

## **Vignettes from British Social History**

**Written and Presented by Stuart Sherring**

Each week we explore a different topic unpicking the social, cultural and economic changes that have transformed Britain. My intention is to bring history alive in the context of the times and explore the effects on all strands of society.

We start in the Victorian period. Contemporary analysis is included, enabling us to make comparisons and track the linkages and legacies of events and decisions. As the saying goes, we are where we are – thanks to history, or in spite of.

- 1 Adult Education – Gasping for Life a Century Later**
- 2 The Growth and Decline of Cottonopolis**
- 3 Towards an Immigration Policy**
- 4 Manifestations of Class in 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Britain**
- 5 The Partition of India – A Simmering Volcano**
- 6 How Transport Revolutionised Work and Leisure**
- 7 Why Housing Policy Changed After World War 1**
- 8 The Beveridge Report – From Cradle to Grave**

The format is part presentational, allowing us time to assess any deeper aspects and to contribute own questions and archival history.

Each topic is about the same length to mesh with the 'session plan.' Prime references are shown at the end of each topic.

# Vignettes from British Social History

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- Victorian Laissez-Faire
- Apprenticeships
- Literary & Philosophical Societies
- Mechanics Institutes
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- Workers' Educational Association
- Purpose of Adult Education
- A Fundamental Shift
- Demise of the System

### 2. The Growth and Decline of Cottonopolis

- Access to Markets
- Spindle Capital of the World
- Famine to Feasting & Fasting
- The Depression Years in Blackburn
- A View from Burnley

### 3. Towards an Immigration Policy

- Stemming the Tide
- Tightening the System
- The Yellow Peril – from Limehouse to Liverpool
- A Sense of Nostalgia
- The Plight of Jewish-German Refugees
- Commonwealth Immigration
- The Price of Pragmatism
- Fighting Talk
- A Steady Relentless March
- Immigration Since 1997

### 4. Manifestations of Class in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

- Who Owned Britain
- Symptoms of Aristocratic Government
- Unpicking the Social Divide
- Discrimination and Bias in Education
- Demise of the English Country House

## **5. The Partition of India – A Simmering Volcano**

- A Backdrop to Partition
- Legacies of British Rule
- A Divided Nation by William Dalrymple
- Remaining in Denial by Yasmin Kahn

## **6. How Transport Revolutionised Work and Leisure**

- On the Right Tracks
- A Turn for the Worse
- Motoring for the Family
- Getting Away From it All

## **7. Why Housing Policy Changed After World War 1**

- Rebuilding National Life
- Homes Fit for Heroes
- The Addison Act 1919
- A Brief Study of Leeds
- A Home of Your Own
- Assessing Housing Demand

## **8. The Beveridge Report – From Cradle to Grave**

- A Biography of William
- Addressing the Five Great Evils
- Reactions to the Report
- Birth of the Modern Welfare State