

Was there a shift in power during the industrial period?

Key dates:	
1819	The Peterloo Massacre saw 60,000 people gather to campaign for parliamentary reform.
1830	The Swing Riots saw agricultural workers riot against mechanisation.
1832	The Great Reform Act gave many more people (men) the vote.
1836	The Chartists were founded.
1851	Harriet Taylor Mill and her husband John Stuart Mill wrote <i>The Enfranchisement of Women</i> .
1871	The Trade Union Act made trade unions legal for the first time.

Key terms:	
Franchise	The vote. If you are granted the franchise, you are given the right to vote.
Election	The event held to decide who will hold an important position, like the Prime Minister.
Chartist	Someone who campaigned for voting reform during the 19 th century.
Trade union	An organised group of workers who belong to the same industry.
Riot	A violent disturbance by a group or crowd.
Radical	Someone who holds beliefs that are considered revolutionary.
Six Acts	Laws introduced after the Peterloo Massacre (1819) to stop people meeting to discuss political reform.
Mechanisation	The introduction of machines to do work previously completed by people.
Enclosure	A portion of land that was restricted to use only by the landowner, rather than by the whole community.
Threshing machine	A power-driven machine used to separate the grain from corn or other crops.
Feminism	A movement that believes in female equality.

'The 1832 Reform Act didn't give 'power' to the middle classes. Britain was ruled for two generations after it by a parliament dominated by landowners and aristocrats. The same political parties - Liberal and Conservative - remained the contenders for political power... The women's suffrage campaign failed to thrive in the second half of the nineteenth century.'

Eric J. Evans, *Parliamentary Reform in Britain, 1770-1918* (2014).



Evidence that there was a shift in power during the industrial period:	Evidence that there was NOT a shift in power during the industrial period:
The Great Reform Act represented a landmark change, and throughout the 19 th century the vote was given to lots of men for the first time.	Though many more men had the vote, women continued to be sidelined from politics. Women were not granted the vote until the 20 th century.
Trade unions were permitted in the 19 th century, and increasingly represented the rights of working men.	The government continued to be dominated by wealthy men, and there was very little diversity in British politics.
Protests and riots like the Peterloo Massacre and the Chartist movement arguably encouraged the government to introduce political changes.	The authorities responded harshly to riots, punishing leaders and ignoring the protestors' rights and demands.