Lady called Rebecca. Hence the name Rebecca riots.

Further reading:

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofWales/The-Rebecca-Riots/>

The application of the Class system in Australia

Australia was an interesting example of the English Law, being applied 12,000 miles away from the place in which it was made.

All statutes (Laws) enacted in England had the same efficacy here in Australia. If anything was more English than the English it was the attitude of the Master who owned land assigned to them by the Governor of New South Wales. They had the same dread of the American Revolution as well as horror of the French Revolution.

Harsh punishments were the norm because of this fear. The convicts must be kept quiet at all costs.

However these were English convicts with the same frustrations and feeling as the English working men themselves.

Despite the harsh punishments they still rebelled against authority and bad treatment.

An example of this treatment is that of James Straiter a convict in the Paramatta district of New South Wales.

He was assigned to one Hannibal McArthur, the nephew of John McArthur, the man who was a major in the New South Wales Corps and who had brought fine Marino wool sheep to Australia.

In 1822 Straiter, a convict shepherd on Hannibal McArthurs property refused to work, because he had been promised much more pay than McArthur was actually delivering to him. Words were spoken and Straiter overstepped his bounds by swearing at McArthur as well as refusing to feed his sheep.

Straiter had been assigned to another settler and had a ration about double of that he was receiving from McArthur. He wasn't impressed and told him so.

As these things went at the time, McArthur took him up to the Magistrates court, which was presided over by his neighbour who was of the same class.

Straiter was found guilty and sentenced to 500 lashes. The charge was that he had combined with other shepherds to refuse to feed the sheep.

Conclusion.

After the repeal of the combination Acts in 1824, and with many convicts now having completed their sentences and being freed, they again entered the market for work, finding it little better than being an assigned convict. The same long hours and the same meagre wages so the union movement took hold in Australia as well as in the UK.

In New South Wales in 1823, a colonial Act known as the Masters and Servants act was passed. This Act treated workers (who were free) as mere vassals of their employer. For example if they left their work for as little as an hour, they could be imprisoned with or without hard labour on the treadmill.

“By 1902, the 1823 Act had been modified to include forfeit of wages if the written or unwritten contract for work was unfulfilled. Absence from place of work was punishable by imprisonment of up to three months with or without hard labour. There were also penalties of up to 10 pounds for anyone who harboured, concealed or re-employed a 'servant' (i.e. worker) who had deserted or absconded or absented himself from his duty implied in the 'contract'.

Source Wikipedia “Master and Servants Act” Accessed August 2019.

None the less, the Union Movement began to grow in the colonies, principally against long hours at work, low wages and poor conditions.

Many Unionists realised that they needed a political arm which could represent them in the Parliament, the place where the Laws were made and where they could change the Laws which governed work and Industrial Relations generally.

Labor Parties were formed in each of the colonies and ran for Parliament in those Colonies.

It was only after Australia became a Federation of Colonies in 1901, that a Federal Labour (renamed Labor after 1912) Party was formed. After the 1901 Federal Election, Labour also formed Government. This was a world first.

The fight against oppression by the landed class was beginning to bear fruit. As you have seen in reading this short truncated history, the fight for the rights of the worker had been a hard and long one. But it wasn't and isn't over yet.

Part 5. European and Asian influences on the World and Australian politics.

In contemporary Australia, it would be folly to not mention the history of Europe and Asia and the Political affects on the development of modern Australia.

As we have described in the History of the development of the Social conscience in England and the circumstances which led to those changes, many parallels exist with Europe and Asia.

The dominant factors in Europe were the Feudal regimes of countries, dominated by a Monarchy and their Nobility and then a lesser Nobility and finally the peasants.

All of the Countries of Europe were dominated by the Catholic Church, which was all powerful and which held close the gift of Education. Primarily mathematics, reading and writing. Everything was done in a common language and that language was Latin.

Power resided in the Church and the Monarchy of each European State.

The first event to break this power was the idea that the church was all omniscient. In fact it had become corrupted, by the selling of favours for profit (the sale of absolution of sin) and the use of positions of power for their families.

Coupled with this was the introduction of the printing press. Instead of books being copied by hand, they could be readily printed. This allowed knowledge and ideas to spread and therefore censorship was much harder. Books could also be printed in the native language of each state and people could begin to learn to read. The province of knowledge gradually began to widen and the wisdom and power of the Church began to be questioned.

Reforming priests such as Martin Luther decided that they would challenge the church's teachings and he directly did so in 1517 by nailing 95 thesis (arguments against church teaching on a church door in Germany). They basically attacked the idea of selling indulgences to absolve sin.

This act sparked the Protestant reformation and was followed by John Calvin, and a raft of other reformers who challenged the church's authority, practices and teaching.

In England Henry VIII broke away from the church because the Pope in Rome would not allow him to divorce his wife, Catherine of Aragon (The daughter of King Phillip II of Spain). In those days Monarchy's believed that they were there by Divine right and their main imperative was to breed male children to keep the line going.

As education became more widespread and new machinery was created and people lost jobs and their livelihood because of it, the clamour for Social justice also began to be waged.

New Political thought started to be discussed in the middle of the 19th Century by two men called Karl Marx and Frederick Engles.

Authored and Edited by John Collins and Vince O'Grady August 2019

Karl Marx was born in Trier in Germany in 1818 and he became a writer and thinker of economic Theory and Politics. He believed that as long as you had a capitalist society with masters and workers, there would always be class struggle. He believed that the workers would ultimately take power and that no one should have power over another. That everyone should be equal. Marx died in 1883.

Friedrich Engels was also born in Germany and his Father was a very rich factory owner and he sent his son Friedrich to manage one of his factories in England. The way the workers were treated under the class system upset Engels greatly and he started to write about Politics and the struggles of the working class.

In 1844 Marx and Engels met in France and became friends and began to write together.

In 1848 they published the Communist Manifesto.

“It is a mixture of both Marx and Engels' [theories](#) and opinions on [society](#) and [politics](#). It also has their written ideas of how the capitalist society of their time would be replaced by socialism, and after that, communism. Especially by the abolition of [private property](#) and [child labour](#) and by making [means of production](#) common, strong progressive [income tax](#) and free [education](#) for all.”

Source Wikipedia. https://simple.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Communist_Manifesto

Marx also wrote another important book called “Das Kapital” which:-

“It is commonly known in English as simply 'Capital.' He spent many years working on the three parts of the book. Das Kapital describes how "[capitalism](#)" works and the problems this creates, such as [division of labour](#) and [exploitation](#). The book has led to many arguments between those who agree with the book and those who do not. Marx's ideas have been thought of as responsible for [socialist revolutions](#) (like the [Russian Revolution](#)).”

Source Wikipedia. https://simple.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Marx

When Marx died Engels completed many of his books.

The downfall of the old monarchies of Europe happened after the First World War, when the slaughter of millions led to a tipping point in the class structure and which led to the Russian Revolution in October 1917 and the abdication of the Kaiser (German Monarch) in November 1918

Russia left the War after the revolution but had a civil war instead between the Bolsheviks (Reds representing the revolutionaries) and the Mensheviks (White, representing the Monarchy).

Following the First War Germany (as a republic) descended into severe depression. Most of Europe and the World were also in depression.

Authored and Edited by John Collins and Vince O'Grady August 2019

In 1933 The National Socialist (Nazi) party was formed under Adolf Hitler, who had been a corporal (runner) in a German regiment on the Western Front. The Full name of the party was the National Socialist German Workers party and its aims were based on fervent Nationalism, Race Purity and that Germans were the master race. It was against Communism and had a pseudo scientific to many of it's theories.

National Socialism filled a vacuum in Germany when there was depression and no hope for the future. It stopped the rampant inflation of the Weimar republic and created jobs for the people.

Yet Hitler's aims were just as bad as the worst communist excesses in Russia, which had led to dictatorship. So too did the worst excesses of the Nazi party, which also led to Dictatorship.

It is interesting to note that the class struggle in Russia and Germany had substituted one tyrannical regime (a Monarchy) with another (a Nazi Dictatorship. Hitler in Germany and a communist Dictatorship in Russia. First Lenin and then Stalin).

Ultimately this led to the Second World War, where Germany regained the de-militarised Rhineland and then annexed Austria, followed by the Sudenland (mainly German speaking) in Czechoslovakia.

Poland was the next objective of Hitler, but it was also that of Stalin. Hitler wanted it for 'Living room' for the German peoples and Stalin wanted it for a buffer against the territorial aspirations of Hitler.

In 1939 Russia and Germany signed a 10 year non aggression pact and they secretly divided Poland in half. So when Germany invaded to the East, Russia didn't do a thing in defence of Poland.

In 1941 after Germany had invaded and occupied Poland, he broke the non aggression pact and invaded Russia. This turned Russia to the side of the allies.

After the war Europe was in ruins with Millions dead and millions displaced.

In 1945 Ben Chifley, the Labor Prime Minister of Australia, established the Department of Immigration in order to manage a large scale immigration program.

After the second world war the Russian communists had established the Eastern block and had cut off many parts of Europe from their displaced citizens. Large numbers of Immigrants from Europe applied and were granted places and a new life in Australia.

Likewise the so called scourge of communism from Ho Chi Minh's Communist Vietnam posed a perceived risk to the liberal democracies of America, Australia and New Zealand. Who sent troops to fight the communist insurgency.

Authored and Edited by John Collins and Vince O'Grady August 2019

In April 1975, the war ended with victory to the Communists and a wave of Vietnamese refugees started arriving in south East Asian countries and Australia accepted them with open arms.

Between 1945 and 1985, some 4.2 million immigrants arrived, about 60 per cent of which came from countries other than Britain and Ireland.

Australia had now become a thoroughly multicultural country with many of the Social injustices which existed in the United Kingdom in the 18th and 19th centuries, replicated in their European and Asian countries, made worse by two world Wars and the Colonial aspirations of the Europeans.

Part 6 Aboriginal Australians

When Captain James Cook landed on the east coast of Australia in 1770, he took a typical European view of the inhabitants. There appeared to be no recognized sense of civilisation, eg towns, shops or grand buildings. Therefore it was assumed the land was really only occupied by black savages and it was declared uninhabited. Captain Cook used the phrase 'Terra Nullius', which means 'a land belonging to no one', and stated that the so called black savages were to be classified as fauna. This set the scene for the next 150 years, after settlement by the First Fleet on 26 January 1788. Aboriginals classify this as 'Invasion Day'. The white man brought abuse, disease, alcohol and disposition.

Reference: Hocking, Geoff. Under the Southern Cross Five Mile Press 2012

History

Aboriginals have occupied Australia for approximately **60,000 years**. Apart from contact between diverse aboriginal peoples there was no contact with rest of the world.

600 years ago there was early contact with trade with Indonesian peoples, and later with European sailors with both positive and negative impact.

1768 – Colonisation

1770 - Captain Cook enters Botany Bay and claims the land for the British Crown. The land was said to be 'Terra Nullius' – belongs to no one.

1788 - First fleet arrives and a settlement is established at Port Jackson. The aboriginal population devastated by forced removal from land, killing, incarceration, frontier wars, disease and forced assimilation.

1788 to 1930 Frontier Wars – From the start of settlement by the British the aboriginal people fought against being forced from their land with many battles and skirmishes. There were shooting parties by the British Army, convict settlers and the Police who were responsible for the slaughter of men, women and children. The consequence of colonisation was a wave of epidemic diseases including smallpox, measles and influenza, which spread ahead of the frontier and annihilated many Indigenous communities. Governor Phillip reported that smallpox had killed half of the Indigenous people in the Sydney region within fourteen months of the arrival of the First Fleet. The sexual abuse and exploitation of Indigenous girls and women also introduced venereal disease to Indigenous people in epidemic proportions.

Further reading:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/postcolonial-blog/2018/jun/08/australias-frontier-war-killings-still-conveniently-escape-official-memory>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2019/mar/04/massacre-map-australia-the-killing-times-frontier-wars>

<https://australianstogether.org.au/about-us/>

1800s – After settlement was established. Some good relations were established in some areas, but this was also devastating for Indigenous Australians. When the First Fleet arrived there were between 300,000 and 1,000,000 indigenous Australians throughout the Australian continent. About 3 out of 4 did not survive colonisation.

1802 – Penulway a Bidjigal, a man of the Eora people from north of Sydney was a leader who, after many raids on settlements was shot dead. His head was cut from his body and preserved in alcohol and shipped to England as a gift to Sir Joseph Banks (botanist with Captain Cook) from Governor King.

1803 – A settlement a Sullivan Cove Sorrento, in Port Philip Bay, near present day Melbourne was established. It failed due to lack of fresh water and the settlers and convicts went to Hobart in Van Dieman’s land and settled there instead.

1835 - In 1835, John Batman, a pastoralist and explorer, tries to make a treaty with Aboriginal people for Port Phillip Bay by ‘buying’ 243,000 hectares with 20 pairs of blankets, 30 tomahawks, and various and other articles and an annual tribute. But Governor Bourke does not recognise the treaty.

Aboriginal decline in Victoria.

Perhaps the most definitive account of the settlement of Victoria after 1835 and the decimation of Aboriginal life and culture is best described in Shirley W. Wiencke’s book entitled “When the Wattles Bloom again”

This book describes the life of William Barack, the last chief of the Yarra Yarra tribe.

Readers are urged to read this book which tells the actual story of Barack along with the European settlement of Victoria and the subsequent decimation of the native way of life.

In her Forward Wiencke pens the following.

The Place for a village

“This will be the place for a village”, wrote John Batman in his journal on the 8th of June 1835. He described “the large river which comes from the East” and added “The Natives on shore”.

The natives Batman wrote about would have been mainly those from the Yarra Yarra, or “Woiwurrung” tribe – Barak’s tribe.

Barak died, it’s last Chief and sole survivor in 1903, an old man of high intelligence and great dignity. As a boy he was present when Batman’s treaty was signed by the elders of his tribe. His long life began before the arrival of white settlers. It spanned the early settlement of Melbourne, the difficulties of integration, the opening up of vast tracts of land by the pastoralists, the discovery of gold, the growth of prosperity, and the rapid development of the city of Melbourne. He witnessed the loss of his tribal lands, and the extinction of his people. He died in 1903, two years after federation.

William Barak’s Story is an important part of our history and heritage.

Wiencke describes the conflict of culture and how that conflict caused serious trouble between the cultures. The white settlers just shoved the Aboriginal Tribes aside and disrespected their traditional life style, where they lived off the land and where the land renewed its bounty by being left to mother nature. The settler’s use of land and idea about ownership was entirely different. They considered anything not ‘developed’ a waste.

Following stealing of sheep, several natives were shot and despite a proclamation in 1836 by Governor Bourke to stop this lawlessness, it continued.

Naturally the aboriginal tribes refused to leave the land on which their tribes had existed for thousands of years. Once they had received gifts from the Whites, their culture expected the sharing of these resources to continue.

Alcohol was introduced as well as the white settler’s diseases, which the natives had no natural immunity to and it took a huge toll.

In 1839 the Chief protectorate of Aborigines had been set up and one of the Protectors, a man named Dredge, upon visiting their camp, wrote in his Diary.

“Several of them are suffering severely from syphilis, dysentery, etc. Five or six have recently died. Some of them say by and bye Port Phillip black fellows – Waworong blackfellows quomby dead – all gone”

The answer to such conditions was to remove them from the influence of the settlers, but the tribes would not agree to leave their home.

Wiencke details the censuses of the 5 tribes of natives around greater Melbourne and that between 1839 and 1849, that only twelve children were born.

The first census of 1837 showed a population of 375 **Wudthaurung** and in 1853 this was down to 31 and in 1863 down to 15.

The **Jajowrong** were 300 in 1841 and 38 in 1863.

The **Woiwurrung** and **Bunurong** were 350 in 1836 and 33 in 1863.

The **Taungerong** were 600 in 1841 and 95 in 1863.

When the natives were convinced to leave Melbourne, Protector Dredge, set up a reserve at Goulburn (Near Murchison) with about 200 natives, but Governor Gipps, even though he was legally obliged to provide rations to the protectors, refused to provide rations.

In 1840 Dredge resigned. His replacement also found the same intransigence from Governor LaTrobe, the failure to produce rations.

Ill Treatment of Aboriginies on reserves continued for the rest of the Century. Many settlers befriended the natives, and were kind and just to them, but the ill treatment could be described as Colonial Government neglect and ignorance. They just didn't care about their fellow man.

Such was the treatment by the powerful towards the weak, mirroring the treatment of workers by Landowners in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Footnote. The Authors/Editors are grateful to the Hon Colin Brooks, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, for asking us to include this important piece of largely forgotten Victoria History.

1836 - In 1836-37, a select committee of the British House of Commons says that Aboriginies have a 'plain right and sacred right' to their land.

1901 – Federation of Australian.

1900 – Early 20th Century. By the early 1900s, armed resistance from Indigenous peoples wanes and poisonings and massacres decrease., Legislation is introduced that describes the relationship as one of 'protection'. By 1911 laws are taken up in all states, giving governments total control over the lives of Indigenous Australians, dictating where they could live and be employed. It also makes all children of Aboriginal people wards of the state, meaning they can be removed without permission.

1910 – 1970 The Stolen Generation. Between the two world wars it is determined that children with non-Indigenous ancestry should be taken from their families and raised in white institutions. This approach leads to the forced removal of children—what is now known as the ‘stolen generations’. During this time, Aboriginal missions are established by a number of churches.

World War 1 and World War 11. Many Aboriginal Australians fought in the world wars for Australia. Yet when they returned were not accorded any of the rights to rewards that Whites were accorded.

1925 – Momentum for change. The Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association is formed and holds the first of four highly successful conferences in Sydney. This mobilised support from a growing number of non-Indigenous organisations, including philanthropic, humanitarian and church groups.

1948 – Australian Citizens. Commonwealth Citizenship and Nationality Act gives the category of Australian Citizenship to all Australians, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, for the first time. However, at a state government level Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples still suffer discrimination.

1962 – Right to Vote. The Commonwealth Electoral Act is amended to give the vote to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at Federal elections. The Act provides that Indigenous Australians should have the right to enrol and vote at federal elections but enrolment was not compulsory. Despite this amendment, it is illegal under Commonwealth legislation to encourage Indigenous Australians to enrol to vote. Western Australia extends the State vote to Aboriginal people. Three years later Queensland becomes the last state to grant Indigenous Australians the right to vote in state elections.

1967 – Referendum. After a decade long campaign by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working side by side to move the nation forward, a referendum held in May 1967 is the most successful this nation has ever seen. More than 90 per cent of Australian voters say YES that Indigenous people should be counted in the national census of the population.

1971 – The aboriginal flag first flown

1972 – Land Rights. On Australia Day in 1972, the Aboriginal Tent Embassy is pitched outside Parliament House in Canberra. The activists were protesting against the McMahon Liberal Government’s statement in which land rights were rejected in favour of 50-year leases to Aboriginal communities.

1972 – Self-determination. The Whitlam Government establishes the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and commits to a policy of self-determination. Three years later, the Australian Senate unanimously endorses a resolution put up by Aboriginal Senator Neville Authored and Edited by John Collins and Vince O’Grady August 2019

Bonner acknowledging prior ownership of this country by Indigenous peoples. Federal Parliament also passes the Racial Discrimination Act.

1985 – Uluru handed back to its traditional owners.

1988 – The Barunga Statement. At the Barunga Festival, Prime Minister Bob Hawke is presented with two paintings and text calling for Indigenous rights. This is known as the Barunga Statement. The Prime Minister responded by saying there will be a treaty within the life of the current parliament.

1991 – The reconciliation movement. In 1991, the Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody is handed down recommending a formal process of reconciliation. The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation holds its first meeting in Canberra. The work of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation during the '90s stimulated heightened awareness among non-Indigenous people. But the legacy of the past, which was exacerbated by continuing policy failure means that the lives of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be marred by poor health, unemployment, imprisonment, homelessness, substance abuse and family violence.

1992 – Mabo Decision. The High Court of Australia passed down the judgement in Mabo which recognised that Native Title did in fact exist and that Australia had not been “terra nullius” at the time of European settlement.

1992 – Historic Redfern Address. 10 December 1992 - Prime Minister Paul Keating’s historic address is given to a largely Aboriginal gathering at Sydney’s Redfern Park to commemorate the Year of the World’s Indigenous People. The powerful speech, was one of the most significant reconciliation events, and asks non- Indigenous Australians to think about how they would feel if the past injustices inflicted on Indigenous Australians had been inflicted upon them instead.

<https://youtu.be/x1S4F1euzTw>

1993 - Reconciliation Week. 15 June 1993 - The first National Week of Prayer for Reconciliation is supported by Australia's major faith communities. Three years later, in 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launches Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

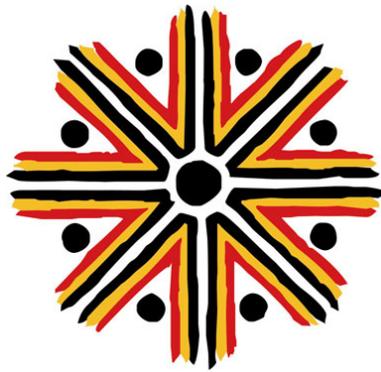
1993 – Native title. The High Court overturns the notion of “terra nullius” (that the Australian land belonged to no one when Europeans arrived in 1788). As a result, the Federal Parliament passed the Native Title Act. In 1996, Aboriginal, pastoral and environmental groups on Cape York signed the a landmark agreement on land use.

1997 – Bring them home. On 26th May 1997 the Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families is tabled in Federal Parliament. The 'Bringing them home' Report revealed the extent of the forcible removal policies, which were passed and implemented for generations and into the 1970s. May 26 has since become known as National Sorry Day.

2000 – Bridge walks. More than a million Australians walk across bridges to show their support for reconciliation. The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation is wound up, presenting a set of recommendations to the Government as part of Corroboree 2000 at the Sydney Opera House. Reconciliation Australia is also set up as an independent, not-for-profit organisation to encourage and support the nation in taking the next steps in the reconciliation movement.

2001 - Centenary of Federation

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures feature in the Centenary of Federation; and the Yeperenye Festival, just outside of Alice Springs, hosts the largest



ATSIC

gathering of Indigenous people in Australia.

2002 - ATSIC inquiry. The Howard government calls for an inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). This was followed, in 2004, by the abolition of ATSIC; the 'main-streaming' of Indigenous services and the establishment of the National Indigenous Council.

2006 - Reconciliation in action. Prime Minister John Howard and Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair Professor Mick Dodson launch the Reconciliation Action Plan program. The program is designed to embed cultural change within organisations through building good relationships, respecting the special contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and creating opportunities.

2007 - Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum 27 May 2007 - The 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum honours surviving campaigners and raised the profile of reconciliation as an important issue in contemporary Australia. The anniversary celebrated the vision of

equality which attracted a 90% yes vote by the people of Australia four decades earlier. Events are held around the country culminating in a celebration at Old Parliament House.

2007 – The Intervention. Prime Minister John Howard and Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough announce a dramatic intervention into the Northern Territory Aboriginal communities in response to the findings of a report about sexual abuse, giving the Government power to:

- Acquire Aboriginal land and communities for up to five years
- Hold back 50% of all welfare payments, so as to control how money is being spent by Indigenous people
- Ban all alcohol
- The long standing permit system, enacted as part of the 1976 Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) was scrapped.

2008 – The Apology. The Labor Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, makes a formal apology to the Stolen Generations in the House of Representatives. Kevin Rudd recognises the significance of the word sorry: “... simply saying that you’re sorry is such a powerful symbol. Powerful not because it represents some expiation of guilt. Powerful not because it represents any form of legal requirement. But powerful simply because it restores respect.”

<https://youtu.be/xiLnsFyAVqE>

2009 – United Nations Declaration. Australia supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Previously, Australia had been one of only four nations to oppose the Declaration.

2010 – Constitutional recognition. In December 2010, an expert panel is appointed by the Government to consult and lead a nationwide discussion about formally recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution. After a period of consideration, discussion and consultation with all Australians, the panel developed recommendations to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our nation's founding document. It reports to the Prime Minister on 19 January 2012.

2012 – Act of Recognition. In November an Act of Recognition bill is introduced into the House of Representatives. The Act ensures that constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will remain on the agenda in the next term of Government, asks the Parliament to recognise the impressive history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this land and their unique contribution to the nation. In the same week Yothu Yindi's song writer and lead singer, Mandawuy Yunupingu talks about being inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame and calls on all Australians to support the recognition of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

Referenced: 'Reconciliation Australia' web site below.

<http://www.shareourpride.org.au/sections/our-shared-history/>

2017 – Meeting of the Aboriginal Constitutional Convention at Uluru to discuss their inclusion in the Australian Constitution. The outcome was the [Uluru Statement from the heart](#).

Treatment of Aboriginal Australians

Since colonisation the colonists have treated our Indigenous people poorly.

- After initial settlement they were considered a nuisance to the development to the land.
- At different periods shooting parties were used to push aboriginals out of the land away from settlements.
- Racism has been a common response across Australian society.
- Aboriginals, despite efforts to assist in Housing, health, and education are still the most disadvantaged in our society. They have shorter life span to other Australians.
- No treaty to recognise the first peoples, like New Zealand, and Canada.

ALP Platform 2018 – Aboriginal Australia

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

First Nations Peoples

52. Labor supports the recognition of First Nations peoples in the Australian Constitution. This will be an important step towards a more reconciled nation based on strong relationships of mutual respect. Labor supports meaningful and substantive change to recognise the unique and special place of First Nations peoples and to reflect our nation's fundamental belief in equality and non-discrimination. Labor will implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart's sole proposal for constitutional recognition –a First Nations' Voice to Parliament –in genuine partnership with First Nations peoples as well as building public support for change.

53. Labor commits to holding a referendum to enshrine a First Nations' Voice to Parliament in the Constitution.

54. The acknowledgement of First Nations people as traditional owners and continuing custodians of country is an important mark of respect and reconciliation at appropriate events, including at the opening of the Federal Parliament. Labor supports welcome to country ceremonies at significant public events.

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55. Labor acknowledges the First Nations status and aspirations of Indigenous peoples, as well as their contribution to Australian society.

56. Reconciliation is an important vehicle for healing and justice in Australian society. Labor will support First Nations peoples, the broader community and corporate and non-government sectors to promote reconciliation.

57. Labor supports mainstream funding and service delivery with a strong focus on positive outcomes for First Nations peoples.

58. Labor will comply with the Racial Discrimination Act in the development of policies relating to First Nations peoples.

59. Labor supports the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration affirms the entitlement of First Nations peoples to all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognised in international law and provides an aspirational framework for future dialogue. Australia's formal support was welcomed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, key First Nations people, UN experts and the First Nations Social Justice Commissioner. This support underlines Labor's desire to work in good faith with First Nations peoples, acknowledging our relationship will be tested and evolve over time.

60. Land and water are the basis of First Nations spirituality, law, culture, economy and wellbeing. Native Title and land rights are both symbols of social justice and a source of valuable economic opportunity for First Nations Australians.

61. Labor seeks a relationship where First Nations peoples and communities are the architects of their place in Australia and are equal partners with government in the development and implementation of policies that affect their way of life and livelihoods.

62. Land rights and Native Title are property rights under Australian law. Labor will work to accelerate the resolution of outstanding land and Native Title claims in partnership with other stakeholders. Negotiation produces better outcomes than litigation. Land use and ownership issues should be resolved by negotiation wherever possible.

63. Labor supports the statutory recognition of inalienable freehold title under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.

64. First Nations peoples have a right to live on their traditional lands. Labor will provide essential services to remote communities.

65. The principle of subsidiarity, where decision making is devolved to the local level rather than imposed by a central authority, will guide the actions of those within government agencies responsible for the administration of First Nations Affairs.

66. Government administration will focus on achieving the direct participation of First Nations communities through consultations, negotiations, partnerships, and the facilitation of the devolution of decision making at regional and local levels.

67. Policies for remote communities must be relevant to their circumstances. We will move to negotiate with relevant Indigenous communities, and create explicit policies and programmes for the future support and development of remote Indigenous communities.

68. Labor will support families and communities across remote Australia to live on country in places where they can live comfortably, plan their lives and their diverse futures, and engage successfully with the wider community.

69. First Nations cultures and languages enrich the nation and are integral to our national identity. Strong cultural identity is essential to the health, social and emotional wellbeing of First Nations peoples. Labor supports initiatives to strengthen the rich and diverse cultural practices, knowledge systems and cultural expressions of First Nations people.

70. High quality education is critical to Closing the Gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people should get the same opportunities as others

71. More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are attending school than ever before and there have been significant improvements in outcomes such as the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children completing Year 12. However, current levels of school participation and attainment remain unacceptably low and below the level for non-Indigenous children.

72. Labor remains committed to Closing the Gap in early childhood education; school attendance; reading, writing and numeracy achievements; and Year 12 completion.

73. Labor will work to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have access to quality, culturally safe early childhood education, as evidence shows the benefits of early education extend to improved school results and life outcomes.

74. Labor will deliver needs-based school funding so our schools are equipped to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and to improve educational attainment and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. This includes working with States and Territories to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators.

75. Labor's commitment to Closing the Gap is evidence-based and includes measurable, open and transparent targets. The Closing the Gap targets are:

- Close the gap in life expectancy within a generation;
- Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade;
- 95 percent of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education ;
- Close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years;
- Halve the gap for Indigenous children in reading, writing and numeracy achievements within a decade;
- Halve the gap for Indigenous Australians aged 20-24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates; and
- Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

76. Labor supports developing three additional Closing the Gap targets in partnership with First Nations peoples and organisations:

- To increase participation in higher and further education, by ensuring greater opportunity for Indigenous students to continue their learning in the fields of their choice;
- To improve access to services for First Nations people with disability, by ensuring 90 per cent of eligible Individuals will receive funded support under the National Disability Insurance Scheme by 2020; and
- To address the high rates of engagement of First Nations people, particularly young people, in the criminal justice system, as well as the unacceptably high rates of Indigenous children in out of home care.
- To address the high rates of engagement of First Nations people, particularly young people, in the criminal justice system, as well as the unacceptably high rates of Indigenous children in out of home care.

77. All governments should be held accountable for their progress to Closing the Gap for First Nations peoples. Labor will coordinate a national approach to achieving the Closing the Gap targets and will work in partnership with First Nations peoples to achieve long-term and measurable improvements with an independent and regular reporting framework, including through the annual Close the Gap Report to Parliament.

78. Labor puts families at the centre of our work to Close the Gap, and will work with First Nations families to give children the best start in life. This requires a comprehensive early childhood strategy for Indigenous children, including wider

provision of antenatal care services, sexual and reproductive health services for Indigenous women and maternal and child health services.

79. Indigenous early years services, including the Children and Family Centres, are critical to help families give children a strong start in life so they are healthy, strong in their identity and ready for school.

80. Indigenous women and children suffer more violence than other women. Labor pledges to work in partnership with First Nations peoples to reduce violence against women and children.

81. Too many Indigenous children are in the child protection system. Labor will improve child safety and reduce the number of children entering care. Labor will work in partnership with Indigenous communities to ensure children in care maintain contact with their culture, language and community.

82. Labor will convene a National Summit on First Nations' Children aimed at addressing high rates of child removal, improving child safety and addressing the large numbers of First Nations' children in detention and out of home care.

83. Levels of incarceration of First Nations peoples, particularly young people, are unacceptably high, and continue to rise. The House of Representatives Standing Committee Report *Doing Time — Time for Doing* and the 1992 Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody identify the systemic causes of incarceration experienced by Indigenous communities.

84. Australia needs to address First Nations peoples' interaction with the justice system including lower rates of offending and victimisation and better community safety. Labor supports justice reinvestment and the development of a justice target under the Closing the Gap framework to ensure coordinated action, accountability and progress to reduce the disproportionate incarceration rates of First Nations people. Suspicious deaths in custody should also be treated in a manner that maintains public confidence in the justice system.

85. First Nations peoples experience a higher burden of illness, die at a younger age than other Australians and too often do not get adequate health services. Addressing the health status of First Nations peoples requires a comprehensive approach beyond health services to include cultural wellbeing and connection to the land, education, environmental health and employment and training opportunities, as discussed in Chapter 8.

86. Education and training is fundamental to improving employment opportunities and reducing First Nations peoples' disadvantage. Between 2007 and 2013, Labor increased Indigenous student numbers in higher education by 26 per cent. It is essential children go to school each day. Labor will work in partnership with

Indigenous communities and schools to support families and children to engage with schooling and improve educational outcomes, as discussed in Chapter 7.

87. Labor will improve job readiness, employment and business opportunities for First Nations peoples to improve employment opportunities through a range of strategies and policy approaches discussed in Chapter 5.

88. Labor delivered the Apology to Australia's First Nations Peoples, in particular the Stolen Generations. Labor will work in partnership with the Stolen Generations members and their families to comprehensively respond to their needs as a distinct group. Labor supports the Healing Foundation and its work to aid healing in Indigenous communities, and the programs arising from the Bringing Them Home Report.

89. To continue to support healing of Stolen Generations members and their descendants, Labor will deliver compensation to Stolen Generations in Commonwealth Territories; establish a \$10 million Healing Fund, to be administered by the Healing Foundation.

90. Sport is vital to positive outcomes in health and mental health, stronger cultural identity and social inclusion. Labor will support First Nations peoples' participation in sport to contribute to Closing the Gap in First Nations peoples' disadvantage.

https://www.alp.org.au/media/1539/2018_alp_national_platform_constitution.pdf

The ALP has comprehensive policies to help close the gap between indigenous Australians and the rest of the population.

Part 7 Labor Party Achievements since Federation. (National focus)

Social Security and Welfare

	Prime Minister	
1909. A Labour government introduced the Aged pension.	Andrew Fisher	Protectionist + ALP
1910. Invalid pension	Andrew Fisher	Protectionist + ALP
1942. Widows pension	John Curtin	ALP
1943. Funeral benefit	John Curtin	ALP
1945. Unemployment benefit	John Curtin	ALP
1945. Sickness benefit	John Curtin	ALP
1945. Special benefit	John Curtin	ALP
1948. Allowances Commonwealth Rehabilitation	Ben Chifley	ALP
1973. Supporting parents (Male)	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1973. Double orphans pension	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1975. Medibank introduced, abolished by Coalition in 1976	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1983. Handicapped child allowance	Robert Hawke	ALP
1983. Mobility allowance	Robert Hawke	ALP
1983. Medicare (Medibank) re -introduced	Robert Hawke	ALP
1983. Family income support	Robert Hawke	ALP
1985. Carers pension	Paul Keating	ALP
2010. Paid Parental leave (26 weeks)	Kevin Rudd	ALP
2012. Household assistance package	Julia Gillard	ALP
2013. NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme)	Julia Gillard	ALP
2013. Pension increases	Julia Gillard	ALP

Other Labor Achievements

1972. Abolish conscription (Time of Vietnam War)	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1973. Recognise China	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1973. Australian Law Reform Commission	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1974. Family Law Act	Gough Whitlam	ALP

1974. Abolish death penalty Commonwealth offences	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1973. Free university education	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1973. Reduced voting age to 18	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1973. Australian assistance plan – regional councils	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1973. National sewerage plan	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1974. Racial Discrimination Act	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1974. New National Anthem	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1974. Order of Australia replaces British Honours	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1975. Department of Aboriginal Affairs	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1975. Land Title Deeds	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1975. National Gallery of Australia	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1975. Independence of PMG	Gough Whitlam	ALP
1975. Replace PMG with Telecom and Australia Post	Gough Whitlam	ALP
2008. Apology to Stolen Generation	Kevin Rudd	ALP
2007. Signed Kyoto Protocol	Kevin Rudd	ALP
2007. WorkChoices axed	Kevin Rudd	ALP
2009. Kept Australia out of Recession (Global Financial Crises)	Kevin Rudd	ALP
2010. NBN started (Fibre to Premise) scrapped by Coalition	Kevin Rudd	ALP
2008. National Curriculum	Kevin Rudd	ALP
2010. First woman Prime Minister	Julia Gillard	ALP
2011. Introduction of a price on carbon emissions	Julia Gillard	ALP
2012. Gonski funding review	Julia Gillard	ALP
2013. Apology to those forced into Adoption 1950's to 70's	Julia Gillard	ALP
2013. Australia strikes deal to settle 150 Asylum seekers per year with new Zealand (reversed by Coalition)	Julia Gillard	ALP

Part 8. State Labor Achievements.

UsVsThem_17August2018

	LABOR	COALITION
JOBS & ECONOMY		
New jobs – total/full-time	370,000/234,300 since Nov2014	96,100/38,500 over full term
Unemployment	5.0% at Jul2018 with 38,400 fewer than Nov2014	Jumped from 4.8% in Nov2010 to 6.7% in Nov2014
Gross State Product	Growth at 3.3% in 2016-17 (Nat avg 2%)	Growth at 1.7% in 2013-14
Infrastructure investment	\$59.5b incl 2018-19 Budget	\$23.5b
Local content	Mandating minimum local content, including 90% on construction projects	No local content requirement
HEALTH		
Recurrent funding (ex Aged Care)	\$18.58b in 2018-19 Budget	\$13.79b in 2014-15 Budget
Capital funding	Labor investment in health is more than double the previous government	
Elective surgery – treated/wait lists	55,806/36,096 at Q4 2017-18	39,500 avg per qtr/50,054 Mar2013
Hospital EDs – patients waiting 24hrs+ for bed or discharge	Reduced to 56 for Q4 2017-18	Hundreds per month, peaking at 1,154 in Sep2012
AV Code 1 response time avg	11:12mins at Q4 2017-18	14:01mins 2012-13 – worst in Australia
EDUCATION		
New schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently rolling out 70 new schools Record capital funding for new schools, upgrades and land – \$5.2b 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New school funding fell to \$100m p/a No new schools opened in 2016 because of Coalition's failure to invest
School upgrades	\$484m/134 schools in 2018-19 Budget	Cut infrastructure funding to \$200m p/a
Gonski funding	Funded Victorian Gonski Agreement until end of 2018	Promised to fund Gonski but didn't – leaving state contributions \$850m short
Needy kids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School breakfast clubs \$148m to help families afford the cost of camps, school excursions and sports days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrapped Free Fruit Friday Scrapped Education Maintenance Allowance
TAFE	Hundreds of millions invested to modernise and reopen TAFE facilities	Shut teaching at 22 campuses and facilities
TRANSPORT		
Level crossings	25 removed with 50 by 2022	Didn't fund and remove a single level crossing
Metropolitan rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melbourne Metro Tunnel Mernda Rail extension Cranbourne-Pakenham Sunbury Rail Corridor Upgrade 	Delivered not one kilometre of track
Metropolitan rolling stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 new High Capacity Metro Trains 19 X-trapolis trains 30 trams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 X-trapolis trains
Regional rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.7b Regional Rail Revival Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$120m cut from V/Line Did not fund one new major regional public transport project
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build: NELink, West Gate Tunnel, Western Distributer Upgrade: Tullamarine-Monash Corridor, Eastern Freeway, M80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100m+ cut from roads maintenance Sacked more than 450 VicRoads staff
COMMUNITY SAFETY		
Police	Delivering 3,135 additional police	Did not fund a single new police officer
Family violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's first Royal Commission Implementing all 277 recs. 	No whole of government family violence package

Part 9. Labor Party Values

Victorian Labor – Values Statement

Endorsed as the new Rule 2.6 at the Victorian Labor State Conference on 27 May 2018 and to be published within the Party's Rules once updated and endorsed by the Administrative Committee



This is to be inserted as both the new Rule 2.6, as well as referenced in the Standing Orders of the Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch) Rules. It is to be included in the Order of Business (Rule 22.3.1.2) and is intended to be read following the Acknowledgement of Country at any event, meeting or collective action associated with the ALP.

Victorian Labor values achieving social justice, fairness and equality

The Party is a collective cause and larger than any individual.

We are proud of our deep roots and history in the labour movement.

We support workers organising in union to achieve justice for all.

Our members, volunteers and supporters are our greatest assets.

Prejudice and discrimination - including sexism, racism and homophobia - have no place in our party.

We celebrate the diversity of our Party.

We support one another because we are stronger together.

This is Labor.

A detailed list of Victorian Labor's Achievements

Web site : <https://www.cesarmelhem.com.au/andrews-labor-government-economic-achievements/>

The Australian Labor Party has always stood for Social Justice and a fair go for those who have little power. Along with the Union Movement, endeavours to make Australia a better country for all.

Part 10. Labor Platform

<https://www.viclabor.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Platform-2018-Final-Web.pdf>

Part 11. Labor Party rules

<https://www.viclabor.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Victorian-Labor-Rules-27-May-2018.pdf>

Part 12. Glossary of Labor and Political terms

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Australia first became a colony of Britain in 1788, when it's first appointed Governor Arthur Phillip declared the colony of New South Wales. At this time the colony occupied half of the continent.

After an abortive attempt in 1803 to establish a settlement at Sullivan Bay, Sorrento in Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay, the Melbourne area was finally settled by Tasmanian settlers in 1836. It was still part of the colony of New South Wales and known as the Port Phillip District.

In 1851 Victoria became a colony and had it's own Governor. Self rule was achieved in 1855. The other Colonies of Australia were formed in a similar manner.

In 1901 all the colonies were Federated and the Commonwealth Australia was born. All the Colonies became States.

STATE GOVERNMENTS :

The Victorian Parliament consists of two Chambers. The Lower House is called the **Legislative Assembly**. Whoever has the most numbers forms Government. There are approximately 50,000 voters in each Electorate and 88 Electoral Districts called seats.

The Upper House is the **Legislative Council**. There are eight regions consisting of approximately 470,000 voters and five Members (MP's) representing each region.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT :

There are 151 Members elected for the **House of Representatives** – Lower House in the Federal Parliament (as at 2019). Victoria is made up of 38 Electorates. The Government is formed from the majority of numbers (76) in this chamber.

The Upper House – **Senate** consists of 76 elected representatives (as at 2019) called Senators, consisting of twelve for each State and two for the Territories, i.e. Canberra (ACT) and Northern Territory. The Senate is considered the House of Review.

AEC Australian Electoral Commission

VEC Victorian Electoral Commission

FEA	Federal Electorate Assemblies
Westminster system	System of Parliament which evolved in Britain.
Separation of powers	That the Executive and the Judiciary are separate.
Executive	Carries the Laws into practice. Executive council with the Queen's Representative (Governor General) sitting as head.
Legislature	The Lawmaking body in the country (The Parliament).
Judiciary	Concerned with Administration of Justice. A system of Courts.
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly (The Lower Victorian House).
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council (The Upper Victorian House)
MHR	Member of the House of Representatives.
Senate	The Upper House of the Australian Parliament. Known as the House of Review.
Federation	The Australian States became one country in 1901. They federated.

Part 13. Further suggested reading...

Dyrenfurth, Nick. Bongiorno, Frank. ***A Little History of the Australian Labor Party.***

NewSouth Publishing. 2011

Faulkner, J. Macintyre. ***True Believers: The Story of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party.***

Allen & Unwin. 2014

Hocking, G. ***Under the Southern Cross***

The Five Mile Press 2012

Thompson E.P. ***The Making of the English Working Class.***

Vintage books (a division of Random House) New York. 2003.

Plumb J.H. ***England in the Eighteenth Century
(The Pelican History of England #7)***

Pelican Books 1950.

Scalmer Sean ***The Little History of Australian Unionism***

Vulgar Press, 2006

Reeves, A ***Another Day Another Dollar: Working Lives in Australian History***

McCulloch Publishing, 1988 - Australia

Jaensch, D and Teichmann M. ***Dictionary of Australian Politics***

Mackmillan Publishing. 4th Ed. 1992

Leigh, A. ***Battlers & Billionaires
The story of Inequality in Australia***

Rebback 2014

Jones, Barry ***What is to be done (Political engagement and saving the planet)***

Scribe 2020

Part 14 Those Social Justice issues which just don't go away

Example One

Present day

Work choices which sought to restrain Wage growth and Unionism. Manipulation of Parliament and Laws made to control Workers.

1799 Combination Act.

An act of parliament to stop workers combining to ask for higher wages and better working conditions. Manipulation of Parliament and Laws made to control Workers.

Example Two

Present Day.

The Casualisation of the workforce as World Trade changes Employment practices by employers. Manipulation of workers in changing market conditions.

1700's Industrial Revolution

The movement of Labour from Agriculture to the Urban setting with long hours and poor pay. Manipulation of workers in changing market conditions.

Example Three

Present day

The Unemployment rate of Newstart, now known as jobkeeper, used as a punishment of the unemployed. Harsh and unnecessary living payments. The harsh requirement to search for jobs that don't exist. Failure to search or attend interviews resulting in stopping of payments. Not Welfare but punishment.

Late 1700's and 1800's

The Poor House or Union, where the unemployed and the disabled were sent to work hard and live in the worst conditions imaginable in overcrowded degrading conditions just because of their Unemployment or Disability. Not Welfare but punishment.

Example 4

Present day

Harsh laws against Unions and their rights to enter workplaces and check for safety compliance. An Act of Parliament which established the Australian Building and Construction Commission and specific sections of the Act which are extremely prescriptive and draconian. Classic examples of the misuse of the law to attack working people.

Early 1800's the use of Agent provocateurs by the English Government to incite groups of workers so that they could be arrested and either Hung, transported to Australia or Jailed. See The Spa Fields, The Peterloo Massacre and the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Classic examples of the misuse of the law to attack working people.

Example 5

Present Day

The funnelling of Public money for the Education of well off people in Private fee paying schools which is unnecessary and also takes money resources away from the public Education system.
Lack of fairness.

1700's, 1800's, 1900's.

Limited Educational resources for the working class. It wasn't until 1948 that the English Welfare State was formed and Australia followed suit.

To the monied classes Education is their right but not for the working class. The less the working class know the better. They can then be easily manipulated and corralled.

Lack of fairness.

Example 6

Present day.

World trade deals provide for foreign workers to come to Australia undercutting the wages of Australian Workers and disenfranchising them as well. Power in the hands of the people with capital.

1800's

Wages being reduced in times of poor trade by the Factory owners and farming landowners. Power in the hands of the people with capital.

Example 7

Present day.

The Coalition pay lipservice to Aboriginal reconciliation and inclusion in the Constitution. They refuse to recognise the Statement of the heart formulated at Uluru (Known as the Uluru Statement). Failure to recognise the reality of existence.

1770 on

The Aboriginal Nations were were described as “Fauna” by James Cook. Hence “Terra Nullius.”

Failure to recognise the reality of existence.

Example 8

Present Day.

Failure to accept the Science of Climate change and Environmental warming. An arrogant disregard for the Environment and Science.

1788 on

A lack of understanding of disease on the indigenous Population and the wholesale clearing of land and destruction of Flora and Fauna. An arrogant disregard for the Environment and Science.

Example 9

Present day

The use of Political donations to wield power for the doner (Examples, Media, Extractive industries, Agriculture). Entrenchment of inequality of opportunity.

1788 on

The assignment of land to the well off and wealthy. Entrenchment of inequality of opportunity.

Example 10

Present Day

The increasing gap between the ability to purchase your own home because of the disparity between house prices and wages. Also the lack of social housing. Equality declines. Welfare State.

1800's 1900's 2000's

Increasing possibility on a wage to save and buy your own home. Those who couldn't afford were housed in Government social housing. Welfare State.