Responses to Classic Liberalism
Responses to Classical Liberalism

- Classical Liberalism was clearly a growing ideology in 19th century Europe
- Nouveau Riche (new wealthy) gained a lot of power and control
- Ind. Rev. centred around efficiency and wealth
  - Not equality
- Capitalism lead to gov’t not being involved because it was anti-capitalist
Responses to Classical Liberalism

- It left many people behind
- Failed to solve some of the issues that it represented
- The poor working class felt left out of society
- Responses to a growing ‘Liberal’ society were two pronged
  - To progress further in terms of equality
  - Or to go back to ways of old/Maintain ways of old
Responses to Classical Liberalism

Types of Responses against Classical Liberalism:

- Luddites
- Chartists
- Socialism
  - Utopian
  - Moderate
  - Democratic
- Marxism
- Classical Conservatism
Luddites

- Typically skilled artisans within the cotton industry
- Angered by their loss of occupation by machine
- Ned Ludd believed to lead the movement by destroying a machine in 1779
- Army of Redressers
  - Formed in 1811
  - Broke into factories and destroyed machines (terrorists)
  - Movement spread throughout England
- Gov't responded by making machine breaking punishable by death
Socialism

Three major forms:

- Democratic Socialism
- Utopian Socialism
- Scientific Socialism/Revolutionary Socialism/Marxism
Socialism

- All socialist principles are a response to capitalism
- Private property/Capitalism is leading to exploitation
- More state involvement within the economy will lead to equality
- Classless society
- It is primarily a social, political and economic ideology
Utopian Socialism

- **Utopia** - by Sir Thomas Moore
  - Wrote about a perfect society (idealistic)
  - Utopian = Humanarian
  - A good life for all is possible
- Idea that socialism would peacefully eradicate the inequalities of capitalism
- Principles of Utopian Socialism:
  - Educating children
  - Improved infrastructure
  - Improved housing
  - Promised leisure time
  - Limiting work hours
  - Reasonable Prices at shops
Case Study - New Lanark

- Robert Owen (1771-1858)
- Bought 2nd largest cotton producing factory in Scotland in New Lanark
- Created a society with less inequality
- Children were promised education till 10 years old
  - Then students would progress to work and education
- He instituted many of the utopian socialist ideals
  - Also included medical care, concerts, and dances
- Helped inspire the Union Movement
New Haven - U.S.A.
Scientific Socialism/Marxism

- Karl Marx (1818-1883)
  - Founder of Marxism (aka Communism)
- Rejected Rousseau’s ideas for not being ‘scientific enough’
- Socialism through class warfare
  - Proletariat (workers) will overthrow the Bourgeoisie (owners)
- Revolution was needed to create the change
Scientific Socialism/Marxism

1848 - Marx and Friedrich Engels published the *The Communist Manifesto*

- Economy is the foundation of society
- Means of production needs to be controlled by workers
- Abolition of Private property leads to State run economy (Centralization/Command Economy)
  - Eg. Soviet Union, Mao’s China, and North Korea
Principles of Scientific Socialism

Open text book to Page 136
Moderate Socialism/Democratic Socialism

- Belief that socialist values can be achieved incrementally through reform
- Lobbied for:
  - Minimum Wage
  - Universal Health Care
  - Hereditary Peerages be abolished
  - Welfare state
- In terms of long term success this form of socialism seems to have withstood the test of time
- Many countries embody Democratic Socialism today
Moderate Socialism/Democratic Socialism

Fabian Society:

- A society formed in the late 1800s of influential democratic socialists
- Pushed for gradual reform within democracy
- Largely inspired the powerful British Labour party
- Famous Fabians:
  - H.G. Wells
  - Beatrice and Sidney Webb
  - Emmeline Pankhurst
Classical Conservatives/Traditionalist

- Considered to be reactionary
  - Reactionnaire - Term established in the French Rev.
- Conservative - return to the ways of the past
- Principles:
  - Natural Rights - given by God
  - Tradition and customs
  - Agarian society
  - Family Life
  - Classicism (Educated Elite)
    - Education should be left to those who have experience being educated
  - Localism/Regionalism over Nationalism
  - General Will = Chaos
Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

- is well known for his conservative thought in the later 18th century
- Inspired people throughout society to follow his reactionary views
  - Famous for his critiques of liberal movements
  - *Reflections on the Revolution in France* is his most infamous work
  - Attacked liberalism for leading to:
    - Mass executions
    - Civil Disorder
    - War
    - Unstable gov’t
- This all being stated he did not support tyranny
- Believed democracy leads to the suppression of the minority