

1660 - 1760 ENGLAND



The Restoration of the Monarchy

- Stuart King Charles II (1660-1685)
- **Positive aspect:** court devoted to pleasures, 1662 Royal Society's motto: **NULLIUS IN VERBA**
- **Negative aspect:** absolute control of the Crown and Church of England

1662: THE BOOK OF THE COMMON PRAYER

1664: other **RELIGIOUS MEETINGS ILLEGAL**

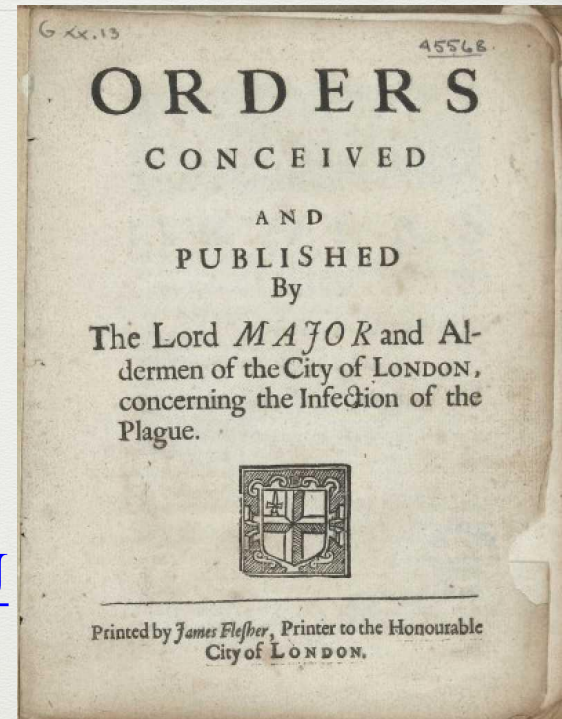
1673: THE TEST ACT

- 1665: the Bubonic Plague

As plague moved from parish to parish Pepys described **the changing face of London-life** – ‘nobody but poor wretches in the streets’, ‘no boats upon the River’, ‘fires burning in the street’ to cleanse the air and ‘little noise heard day or night but tolling of bells’

Samuel Pepys

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3DNC0KpZnA&ab_channel=UrbanStories



Read the article <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-Great-Plague/> and answer the following questions.

- What happened when one person got infected?
- Where did the king go and why?
- Where were the plague victims buried and why?
- What happened in a small village of Derbyshire?



- 1666: the Great Fire of London
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuTAmHKt318&ab_channel=Channel5
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-50951043>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-53893161#:~:text=Fires%20this%20year%20are%20at,ecologist%20on%20the%20Amazon%20rainforest.>

After watching:

1. Where did the fire start?
2. Why did it spread so quickly?
3. How did the writer Samuel Pepys describe the event in his writing?
4. What made the fire worse?



St Paul's Cathedral, London

The Glorious Revolution

- 1685: **James II** became king = he was **catholic**
- He claimed the divine right of kings
- Two **Protestant** daughters: **Mary** and **Anne**
- He married the catholic Mary of Modena (Maria Beatrice D'Este) and had a son

The Glorious Revolution



- **William of Orange** arrived in England in 1688
- William III and Mary II: **JOINT MONARCHS**
- **Bill of Rights** approved (1689)

The Parliament

THE WHIGS	THE TORIES
Interests of the mercantile middle class	The old aristocracy (dependent on land)
Supporters of the Parliament (and tolerant towards dissenters)	Supporters of the Crown (especially of the exiled Stuart King)
In the past: Roundheads/Parlamentarians (Cromwell) Today: Liberal Democrats (Dixon)	In the past: Royalists / Cavaliers (King) Today: Conservative Party (Boris Jhonson)

The Modern Parliament

- 1694: Mary died
- Queen Anne (1702-1714): Protestant
- 1707: Act of Union = United Kingdom of Great Britain
- No catholic heir to the throne

The Modern Parliament

- **George I (1714-1727):**
James I's grandson
- **Change:** the ministers met without the king and elected a **Prime Minister**
- **Sir Robert Walpole** (Whig party)





10 Downing Street,
London

- **George II (1727-1760)**

1. 1739: Spanish ships damaged English ocean trade

1742: **Walpole** resigned

2. 1745: **Jacobites'** rebellion in Scotland (Charles Stuart)

Defeated near **Inverness**

3. **William Pitt the Elder**: prime minister (Whig party)

1756-1763: **The Seven Years' War**

The Victorious year 1759

1763: the **Treaty of Paris**

The Augustan Age



- Why Augustan?

Age of traditionalism, elegance, wit

- Moderation, rationality
- Materialistic Society
- Institutions: hierarchical, privileged
- Personal gain
- Elections and politicians corrupted



Marriage a la Mode, W.Hogarth

BUT extraordinary free and open Age

The Enlightenment

- Philosopher J. Locke
- Journalist J. Addison
- **Rejection of Puritan values,** superstition, religious assumptions
- **Faith in reason, knowledge, science,** education
- Coffee Houses, Newspapers, Pamphlets



The rise of a new middle class

- **Aristocracy, landowners**
- **Upper middle class:** wealthy merchants, tradesmen, manufacturers
- **Lower middle class:** artisans, shopkeepers
- **The poor:** working in rural areas, mass of urban population



A Rake's progress, W.Hogarth

The poor

- Diseases: smallpox, typhus
- Apprentices to parishes
- Exploitation of child labour
- Workhouses
- Habits of drinking gin and organised crime



Gin Lane, W. Hogarth



- The new **Middle Classes**
- **Greater social mobility**: they travelled both physically and mentally (travel literature)
- **Grand Tour** around a Europe
- Travellers surprised by the freedom enjoyed by British people

Satire

- What is satire?
- Use of exaggerations, irony, humour to expose vices and people's stupidity to criticise them
- Who or what might the targets of satire be nowadays?
- What are the aims of a satirist?
- To criticise, denounce, attack **WHILE** pushing for a change **BY** mocking, laughing at, ridiculing



SATIRE

ZANICHELLI



00:00



01:44



Fine

After watching:

1. What is the main purpose of satire?

To present a character in such a way that we find **WIT
HUMOUR SURPRISE**

1. What is the essence of a good satire? **THE SKILLFUL
STYLE WITH WHICH THE ARTIST/SATIRIST
DEMOLISHES HIS/HER TARGET**
2. How long has satire been used?
3. Who are two important English satirists from the 18th
century? Hogarth - Swift
4. What did they think of the excessive belief in reason? They
saw it as a distraction from other imperative virtues.

William Hogarth - Gin Lane (1751).

New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art

in the background
 • a building falling apart

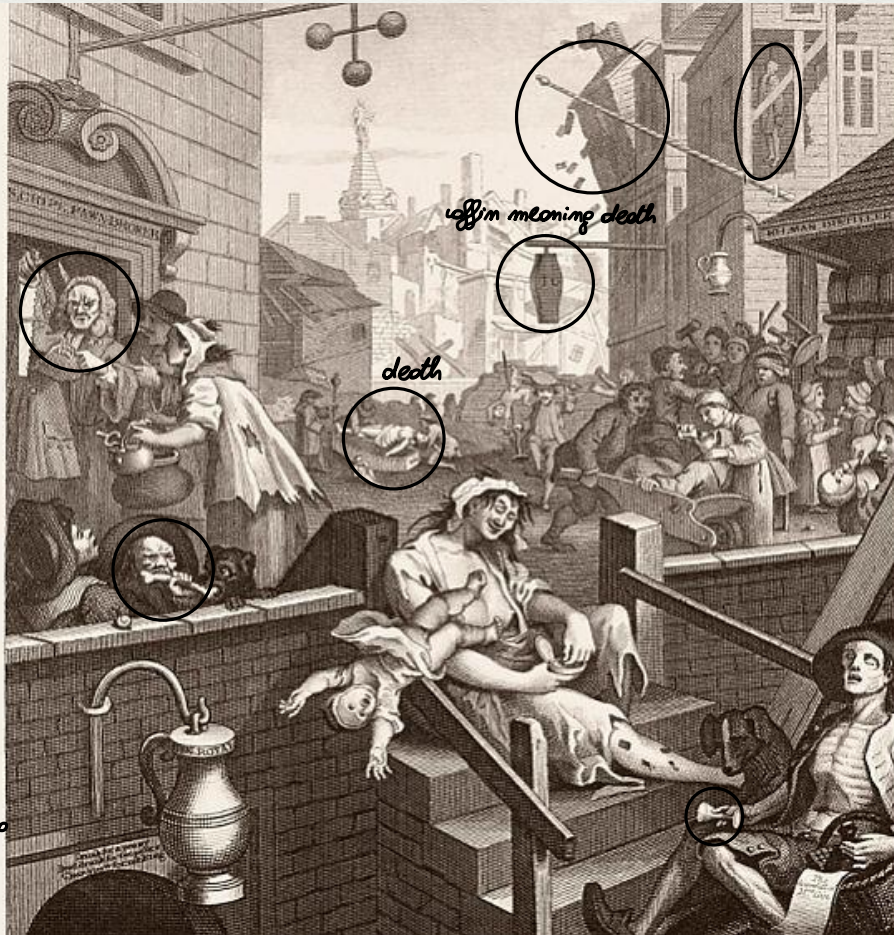
on our street
 (from the wig)
 probably as King for
 money

a man living a lone
 meaning the lack of
 food

Problems:

- poverty
- abuse of alcohol and drugs
- bad hygienic condition
- spread of diseases
- no food
- poor maintenance of buildings

CAUSE DEATH



a man committing
 suicide

coffin meaning death

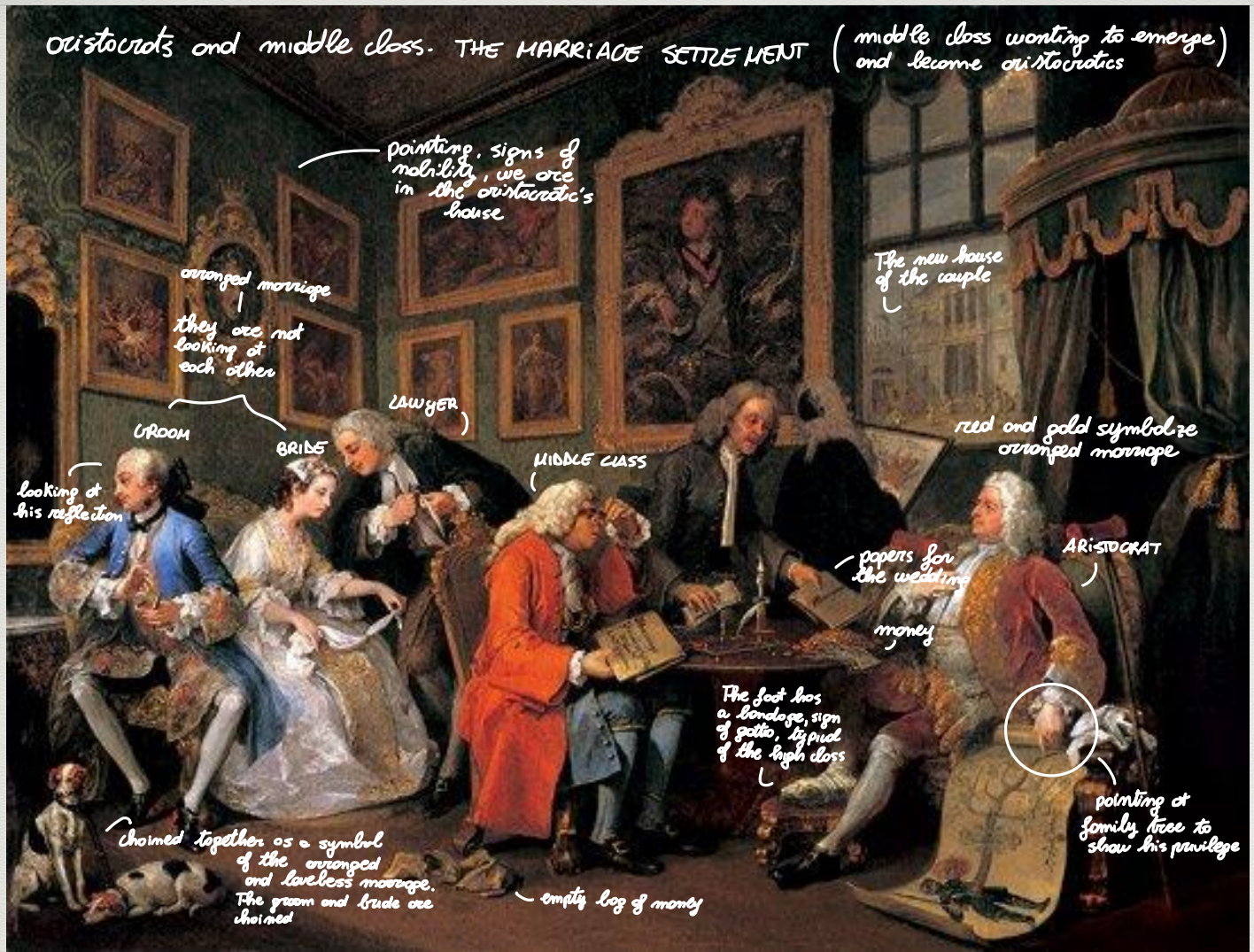
death

social protest

foreground - primo primo
 • on the right a man
 holding a glass probably
 of gin, passed out, stowed
 • a woman taking drugs
 and not caring for her
 child who is falling
 from the stairs, she is
 also sick

- What does the scene represent?
- Background?
- Foreground?
- What does Hogarth want to denounce?
- What do you think his moral stance and opinion of society is?

aristocrats and middle class. THE MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT (middle class wanting to emerge) and become aristocrats



Marriage a la Mode - W.Hogarth (1745)



Canvassing for Votes - W.Hogarth (1754)

showing prostitution, alcoholism



musician

drinking

a woman
burning a
painting

prostitute

alcoholic

a lady stealing
a watch

drunk noble
man

young ostentatious man

A Rake's Progress - W.Hogarth (1735)

Jonathan Swift

1667-1745

- Born in Ireland, from English parents
- In 1668 he became secretary to Sir William Temple, a Whig statesman
- Temple encouraged him to write his first satirical works



The Battle of the Books (1704)

- He supported Temple's defence of the classics
- He mocked modern scholarship, criticism and poetry

Battle between:

- Books written by the ancients (Homer and Virgil)
- Books written by the moderns

A Tale of a Tub (1704)

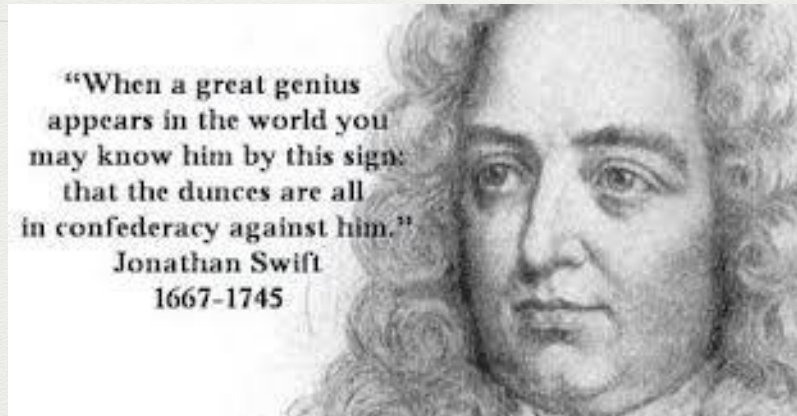
- He supported the Church of England
- He mocked the superstition of the Catholics and the fanaticism of the Dissenters

3 brothers, 1 cloak, allegory

- PETER *st Peter catholic*
- JOHN *Colin anglican*
- MARTIN *Luther protestant*

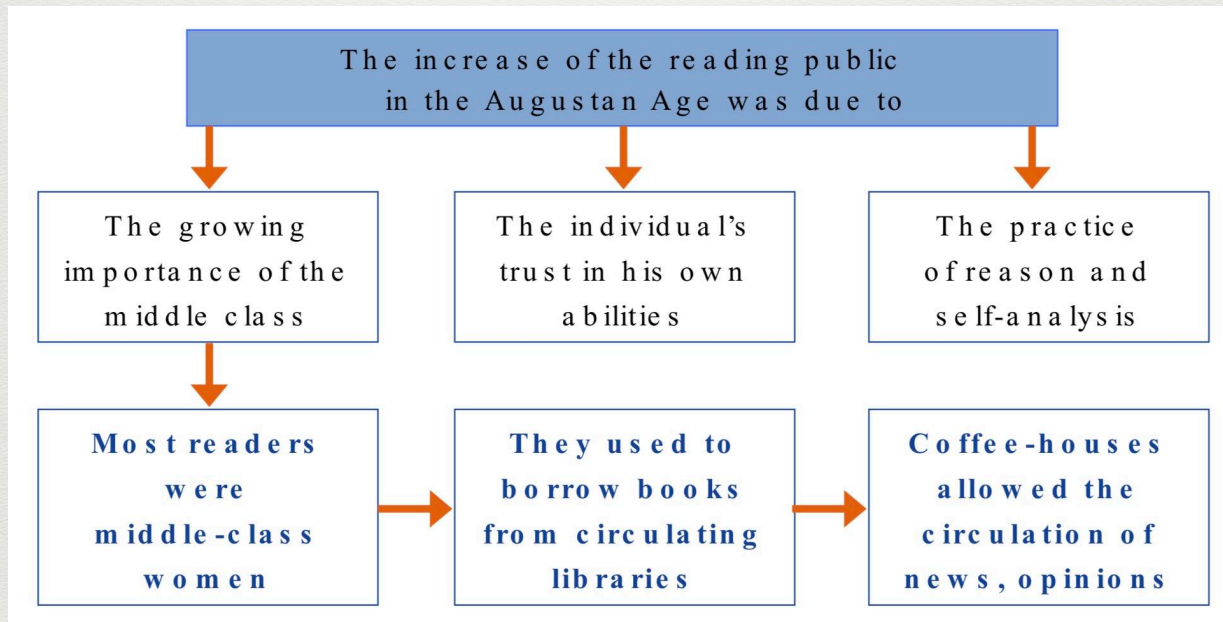
- In 1694 back to Ireland = Anglican priest
- Indignant opposition to the English government
- Pamphlets denouncing the injustices that Ireland suffered from
- 1729 A Modest Proposal
- He died in 1745

What was Swift like?



- A formidable polemicist misanthrope, morbid attitude
- He defined himself hater of man
- Concerned about politics and society
- **Irony, allegory and satire:** means that suited his temperament

- **English women:** more independent and socially active
- Women readers → **the rise of the NOVEL:** ordinary people not fantastic heroes



The novel

= a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length, where characters, actions and places are portrayed using everyday language

Romance: a verse or prose tale of love and adventure

Characteristics of the novel

18th-century novel

Story: events in chronological order

Narrator: first or third person

Setting: specific references to time and to place

Characters: realistic; middle-class heroes, struggling for survival or success

Language: simple and factual

- People wanted to read about ordinary experiences
- —> writer's aim changed
- *Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding:* write about real/common events
- **Radical change** from Dante and Shakespeare



Sub-genres

1. The spokesman of the middle class.

2. The fathers of the English novel:

- **Daniel Defoe** → *the realistic novel*
- **Jonathan Swift** → *the utopian novel*
- **Samuel Richardson** → *the epistolary novel*
- **Henry Fielding** → *the picaresque novel*
- **Laurence Sterne** → *the anti-novel novel*