• ’61: 29 mill
• 1865, adult men in W+E = over 5 million, only 1 million had vote
• People continued to migrate to ever-expanding industrial areas
• Extension of the vote + redistribution of seats was necessary
• A smaller proportion of people could vote

Pressure from Radicals
• The radicals w/ Bright as their leaders, kept constant pressure for reform
• Bright wanted democracy like USA, Canada + Australia
• Winter ‘58-9 he gave a series of speeches that gave reform publicity. Ordinary people should be given a share in controlling their own fortunes

Trade Union movement campaigned for reform
• 1850s, associations of skilled workers (model unions) began to spread
• More moderate
• Leaders like Robert Applegarth demonstrated that they were reasonable people, concerned to improve standards for workers and to reform Parl by legal means
• They were in contact with Radical MPs and impressed the Liberal party + many conservatives with their sense of responsibility
• ’61, working men in Leeds were organizing reform conferences
• March 1864, the Reform Union, an alliance of m-c and w-c reformers was set up and met in Manchester

The American Civil War ‘61-5
• Simple case of freedom (north) struggling to assert itself against tyranny of the south
• Provided publicity to the idea of equal rights and opportunities
• The northern blockade of southern ports cut off cotton supplies to industrial towns in Lancashire
• BA cotton unemployment ’61-2
• By the end of ‘62, cotton workers realised that the N wanted to abolish slavery and surviving their support to the N, whose warships were the cause of the distress
• Showed w-c political maturity

Gladstone converted to idea of reform
• He first converted to the idea of reform publicly in the Commons in ’64
• This angered PM, Palmerston, who was still against reform
• Gladstone approved of the Lancashire cotton workers
• The death of anti-reformer, Palmerston in 1865 removed the most serious obstacle to reform

Visit of Giuseppe Garibal to London April ‘64
• Gave further publicity to liberal reform
• ’60, he had played a vital and heroic part in the unification of Italy and was still popular w/ the B public as a L and a democrat
• A group of his admirers eventually became the Reform League (Feb ‘65)