

Neo-Victorian Novel at the Turn of XXI Century

Neo-Victorianism as Cultural Phenomenon

Neo-Victorian Novel : Definitions and Classifications

Generic Transformations

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Tutorial hours:

Monday, 13:00 – 14:30 (room 307)

Deadline for group projects: December 26, 2016





The Victorians in the Rearview Mirror

What does “Victorian” actually mean?

What’s so special about Victorian age?

Why do Victorians still matter?

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VICTORIA'S SECRET



— EMBRACE —
SOCIAL LEARNING



— WITH —
— E-PORTFOLIO —
— A —

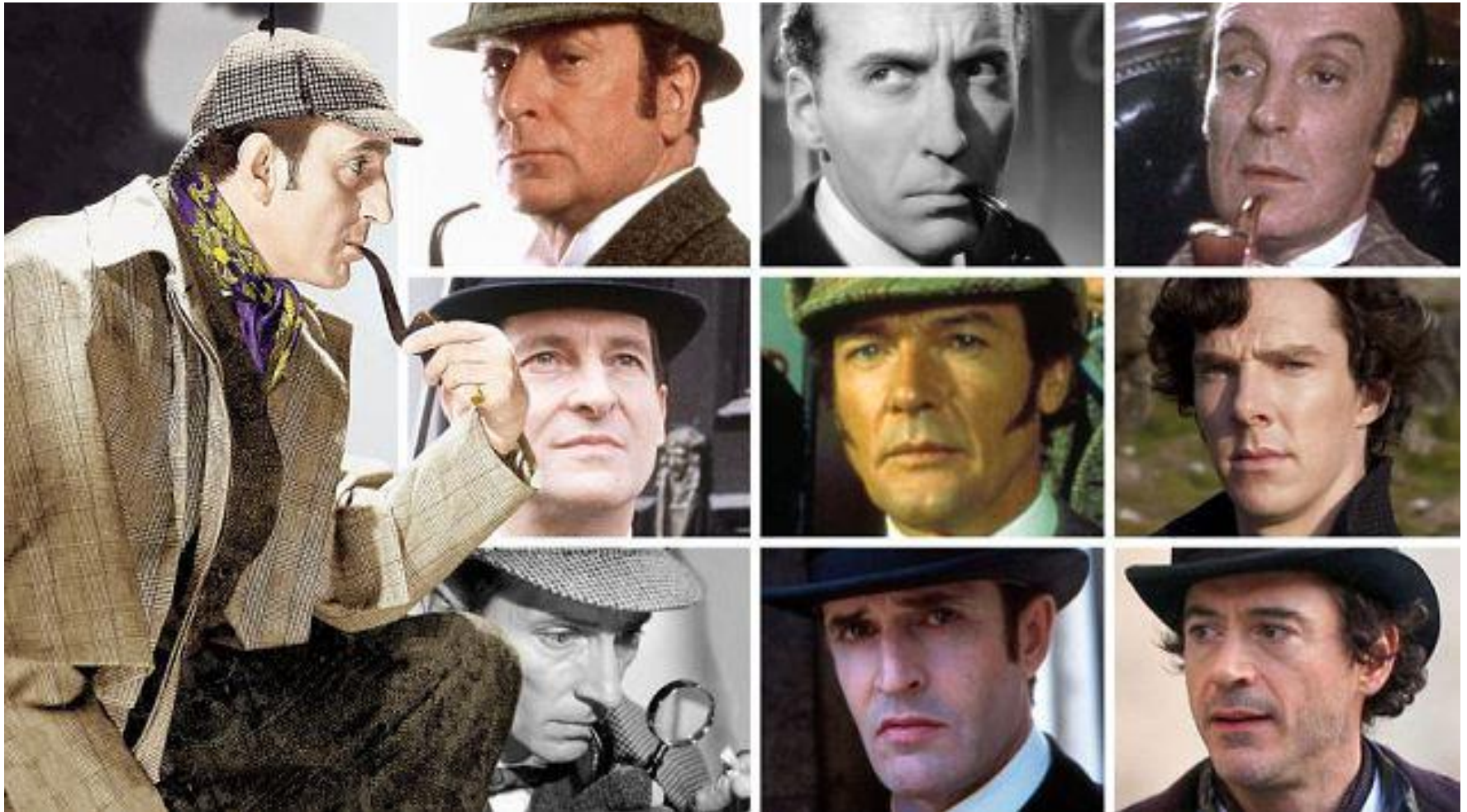
Powerful & Compelling

➤ TOOL TO DEMONSTRATE ➤

KNOWLEDGE

— & —
ACHIEVEMENTS









"AN ENTERTAINING SPECIAL-EFFECTS ACTION EXTRAVAGANZA."
THE JOURNAL NEWS



SEAN CONNERY
THE LEAGUE
OF EXTRAORDINARY
GENTLEMEN

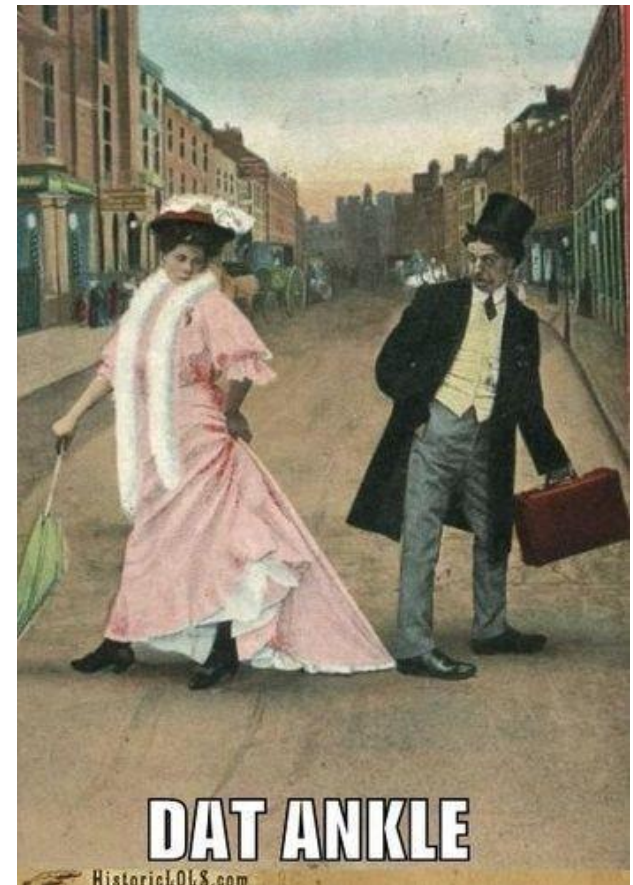
AN INVISIBLE MAN · A BEAST · A SPY · A HUNTER · A VAMPIRE · AN IMMORTAL · A WARRIOR

THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN is a Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. production in association with New Line Productions, Inc. and The Weinstein Company. The film is directed by James Watson. The cast includes Sean Connery, Christopher Gartin, and others. The film is rated PG-13. © 2003 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved.

THE POWER OF SEVEN BECOME A LEAGUE OF ONE · 17th OCTOBER 2003

Top 10 Things Associated with Victorian

- Prudery
- Sexual restraint and repression
- Family values
- Progress and Technology
- Gentleman's Code
- Hard Work
- Tidiness
- “Angel in the House”
- Imperialism and Colonialism
- Duty and Self-command



What does “Victorian” actually mean?

- ...We never really encounter “the Victorians” themselves but instead a mediated image like the one we get when we glance into our rearview mirrors while driving. The image usefully condenses the paradoxical sense of looking forward to see what’s behind us... It also suggests something of the inevitable distortion that accompanies any mirror image, whether we see it as resulting from the effects of political ideology, deliberate misreading, exaggeration or the understandable simplification of a complex past.

Simon Joyce. Victorians in the Rearview Mirror

COLLEGE



What my friends think I do



What my mom thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What the government thinks I do



What I think I do



What I really do

Queen Victoria



- Family values protector - notoriously disenchanted by pregnancy and childbirth, calling it the “shadow-side of marriage”;
- England’s most beloved queen - survived 6 serious assassination attempts;
- Patron of Victorian literature and science – nonreader with quite primitive tastes;
- The most powerful woman of the world – objected to «this mad, wicked folly of ‘Women’s Rights»



Victorian = Relating to Victoria's Rule?

- “Nobody takes 1837 – 1901 seriously” (Richard Price)
- 1836 – Dickens’s “The Pickwick Papers” published
- 1832 – Reform Act
- 1815 – Napoleon defeated
- “Long XIX century” (1780 – 1901) instead of “Victorian Era”?

When did the Victorian Era really end?

- “The Victorian Era has definitely closed” (C.F.G. Masterman, 1901)
- “On or about December 1910 human character changed” (Virginia Woolf, 1924)
- “The war of 1914 destroyed a new, and civilized or semi-civilized, way of life which had established itself or was establishing itself all over Europe” (Leonard Woolf, 1964)
- “The decisive shift in the national character had begun in the early years of George V’s reign” (George Dangerfield, 1935)
- “My contemporaries were all brought up in some degree of the nineteenth century, since the twentieth did not begin till 1945” (John Fowles, 1977)
- “Наконец, и Россия вошла в XX век. Викторианская эра кончилась” (Иосиф Бродский, 1992)

Which connotations has the term “Victorian” acquired?

- 1850-ies – progressive, innovative, powerful (The Great Exhibition)
- 1870-ies – oppressive and strict (E.C. Stedman’s “The Victorian Poets”, 1876)
- 1910-ies – “Horror Victorianorum”: old-fashioned, regressive and dull (The Bloomsbury Group)
- 1940-ies – solid, consistent, naïve
- 1950-ies – nostalgic turn to “good old days”
- 1970-ies – Thatcher’s rehabilitation of Victorian values: patriotic, hard-working, self-dependent, rational, inventive, moral

Why do we long for the past?



1851: Proud to be Victorian!



- Social improvements
- Colonial expansion
- Development of Science and Technologies
- The Great Exhibition



Great Britain After WWII

- Lost all the colonies;
- Lost 7/8 of its trade fleet;
- Lost positions as world's first political power to the U.S.
- “The Age of Austerity” (1945 – 50-ies)
- Northern Ireland Crisis in 1960-ies
- Trade and public sector union strikes in 1970-ies





Margaret Thatcher

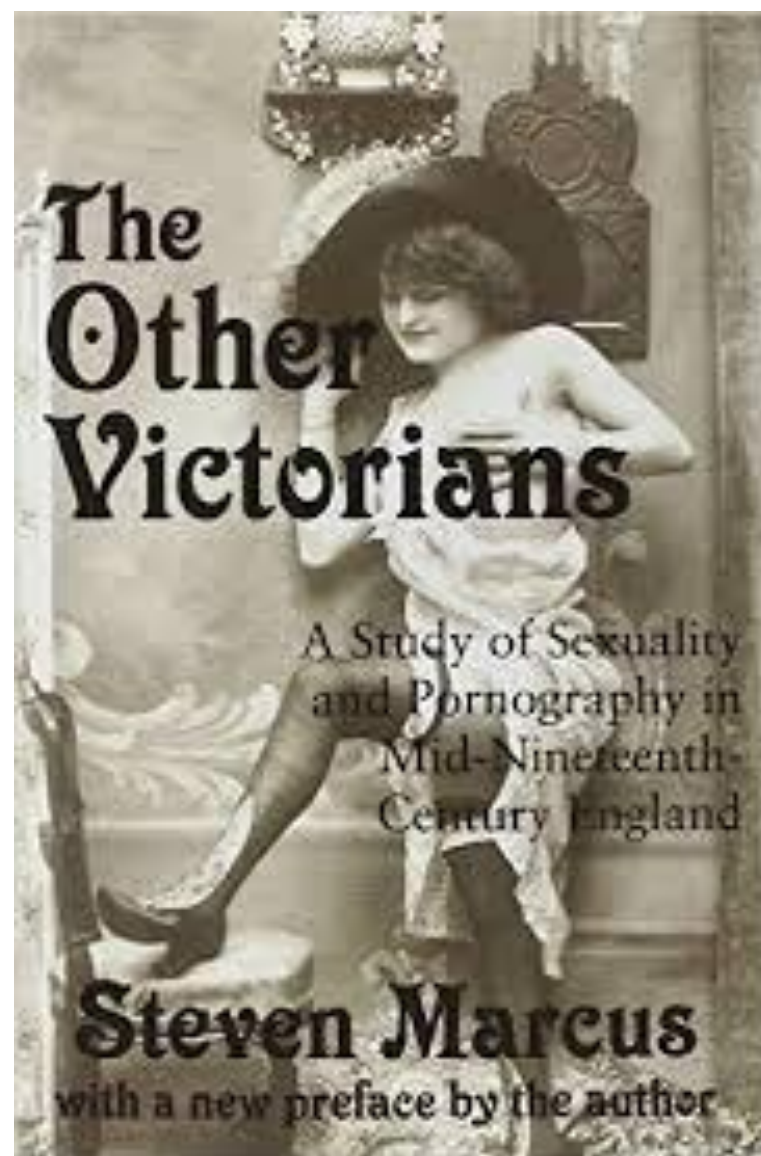
1983:
*I was asked whether I
was trying to restore
'Victorian values.' I
said straight out, yes I
was. And I am.*

- Longing for power;
- Struggle for “Englishness”;
- Campaign against “permissiveness”;
- Necessity to cut down social expenses by turning to laissez-faire economy

Victorian Values

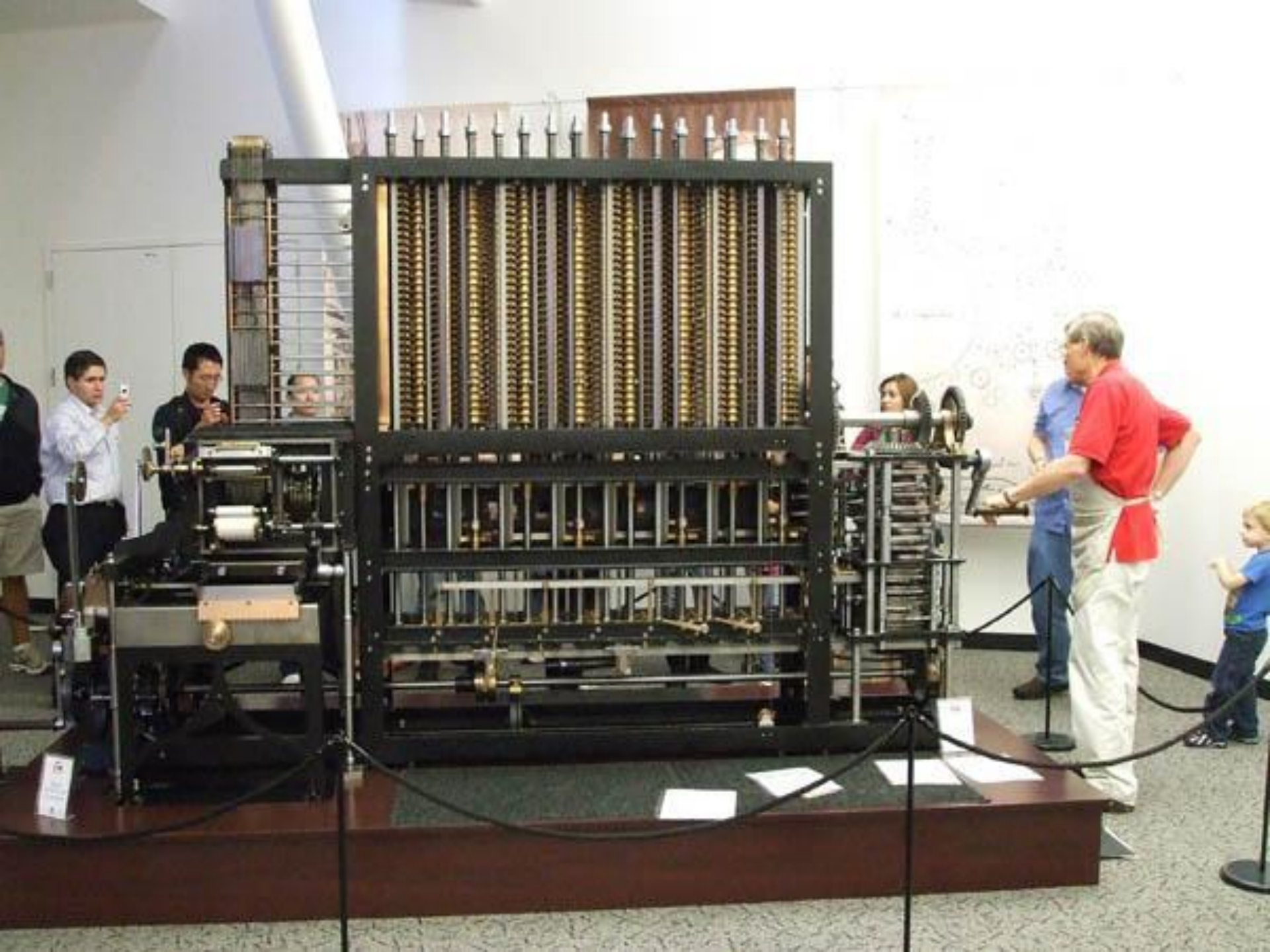
- *I was brought up by a Victorian grandmother. You were taught to work jolly hard, you were taught to improve yourself, you were taught self-reliance, you were taught to live within your income, you were taught that cleanliness was next to godliness. You were taught self-respect, you were taught always to give a hand to your neighbour, you were taught tremendous pride in your country, you were taught to be a good member of your community. All of these things are Victorian values. [...] They are also perennial values as well.*

Margaret Thatcher, 1983



Are We the New Victorians?

- “Victorian culture was as rich and difficult and complex and pleasurable as our own; the Victorians shaped our lives and sensibilities in countless unacknowledged ways; they are still with us, walking our pavements, drinking in our bars, living in our houses, reading our newspapers, inhabiting our bodies”
(Matthew Sweet. *Inventing the Victorians*)

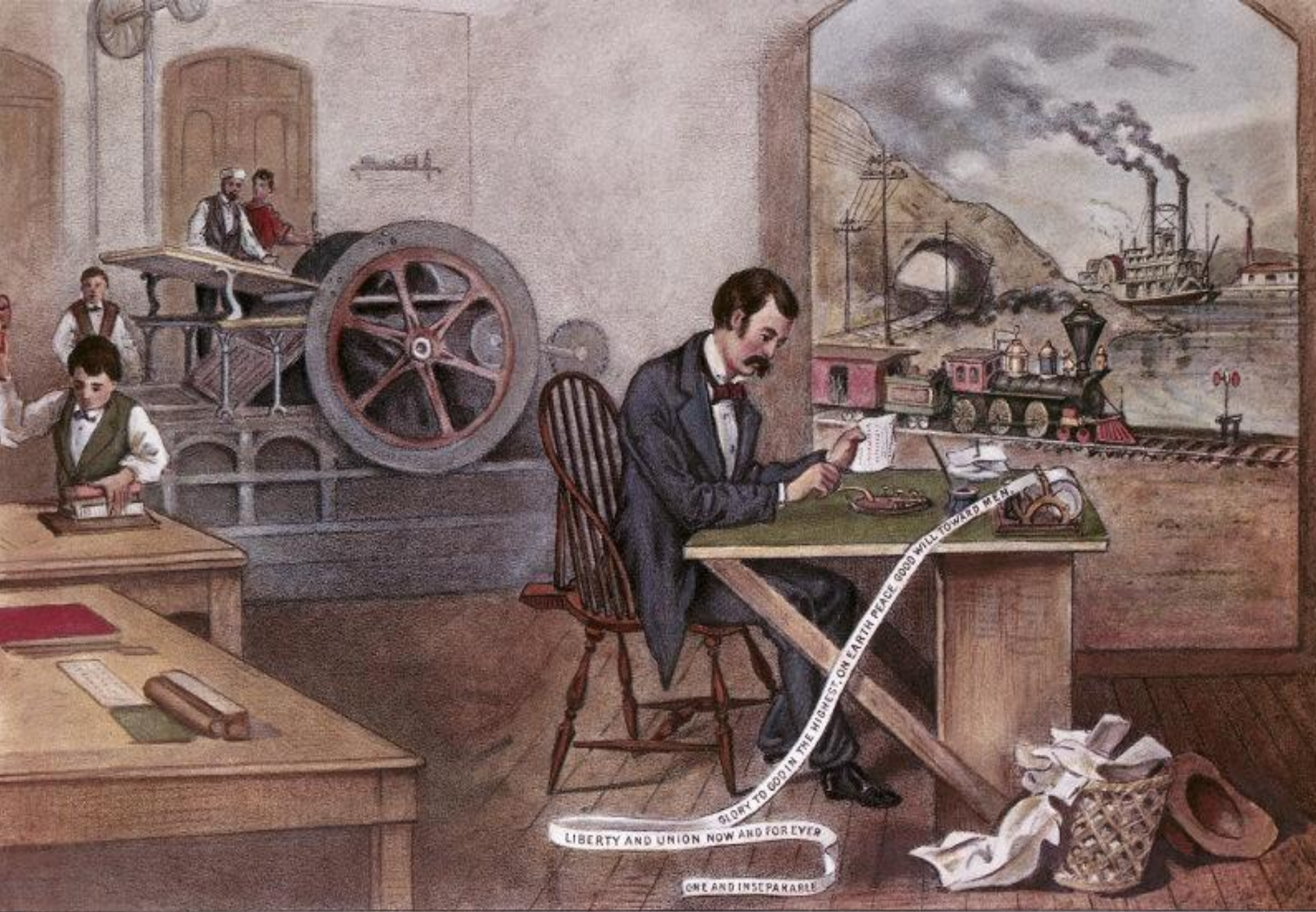


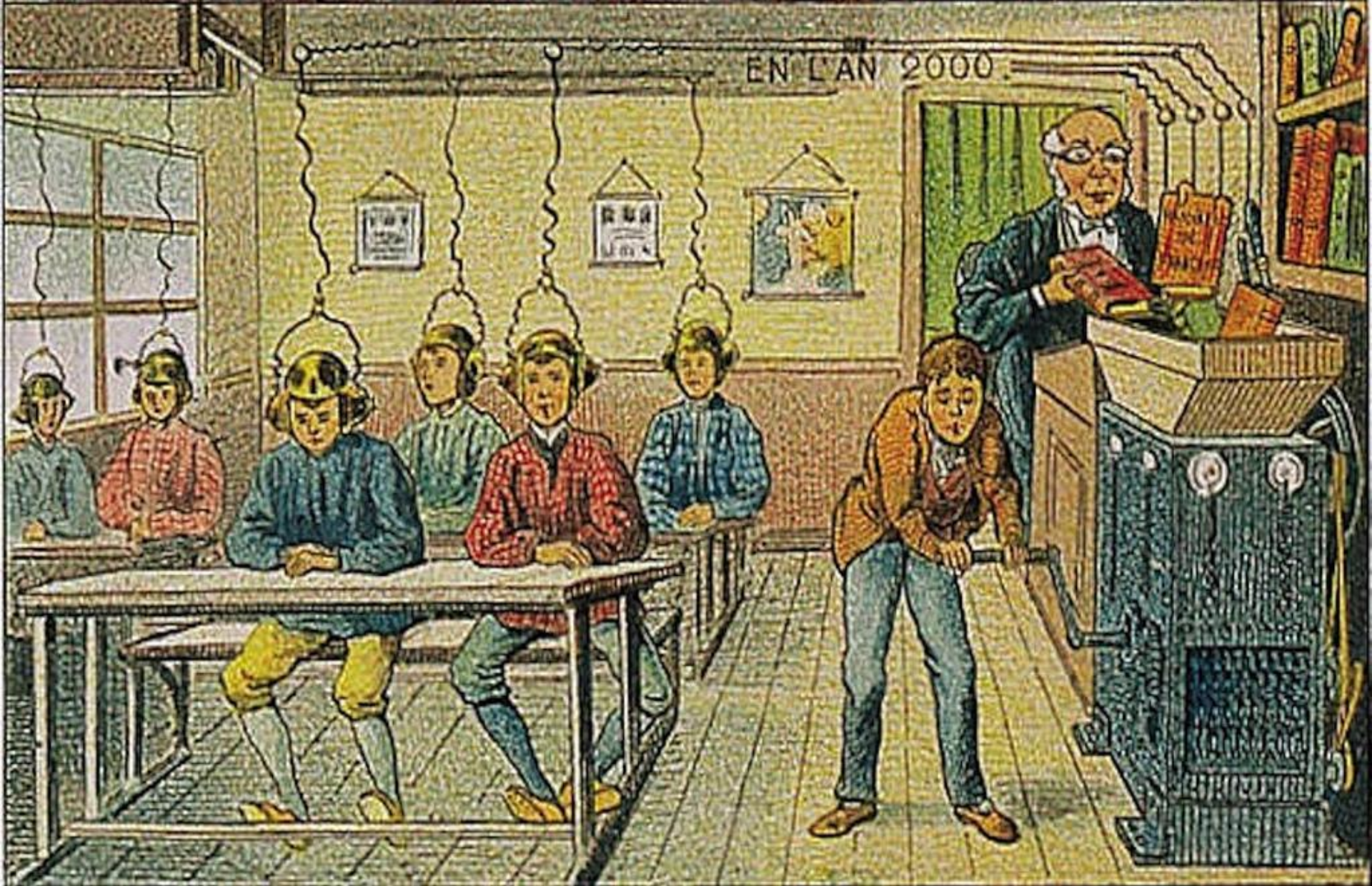


Victorian Era as a Matrix of Modern World

- Multiculturalism
- Globalization
- Arms and drugs trafficking
- Mass-production
- IT and communications
- Marxism
- Feminism
- Fashion







School of the XXI century: Victorian vision

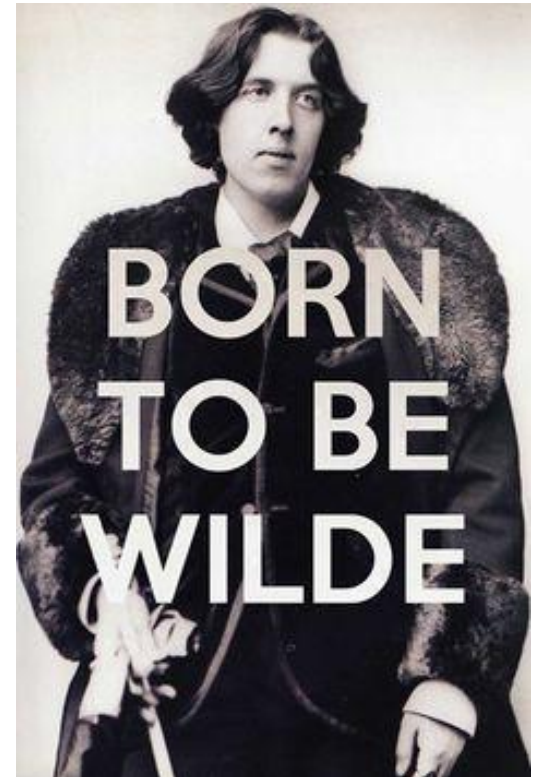


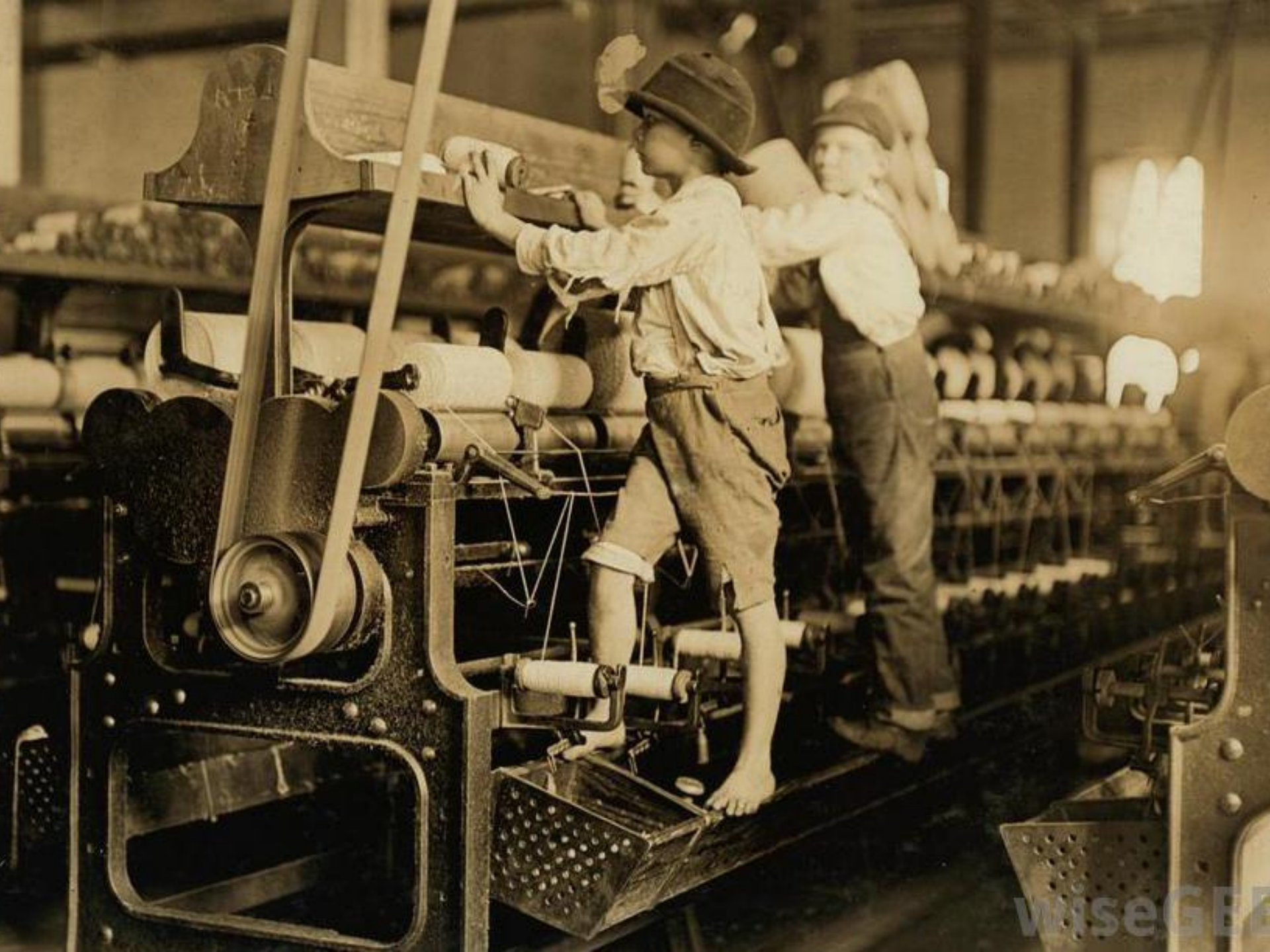
Neil Kinnock, Labour Party leader
(1983 – 1992)

1985:
Victorian Britain was a
place where a few got
rich and most got hell.
The 'Victorian values'
that ruled were cruelty,
misery, drudgery,
squalor and ignorance.

Trauma-Generating Experiences of Victorian Era

- Class and gender stereotypes
- Xenophobia
- Racism
- Child abuse
- Homophobia
- Skin trade
- Fear of extinction





Nachträglichkeit

- **Afterwardsness** - a mode of belated understanding or retroactive attribution of sexual or traumatic meaning to earlier events;
- Victorian Revival both compensates “historical” traumas from the XIX century and projects modern concerns into the past as if to disassociate the modern consciousness from them

