1801 The first national census counts 10,800,000 people in England; 23,130,000 in 1861.

1807 The slave trade is abolished everywhere in the British Empire; slavery itself is abolished in 1833.

1811 Regency Bill declares George III unfit to rule; his son, the later George IV, becomes Regent. Corn laws prohibit importing of wheat and other grains, to keep grain prices high.

1815 Wellington defeats Napoleon at Waterloo.

1819 Peterloo Massacre at St. Peter’s Field, Manchester. Mounted troops charge an orderly meeting of 60,000 workers demanding Parliamentary reform; many are killed and injured. Six acts are passed to suppress radical political unions, e.g., they prohibit assemblies like that of St. Peter’s Fields, and they impose censorship.

1823 The death penalty is abolished for over 100 crimes. The Combination Acts are repealed, so that trade unions are allowed to organize.

1828 Nonconformists (e.g., Methodists, Presbyterians) are allowed to hold public office.

1829 Catholic Emancipation Law restores political and civil rights to Catholics. The London Metropolitan police force is formed (nicknamed Bobbies after Sir Robert Peel).

1832 First Reform Act. Men who own or rent property worth £10 or more are enfranchised; this act includes about half the middle class and increases the number of voters from 435,000 to 813,000 (out of 6,000,000 men). It also gives greater representation to London and other urban centers.

1833 Factory Act forbids the employment of children younger than 9.

1835 Christmas is declared a national holiday.

1840 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert marry. Mudie’s Select Circulating Library opens.

1842 Mines Act forbids the employment of children and women in mines. The income tax is introduced.

1845 Famine devastates Ireland; about 2,500,000 Irish immigrate.

1846 The Corn Laws, which kept the price of wheat high to protect agricultural interests, are repealed.

1847 Ten Hours Factory Bill.

1848 Chartists present their third petition for reform to Parliament, resulting in mass arrests and the end of Chartism. Revolutions spread through Europe; historians have called 1848 the Year of Revolution. Marx and Engels publish *The Communist Manifesto*.

1850 Parliament establishes a sixty-hour workweek for factory workers.
1853 Smallpox vaccination becomes compulsory.

1850 The Catholic hierarchy is re-established in England.

1854 Cigarettes are introduced.

1854-6 The Crimean War

1857-8 The Indian Mutiny

1859 Darwin’s *Origin of the Species* is published.
 Prince Albert dies; Queen Victoria goes into perpetual mourning.
 Peaceful picketing is legalized.

1863 London’s first underground railway opens.

1867 Second Reform Bill. Male heads of household and some lodgers who pay taxes are given the vote, thereby doubling the pool of voters and extending the vote to urban workers. John Stuart Mills’ resolution to change “man” to “person” (thereby allowing women to vote) was defeated. Karl Marx (living in England) publishes *Das Kapital*.

1869 Suez canal opens. England gains control when Prime minister Disraeli buys Suez Canal shares. Imprisonment for debt is abolished.

1870 Forster Education Act. All children 5 to 12 must be provided free education.

1872 The secret ballot is introduced.

1873 Agricultural Labourers’ Strike

1877 Queen Victoria is proclaimed Empress of India.

1879 Zulu War.

1880 Elementary education becomes compulsory.

1881 First Boer War.

1884 Third Reform Bill. The vote is given to rural males and nearly every man over 21.

1890 First May Day celebrations in England honors labor.

1894 Graduated death duties (or taxes) are instituted.

1897 Workmen’s Compensation Act makes employers liable for insuring workers.

1899-1902
 The Second Boer War.

1901 Queen Victoria dies, aged 81.