**The Flowering of Romanticism: 1798-1832**

- Romanticism a reflection of social changes as a result of industrial/agricultural revolutions
  - Outgrowth of neoclassicism + reaction against it
  - Jean Jacques Rousseau: father of the movement/French Enlightenment thinker; argued the govn't & the governed had a social contract → French Revolution

-Idea of Romanticism:
  - Human beings are essentially good, not evil
  - Emphasis on the individual, personal, & emotional
  - Movement of protest for personal freedom and radical reform

-Issues in English society (domestic & foreign):
  - Crime, poor sanitation, child labor, factory abuses
  - Lack of equal representation in Parliament, persecution of religious groups
  - Loss of American colonies, corruption in India, slave trade

-William Pitt (Tory P.M.) wanted major reforms but French revolution in 1789 stalled his plans
  - Reforms abandoned b/c equated with revolution; domestic repression to suppress rebellion

-British sympathy for French until revolutionary moderates fell from power
  - Edmund Burke (American sympathizer) denounced radical France → rift in Whig Party

-French Revolution → 1793 French troops in Holland → Britain went to war w/France for 25 years
-Irish rebelled against Britain b/c of French support; French failed to help & rebellion quelled
  - William Pitt sponsored reforms to gain support from Irish
    - Roman Catholics got the right to vote in exchange for dissolution of Irish Parliament; 1800 Act of Union formalized agreement (United Kingdom formed)
    - George III refused Catholics the right to vote → William Pitt forced to resign

-1799, Napoleon took control of France, promised democracy → 1804, crowned himself emperor
  - Took control over most of Europe

-1804, William Pitt got his position back & prepared for a French invasion
  - Battle of Trafalgar: English beat French off coast of Spain → no threat of French invasion
  - Pitt died @ 46 years old b/c of “overwork”

-Napoleon closed ports to British trade & placed Joseph (brother) on the Spanish throne

-Peninsular War: British troops removed French presence from Iberian Peninsula
  - Domestic: George III declared insane → son George (Prince of Wales) became regent
    - George enjoyed gambling, favored Whigs but sided w/the Tories; arrested anyone who criticized him

-1812, Napoleon invaded Russia; Russian winter destroyed the troops
The Victorians: 1832-1901

-Victorian era featured overseas expansion and domestic reform, time of prosperity

-Changes & advancements in society
  - Middle class population grew, working conditions improved
  - Nation headed towards democracy
  - Transatlantic cable laid & automobile, electric lighting
  - Antiseptic medicine (Joseph Lister); modern nursing schools (Florence Nightingale)

-Some characteristics of Victorian era: complacency, hypocrisy, prudishness

-1837, Victoria took the throne at age 18
  - Emphasized moral behavior & attended to royal duties
  - Tutored by Lord Melbourne P.M. → accepted constitutional monarch role (advisor)
  - Married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (German cousin)
    - 1861, Prince Albert died; Victoria mourned him & abandoned some royal duties

-Victoria reigned for 64 years (longest reign in British history); Golden & Diamond Jubilees
  - Talented P.M.s during her reign: Lord Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Palmerston, Benjamin Disraeli, William E. Gladstone

-Reforms under Lord Melbourne and Whigs (1830s)
  - Abolition of slavery in British Empire
  - Restrictions on child labor in factories
  - Reform Act of 1832: expanded voting rights to men w/certain amounts of property

-Whig goal ≠ democracy, but “enlightened government” in the hands of upper class
  - Chartism: movement by working class to demand universal male suffrage; ignored

-1841 election, Robert Peel and Tories rose to power → continuation of gradual reform
  - Safety laws for miners and factory workers

-Chartists & Anti-Corn Law League showed their agitation to Peel
  - Rains of 1845 ruined English crops & led to disease in Irish potato crop → Peel agreed to repeal Corn Law to help Irish famine end
    - Beginning of free trade in Britain

-Free trade issue between Tories → some Tories joined the Whigs & formed the Liberal party
  - Dominant political figure: Lord Palmerston, moderate Whig and foreign minister
    - Annexation of New Zealand, acquisition of Hong Kong, kept France out of Egypt, kept Russia out of Turkey

-1854, Britain joined Crimean War to fight against Russia
  - British defeats/mistakes → public wants change