



Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction

Christopher Harvie, Colin Matthew

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The nineteenth century was a time of massive growth for Britain. In 1800 it was overwhelmingly rural, agrarian, multilingual, and almost half-Celtic. A century later it was largely urban and English. The effects of the Industrial Revolution caused cities to swell enormously. London, for example, grew from about 1 million people to over 6 million. Abroad, the British Empire was reaching its apex, while at home the world came to marvel at the Great Exhibition of 1851 with its crowning achievement--the Crystal Palace. Historians Christopher Harvie and Colin Matthew present a comprehensive and authoritative guide to the social, economic, and political events that marked the era on which many believed the sun would never set.

Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction Details

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Daniel Wright says

I can't remember any particular details about the books that together make the *VSI* history of Britain series, but the series as a whole I can thoroughly recommend for a brief and insightful overview.

Steve Mitchell says

A really good introduction into this period of British history. There are better books out there that specialise in the many aspects of 19th century Britain; but reading this first will help you see the bigger picture.

Andy Emery says

Excellent concise introduction to the ("long") 19th century. Many themes explored for such a small book.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions #23), Christopher Harvie, Colin Matthew

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M. Ashraf says

This is not really a *VSI* history book on the 19th century Britain it is more of a commentary on the period. Unlike previous periods there are lots of specific political situations and laws that shaped the whole thing, but with no further details nor context. The monarchy had limited appearance in it and everything was left to the house and government.

The talks about The Industrial Revolution and the economical situation was good.
It is an O.K book but it is very short and need further readings like most books in the series.

Filipa says

A really nice overview of the nineteenth-century in Britain. College readings can be fun (!!) and this collection of very short introductions by Oxford is such a awesome idea/concept. I have taken a look at the list of books in the collection and there are a lot more I want to buy with some interesting themes.

Yuhan says

what the fuck. 'orrible.

Rose says

This book will, in very sweeping terms, let you know what you don't know about 19th century Britain. You then must go away and find some huge history book that will actually explain to you all the things that are mentioned in *this* book. Knowing what you don't know is better than not knowing what you don't know, so there's that to be said for this short—but not basic—work.

Michael Meeuwis says

For what I needed it to be--a guide to nineteenth-century Britain I could teach in one week, as part of a literature course--this was ideal. It's not good at what it isn't, a more in-depth account of anything. But this is an effective framework for other, more local discussions. Does what it says on the tin.

Celine says

Meh.

This Very Short Introduction focusses on the political history of Britain, and even then, does it pretty badly. Rather than providing a concise overview of the political climate, the writers too often resort to redundant detail and distracting asides. For someone interested in the cultural history, this book was basically useless. It also manages to almost completely gloss over the consequences of colonialism, while the subsection called "Women" contains just one page of text.

Christina Evans says

Small but densely packed with an overwhelming amount of detail, which does make sense as the book does cover an entire century. It could have benefited from a better editing, though. It did provide me with a better general knowledge of living standards and legislature and a grasp of just how little I actually know. Was useful in suggesting books and essays that I will seek out going forward.

Kelsey says

Good all-around intro (or a refresher). No muss no fuss.

Sam says

This book is truly an awful history book. It is by far the worst “Short Introduction” book I have read in the series. The writing really is all over the place with frequent distracting and confusing comments and asides. I think that it may be composed of sections taken from an earlier much larger book. I can only assume that had I had lived in Britain and studied its history for years I might have gotten all of its references. But then I would hardly need to read an introduction at that point would I.

Patrik says

I appreciate the thorough research behind this book. Although it's intended for general public, it's not superficial. I'd give it 5 stars if there was a bit more information about society and people as such (everyday life, workers' life, life in towns and cities, etc.).

Diana says

I still love the series, but I wasn't as big of a fan of this one. It's likely because I already knew quite a bit about this era in Britain. It was mostly a rehash of what I already knew with very little new information. However, I did find a few books in the bibliography that I hadn't had on my list of books to read yet so it wasn't a total loss. Hopefully, my library will get some more of this series in soon, I have requested a few, so I can continue reading more of these books. I haven't decided if it's worth buying the series or just the ones I really enjoyed. I do recommend the series if there is a specific subject you are interested in and just want some generic information about it.
