An Introduction to The Making of the Modern World: Part IV, 1800 – 1890

Introduction

Goldsmiths’ Library of Economic Literature at Senate House Library, University of London, contains more than 70,000 printed books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts, broadsides, and proclamations from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries. Along with the Kress collection at Harvard University, Goldsmiths’ forms the basis of the 356-reel microfilm product first published in the mid-1970s by Research Publications in New Haven, Conn. For an appreciation of the groundbreaking impact of this publication, see the September 1978 issue of Journal of Economic Literature, which features the essay “Democracy Returns to the Library: The Goldsmiths’-Kress Library of Economic Literature” by David O. Whitten. In 2004, Gale released the digital version of the database as The Making of the Modern World, 1450-1850 (MOMW). Since MOMW’s initial appearance, thousands of unpublished or newly acquired titles have been identified at the University of London, and these titles form the basis of the third and fourth modules of the digital archive at your fingertips. The Making of the Modern World: Part IV, 1800 – 1890 comprises over 8,000 items.

Goldsmiths’ is based on the original collection in the library of the academic economist and bibliophile at Cambridge University, Herbert Somerton Foxwell (1849-1936). Foxwell described his library of approximately 30,000 items as “a collection of books and tracts intended to serve as the basis for the study of the industrial, commercial, monetary and financial history of the United Kingdom, as well as of the gradual development of economic science generally.”

The Foxwell library was purchased by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and presented to the University of London in 1903. Gifts from the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths have enabled Senate House Library to augment the collection ever since. Additions have included the purchase of the Sabatier Collection (1906), Sheffield Collection (1907), Rastrick Collection (1908), Temperance Collection (1930), and Reform Club pamphlets (1964). Further enhancements include periodicals, biographies, and bound pamphlet collections, such as the Aldenham bound pamphlet collections, the Gray, the de Grey, and the Ludlow bound pamphlet collections. The Gray, de Grey, and Reform Club pamphlet collections are unique to MOMW: Part IV. Also specific to MOMW: Part IV are 686 Reform Club pamphlets dated 1800-1860.

Senate House Library remains an active acquiring institution, whose future purchases will present new avenues of research. Major subject fields include economic thought, financial and monetary policy, the British Empire and its colonial history, slavery, railway and transport history, the history of technology, travel writing, temperance, poverty, poor laws, socialism, and the condition of the working class.

Central to the collection is the evolution of modern economic thought. The orthodox “classical economics” of Adam Smith and David Ricardo did not metamorphose into neoclassical economics overnight. The recasting of perspectives occurred gradually, over the course of the nineteenth century, and this change can be traced throughout the archive. For example, the idea of marginal utility had existed in economic literature for centuries, in writings from Aristotle to Jeremy Bentham, as documented in texts in Gale’s Eighteenth Century Collections Online and The Making of
the Modern World, Part I: The Goldsmiths’-Kress Collection, 1450-1850. However, in the 1870s three academic economists stand out as having influence on the early development of marginal analysis. Working independently, they showed that the value, or price, of a commodity depends upon the marginal utility of the commodity to the consumer. In 1871 W.S. Jevons published his Theory of Political Economy in English. Carl Mengers published Principles of Economics in German. Three years later, the French economist Léon Walras published Elements of Pure Economics in French. In 1890, Alfred Marshall, who taught with Foxwell at Cambridge University, the nerve center of the new economic thinking, published what is considered the original overarching synthesis of the new marginal concept that forms the basis of modern microeconomics. Marshall fused all of the developments of the previous decades into a well-rounded theory of household, firms, and markets in his seminal, Principles of Economics. These texts are to be found here and in MOMW: Part III.

The Making of the Modern World fills out – in unexpected ways – the field of Victorian Studies. It helps to uncover the changing mentality and attitudes of Victorian writers across the social sciences and across various locations. The topic searches that follow, some of which focus on a single year or event or policy debate or language other than English, illustrate the broad range and depth of the collection.

**TOPIC SEARCHES**

* “Catholic Emancipation”

Catholic Emancipation was the major political issue in Great Britain in the 1820s. The campaign for it had gone on in Ireland since the act of Union in 1801. The Catholic Emancipation Act passed by parliament in 1829 was the culmination of a long political process that brought civil rights to Catholics. The subsequent history of developments in Ireland throughout the nineteenth century may be traced in searching “Roman Catholic Relief Act” (1829); or by searching the Catholic Question and Ireland.

The English poor laws and the Catholic poor by John Morris [1860];
Les institutions politiques, judiciaires et administratives de l’Angleterre; par Charles de Franqueville [1863];

The Roman Catholic churches, schools & glebes Bill: a proposal for the establishment of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland, rejected by the House of Commons ... July 3, 1867: Speech ... thereon by Charles Newdigate [1867]; (illustrated above)
* “The Peculiar Institution.” The Slave Power in the United States and Cuba

In the nineteenth century slavery increasingly repulsed the moral conscience of parts of the Western world. It was abolished in the British colonies in 1833 and in the French colonies in 1848. Yet in the American South, whose economy was completely dependent on slave labor, there was no appetite to let go of “the peculiar institution.” For an examination of American slavery in the years prior to the American Civil War search “peculiar institution” or “slave power.” Esclavitud -- slavery in Spanish -- renders good results on Cuba.

A letter to the Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue, M.P. on the state of Ireland: by John Earl Russell (1868);

The Irish union: before and after, being a popular treatise on the political history of Ireland during the last two centuries. [by A. K. Connell] (1888).

Report of Select Committee on Slavery and Affairs in Kansas: submitted Thursday, October 30, 1856. Author: Vermont. General Assembly House of Representatives Select Committee on Slavery and Affairs in Kansas (1856);

Slavery doomed: or, The contest between free and slave labour in the United States; By Frederick Milne Edge (1860) “In a new country, immigration is the first requirement, the first sign of advancement; and we need no better proof of the evils which have befallen the South from the “peculiar institution” than its rendering immigration impossible.”

Slavery in Spanish -- esclavitud -- uncovers the debate in Cuba, which is inextricably linked to the sugar trade. La supresion del trafico de esclavos africanos en la Isla de Cuba examinada con relacion a su agricultura y a su seguridad by José Antonio Saco (1845);

Memoria sobre la esclavitud en la isla de Cuba: con observaciones sobre los asertos de la prensa inglesa relativos al trafico de esclavos by Mariano Torrente (1853);

and La Crisis Azucarera y la Isla de Cuba by Gaston Descamps (1885).

* “The Great Boom”

The period of the 1850s and 1860s experienced unprecedented growth. Investors took advantage of cheap capital and the rapid rise of prices. At one point in this period, the rate of profit on paid-up capital of the Crédit mobilier of Paris, one of Europe’s leading finance companies, reached fifty percent. During the boom employment skyrocketed. The bottom fell out in 1873 and two decades of depression followed. Search: “Crédit mobilier” in the period 1848-1875.

A history of prices, and of the state of the circulation, during the nine years 1848-1856: by Thomas Tooke and William Newmarch (1857);

La liberté de l’argent: par Clément Laurier (1858);

La Bourse, ses opérateurs et ses opérations appréciés au point de vue de la loi, de la jurisprudence et de l’économie politique et sociale: Suivie d’une indication des réformes les plus urgentes, avec un appendice contenant les principaux règlements adoptés par la Compagnie des Agents de Change de Paris, etc. by Jules François Jeannotte-Bozérian (1859);

The Credit Foncier and Mobilier of England, Limited: First report to 8th April, 1865, to be presented to the shareholders at the general meeting ... 20th April, 1865 (London)

* “Great Exhibition of 1851”

The economic triumph and industrial progress at midcentury brought about new rituals for the display of wealth -- the industrial trade show or world’s fair. The Crystal Palace in London (1851), featured 14,000 firms. It was followed by Paris (1855), London (1862), Vienna (1873), and the Philadelphia Centennial (1876) in the Unites States. Each exhibition attracted tourists in astronomical numbers. Search Great Exhibition of 1851.

R. & W. Hawthorn’s first-class passenger locomotive engine, “The Hawthorn”, sent to the Great Exhibition of 1851: [A description] (1851);
An earnest plea for the reign of temperance and peace as conducive to the prosperity of nations, submitted to the visitors of the Great Exhibition ... accompanied by documents in proof of the statements and principles involved: [by J. S. Buckingham] (1851);

The glass and the new crystal palace: by George Cruikshank; with cuts (1853); [illustrated above]

Trade museums, their nature and uses: Considered in a letter addressed, by permission, to H. R. H. the Prince Albert, K. G. by Edward Solly (1853);


British involvement in wars in China in the late 1830s and 1840s originated in the clash of two irreconcilable policies. The Chinese were determined to maintain their isolation, and the British were determined to break it down. The immediate issue was the opium trade from India to China, a trade that helped the British balance its trading account with China, when Britain sold little to China and imported large amounts of silk and tea. The Treaty of Nanking in 1842 ceded Hong Kong to Britain. Search “Hong Kong” and “Opium trade.”

The Chinese: a general description of China and its inhabitants: by John Francis Davis, Esq., F.R.S., &c. governor of Hong-Kong (London, 1844); [illustrated above]

Observations on our Chinese commerce: including remarks the proposed reduction of the tea duties our new settlement at Hong Kong and the opium trade by George Thomas Staunton (1850);

The Opium Trade; Including a Sketch of its History, Extent, Effects, etc., as Carried on in India and China. By Nathan Allen, M.D. 2d ed. (1851);

China, political, commercial and social: in an official report to Her Majesty’s government by Robert Montgomery Martin (1847). “His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees, that British subjects, with their families and establishments, shall be allowed to reside, for the purpose of carrying on their mercantile pursuits, without molestation or restraint, at the cities and towns of Canton, Amoy, Fuhchow-fu, Ningpo, and Shanghai; and Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, &c., will appoint superintendents, or consular officers, to reside at each of the above-named cities or towns, to be the medium of communication between the Chinese authorities and the said merchants, and to see that the just duties and other dues of the Chinese government, as hereafter provided for, are duly discharged by Her Britannic Majesty’s subjects.”
* “Imperialism: India in the mid-Victorian Era”

For the British presence in India around the time of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 select a geographical area, such as "Hyderabad," for rich results.

A Gazetteer of the territories under the government of the East-India company, and of the native states on the continent of India: Compiled by the authority of the Hon. Court of Directors, and chiefly from documents in their possession, by Edward Thornton, Esq. (1854);

Indian irrigation: being a short description of the system of artificial irrigation and canal navigation in India, with a proposal for carrying the same into effect by private enterprise by Charles William Grant (1854);

The Punjab Railway: a selection from official correspondence regarding the introduction of railways into the Punjab, with [folded] map of Scinde and the Punjab: Report of proceedings of an extraordinary general meeting of the Scinde Railway Company, held on ... the 24th July, 1857 by William Patrick Andrew (1857);

The government of the East India Company, and its monopolies: or, The Young India Party, and free trade?: by Malcolm Lewin (1857);

East India [coinage]: Returns for the last ten years of the amount of the precious metals, coined and uncoined imported into India and entered at the Custom House at each of the three Presidencies; and the amount of coined money issued by the Calcutta Mint for the same period; also copies of acts or ordinances of the Governor-General in Council for regulating the currency of India ... Ordered ... to be printed 27th April. Calcutta India Mint (1860);

Report to the Secretary of State for India in Council: On Railways in India for the year 1870-71. By Juland Danvers (1871);

* “John Stuart Mill”

The mid-Victorian liberal consensus was most clearly distilled in the life and works of John Stuart Mill (1806-1873). Mill, a highly original thinker, contributed significantly to the fields of economics, political science, and philosophy. Although a gifted economic theoretician, Mill’s intellectual background led him toward a social philosophy that aimed to improve the role of the individual in society. In Principles of Political Economy (1848) he offered a synthesis of the major doctrines of classical political economy. His work was translated into multiple languages. Search “Mill” as author and/or J.S. Mill as keyword.

Extract from Mill’s History on the double government; and Observations on the evidence given before the parliamentary committees in 1852: by John Sullivan (1853);

Liberty and the liquor traffic: reply to J. S. Mill by Dawson Burns (1859);

Observations on the report and proceedings of the select committee on the income and property tax: In a letter to John Stuart Mill, Esq. by John Gellibrand Hubbard (1861);

The unity of Comte’s life and doctrine: a reply to strictures on Comte’s later writings, addressed to J. S. Mill; by J. H. Bridges (1865);

A refutation of the wage-fund theory of modern political economy as enunciated by Mr. Mill, M.P. and Mr. Fawcett, M.P. by Francis Davy (1869);
“Free trade and economic liberalism.”

The control of guilds over artisan production remained strong in the German states well into the nineteenth century. In the 1860s, control gave way to “Gewerbefreiheit” (freedom of trade), in Austria and Germany; and it was finally established in the North German Federation in 1869 and then in the German Empire. The historian Eric Hobsbawm, in The Age of Capital, has observed how this development displeased many artisans and master craftsmen who became increasingly hostile to liberalism, and would in time support right-wing movements in the later part of the century and beyond. Search “Gewerbefreiheit” (freedom of trade) for resources in German.

The submarine cables, first built across the English Channel in the early 1850s, was followed by massive international cable-laying projects in the 1860s and 1870s. By 1872 it was possible to telegraph from London to New York, from Tokyo to Calcutta. The speed of communication was revolutionary.

Search: submarine cables and/or Transatlantic cable

The ocean telegraph to India: a narrative and a diary by J.C. Parkinson (1870); [illustrated above]


Posts & telegraphs, past and present: with an account of the telephone and phonograph by William Tegg (1878)

* “The cotton trade and the U.S. Civil War”*

The Industrial Revolution turned the American South into an economic associate of Great Britain; and the South became the chief producer of raw cotton (from enslaved labour) for the Lancashire mills. Following the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, the newly formed Confederacy found its ports blockaded by Northern shipping. In July 1862, according to the historian James McPherson, the supply of raw cotton in Britain approached one-third of the normal level. Three-quarters of the cotton-mill workers were
underemployed; cotton manufacturers sought new markets and found them elsewhere. To examine the impact of the war on the cotton business in Great Britain, as well as transnational repercussions in Egypt and India, search “cotton” and/or India or Egypt after 1861.

Indian cotton supply, the only effectual and permanent measure for relief to Lancashire by A.C. Brice (London, 1863);

The cotton trade of India; being a series of letters written from Bombay in ... 1863 by Samuel Smith (London and Liverpool, 1863); (illustrated above)

Correspondence [between Thomas Briggs and Lord Edward Howard] on the cotton famine, showing how it affects the present position and future prospects of the common interest of Britain (Manchester, 1865);

Remarks and suggestions on cotton packing in Egypt by Edward Taylor (Manchester, 1865);

Seven years' history of the cotton trade of Europe by Maurice Williams (Liverpool, 1868);

Ireland and her staple manufactures: being sketches of the history and progress of the linen and cotton trades as well as other details connected with the Northern province by Henry Greer (Belfast, 1870);

* Imperialism: The British in Egypt

Following a nationalist revolt in 1882, the British landed troops in the Suez Canal zone, and soon occupied all of Egypt. British involvement quickly went far beyond Egypt to a deep entanglement in the interior of Africa, where Britain eventually confronted European rivals. Within Egypt a colonial liberation movement evolved because Egypt had never been reconciled to British occupation. Searches such as “khedive of Egypt” in the decade of the 1880s render valuable resources.

A Fortnight in Egypt at the opening of the Suez Canal by Frederick Arrow (London, 1869);

Egyptian debt: mission of the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen: Proceedings at a meeting of Egyptian bondholders held ... 28th November, 1876;

Egypt: [A criticism of British policy, 1875-82] by Annie Besant (1882);

Facts for the coming struggle: The financial tyranny in Egypt under the conservatives (1874-80) Shown to have been the cause of Arabi’s and the Mahdi’s rebellions, and of the difficulties of the Gladstone government in Egypt: By the Rev. J. Hirst Hollowell (1884);

La situation économique de l’Égypte by Antoine Zogheb (1884)

* “Charles Dickens”

The presence of Charles Dickens (1812-1870) across the Victorian horizon may be tracked via various queries. Searches on the great novel, “Bleak House” (1852), which features the celebrated case of Jarndyce v. Jarndyce at the Court of Chancery, uncovers a web of relationships. References to Dickens appear in unexpected places.

Debate in the House of Commons, on Thursday, March 22nd, 1849, on Lord Dudley Stuart’s motion respecting the occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia by Russian
troops. Authors: Dudley Stuart, Parliament House of Commons, and Reform Club (London, 1849). This document offers a first-hand account of Dickens: "It reminds me of what recently occurred to a friend of mine, who is known to many honorable members — I mean the celebrated writer, Mr. Charles Dickens. He was walking in the street, when he felt a man put his hand in his pocket: he seized him, and had him taken before the Marylebone Police-court, where he himself attended. Mr. Dickens, having visited the prisons, recognised the man as one whom he had before seen..."

The Friend of the People, etc. (London, 1852). Offers a (favorable) review of the recently published "Bleak House." "If all the injustice the Court of Chancery has committed," observes our author, "and all the misery it has caused, could only be looked up with it, and the whole burnt together in a great funeral pyre — why, so much the better for other parties than the parties in 'Jarndyce and Jarndyce.'"

Seven sermons on pauperism, preached at St. Mark's, Whitechapel ... 1870 by Brooke Lambert (London, 1870). "That we need more sympathy with those below us was the text on which the great novelist, Charles Dickens, preached his novel-sermons — for they were novels written with as much didactic purpose as sermons—those books whose noble purpose atones for the viciousness of their literary style. His text ever was, that the classes of society, however widely separated, had one common meeting-ground, both in their virtues, and in their foibles, and that society would be made the better by the acknowledgment of this...

Slavery in the southern states: by a Carolinian by Edward J. Pringle [Cambridge; Massachusetts, 1852]. "In a work now in course of publication we are told with much humor, but more true feeling, that the great chancery case of Jarndyce and Jarndyce, in the quibbles and subterfuges it gave birth to, was a source of corruption to many natures, while through its tedious length it was the bread that filled many mouths. All the mournful pictures which are charged upon society have this one pervading feature, the weak sinking under the pressure of circumstances that are beyond their control. As long as this force of circumstances has no conscience, is out of view, has no duty or responsibility, it is a more dangerous power than the slave-owner’s. In a word, it is mere shortsightedness to talk of the power of the white man over the black in slavery, when the alternative is between that and competition between the races."

* "Temperance and the Drink Question."

For attitudes toward alcohol consumption and the roots of "prohibition," search: "drink question" or "temperance."

The temperance congress of 1862. Temperance Congress and National Temperance League [1862]; Drink, drunkenness and the drink traffic: an address to the inhabitants of Leeds. Being the essay which obtained the first prize offered by the Leeds Temperance Society by Dawson Burns [1862]; An inquiry into the reasons and results of the prescription of intoxicating liquors in the practice of medicine by Frederic Richard [1866]; Clerical testimony in favour of total abstinence: Being a series of papers reprinted [by permission] from the Church of England Temperance Magazine by William Tweedie [London, 1867]
“The Paris Commune”

The Paris Commune of 1871 followed the collapse of France in the Franco-Prussian War. It was heroic and short lived, an insurrectionary government in the heart of the capital. The ten-week episode of the Commune, which Gordon Wright calls bloodier than any other civil clash in modern French history, left a lasting imprint on the nation and on the international socialist movement.

Search: “La Commune de Paris”

Le livre noir de la Commune de Paris (dossier complet); L’Internationale dévoilée (Bruxelles, 1871);

Second siège de Paris: le Comité central et la Commune; journal anecdotique by Ludovic Hans (Paris, 1871);

Paris sous la Commune, 18 mars au 28 avril: précédé des commentaires d’un blessé by Édouard Moriac and Henri de Pène (Paris, 1872);

L’Internationale et le jacobinisme au ban de l’Europe by Oscar Testut (Paris, 1872);

Un prêtre et la Commune de Paris en 1871; récits historiques: par l’abbé G. Delmas (Paris, 1873);

Le fond de la société sous la Commune: décrit d’après les documents qui constituent les archives de la Justice militaire avec des événements qui ont précédé la Commune by C. A. Dauban (Paris, 1873);

La Commune de Paris: 18 mars [In verse]: Publiée par un groupe socialiste de San Francisco, Cal. by Eugène Pottier (San Francisco, 1877)

* “Marxism, Socialism, and the Rise of Labor parties.”

European Socialism in the 1880s

Mass parties based on working class participation, and inspired by revolutionary socialism, appeared in the 1880s and expanded with great speed into the twentieth century. In 1880 such parties hardly existed, with the exception of the German Social Democratic Party, which emerged as a political force in the 1870s. By 1906, mass labor and socialist parties were widespread. These developments may be traced in MOMW, Part III and Part IV. Search socialist thinkers, such as Marx, Proudhon, Fourier, Saint-Simon, and Robert Owen.

IV. Search socialist thinkers, such as Marx, Proudhon, Fourier, Saint-Simon, and Robert Owen.

Der moderne Socialismus: Karl Marx, die internationale Arbeiter-Association, Lassalle und die deutschen Socialisten: von Dr. Eugen Jäger (Berlin, 1873);

(illustrated above)

Le socialisme contemporain: par Émile de Laveleye (Paris, 1881); French and German socialism in modern times; by Richard T. Ely (New York, 1883);

Le collectivisme: examen critique du nouveau socialisme: par Paul Leroy-Beaulieu (Paris, 1884);

Three lectures on the beginnings of modern socialism: Delivered at the Summer Meeting of University Extension Students in Oxford, August, 1889 by Michael Sadler (Oxford, 1889).

Readers should keep in mind that the division at the year 1890, which separates the two University of London collections, is arbitrary. It was established only for purposes of production and development; otherwise, the archives would never have been created. Using both Part III and Part IV uncovers the full range of the Senate House archives.