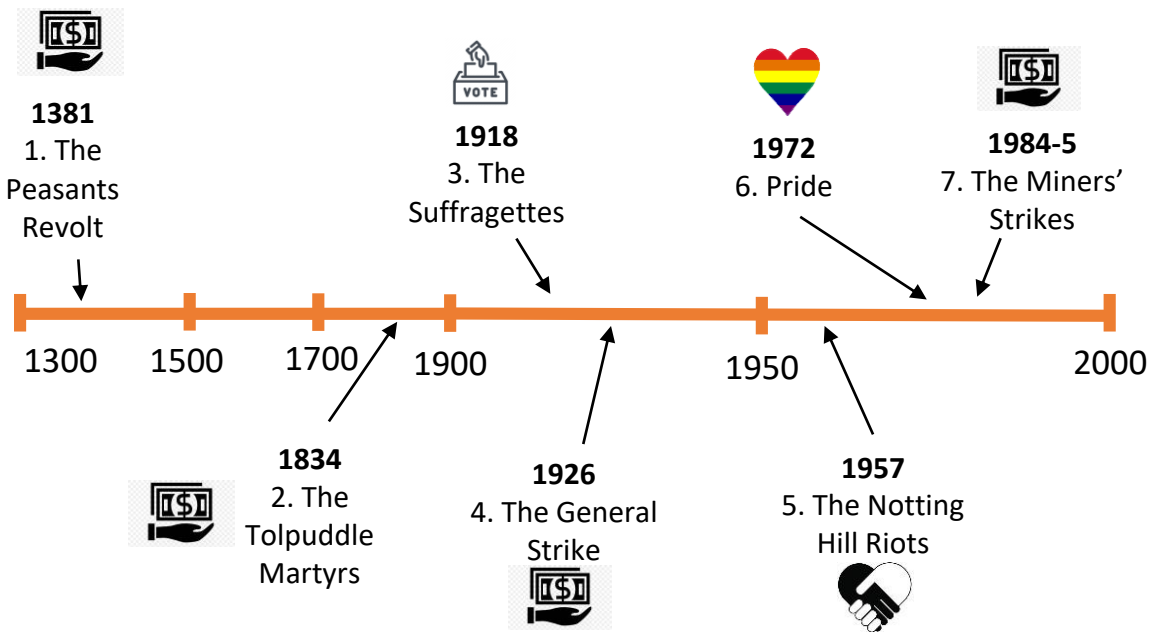




## How *significant* have British protests been in the fight for *equality*?



### The Peasants' Revolt 1381

#### Causes of the Revolt:

- Black Death = peasants had more power due to labour shortages.
- **Statute of Labourers (1351)** set a max wage for serfs to stop them moving about / gaining power.
- John Ball (since 1360) talked about 'throwing away the evil lords' in sermons. Preaching ideas of equality.
- King Richard II fought costly wars in France and lost lots of land.
- Charged four poll taxes over four years to pay for them.
- On 30 May 1381, Commissioner Thomas Bampton entered the village of Fobbing in Essex.
- His brutal methods made the villagers angry and – led by Thomas Baker, a landowner who helped start the revolt, they rioted. Soon both Essex and Kent were in revolt.

#### The Events:

1. Two groups of rebel peasants (one led by a man named Tyler Wat) marched to London to demand better conditions and an end to poll tax.
2. Freed John Ball – who had been imprisoned by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
3. When the peasants reached London, they had a large army of 50,000 men. They demanded a meeting with the King. The King saw the mob and ran away.
4. The King agreed to meet the mob a second time - and agreed to their demands. He promised to end feudalism, pardon the rebels and kill some of his advisors.
5. A scuffle began – we are not sure why. The peasant's leader (Tyler Wat) was killed and the crowd headed off.
6. Richard addressed the crowd and promised them freedom if they went home. The revolt was over.
7. Troops toured the villages hanging anyone involved in the revolt.

# The Tolpuddle Martyrs 1834

## Causes

### Long-Term

- Rural inequality. Landowners had huge amounts of land.
- 1829/30 poor harvests led to starvation.
- French Revolution spread ideas of equality and peasants overthrowing landowners.
- 1832 Reform Act gave vote to middle class – working-class wanted more power.
- Unions grew across the country.

### Short-Term

- 1830 Swing Riots – peasants revolted demanding better pay.
  - Wages raised -then cut after the rioting stopped.
- In response, 6 farmworkers in Dorset formed a trade union to protest 6 shillings a week (30p) + 3 wage cuts in 3 years.

## Events

- 6 farmworkers in Dorset formed a trade union to protest about low wages.
  - Swore an oath of secrecy / 'oath of solidarity'
  - Gave money in subscriptions
- James Frampton (local landowner) heard about it and told authorities.
- Tolpuddle Martyrs were imprisoned – and transported to Australia.
  - George Loveless – 'we raise the watchword, liberty. We will, we will, we will be free!'
- March 1834 – Grand Meeting of the Working Classes (Grand National Consolidated Trades Union – Robert Owen).
  - 10,000 people attended. Agreed to protest on behalf of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.
- London protests (800,000 strong petition) delivered to parliament protesting.
  - 100,000 people at Copenhagen Fields.
  - 5000 troops sent in.
  - Petitioned the Home Secretary – Lord Melbourne.
    - MPs petitioned parliament.
    - Next Home Secretary, Lord John Russell, freed them in 1836.
- The TU supported the Martyr's families – donations to keep them going.
- Men were returned home in 1838.

## Impacts

- The Tolpuddle Martyrs were greeted as heroes.
- Showed the Trade Unions had power. Working class people could organise peacefully.
  - BUT the Grand Consolidated Union collapsed a few times.
  - New farm workers' union founded later (Joseph Arch and George Mitchell).
- Parliament was for the first time governing in the interests of the **people – even those who didn't have the vote.**
- Poorest still had no voting rights.
  - This led to Chartism – a movement demanding democracy for all.

## 1918 Votes for Women



**Marr (2009)**– ‘There is a common belief that votes for women were won because of the Land Army girls and the female munitions workers; but this is wrong... the vote would have been won without the war. Indeed, probably the war delayed the breakthrough’.

**Skidelsky (2014)** – women winning the vote was ‘reward for war service’.



### Causes

#### Long-Term

- **Early movements for equality** in 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain had had growing success.
  - In 1882, The **Married Women’s Property Act** gave a woman rights over her own earnings and property. In 1894, the **Local Government Act** gave married women the right to vote in local elections.
- **National Union of Women’s Suffrage** founded in 1897 to merge all groups fighting peacefully for the vote for women.
  - Made alliances with MPs such as John Stuart Mill and Jacob Bright who fought in parliament for them.
  - Many bills introduced into parliament by these men between 1900 and 1914 but were all rejected.
- **Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU)** founded in 1903. Known as the suffragettes. Led by Emmeline Pankhurst. Believed in civil obedience and raised the profile of votes for women.
  - Emily Davidson famously threw herself under the King’s horse at Epsom Derby and died putting a banner on the horse saying ‘Votes for Women’.
- **World War One** broke out in 1914 and women worked in all jobs. MPs believed they had won the right to the vote.
- Opponents of votes for women gradually left parliament.

#### Short-Term

- Original Prime Minister (Asquith) was against votes for women. Was replaced by David Lloyd George in 1916.
- Set up a ‘Speakers Conference’ which recommended giving votes to working-class men and women.

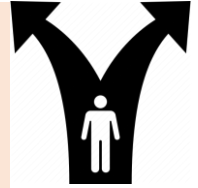
### Events

- 1918 Representation of the People Act passed.
  - Gave votes to all men and women over the age of 30.
  - Women were not politically equal to men until 1928.

## 1926 General Strike



**K. Laybourne: (1993):** ‘in no significant way could the General Strike be considered a *turning point...* in British industrial history’.



### Causes

#### Long-Term

- Poor conditions of coal miners. Worked long hours in terrible conditions.
- Germany starts exporting cheaper coal to Britain – companies have to cut costs by reducing wages.

#### Short-Term

- Royal Commission set-up under Baldwin. Recommends companies cut wages – nothing else to do.
- The National Coal Board decide to increase shifts to 8 hours a day and decrease pay.
- 1926 TUC calls a general strike. 1.75m workers strike (of all unions).

### Events

- ‘Not a penny off the pay, not a minute on the day’.
- TUC goes on strike with 1.75m refusing to work across the country.
- Government got volunteers (e.g. policeman, soldiers, Cambridge grads) to run buses and trains. 0.5m ‘middle class’ people helped out. Like the ‘spirit of the war’ – Marr.
- 5 days of striking, London running low on flour and wheat. Unloaded it off the ships onto trucks without interference – no violence.
  - Strikes broke down – too democratic!

### Impacts

- Mine Owners won - Wages were cut.
- No violence! No revolutionary temper to Britain.
- Less TUC members – but rose thereafter.

### Different types of factors:



SOCIAL



ECONOMIC



POLITICAL

# 1958 Notting Hill Riots



## Causes

### Long-Term

- 1950s North Kensington was a poor area of London. High crime, shortage of housing.
- High amounts of migration to the area (Wind Rush generation – Afro-Caribbean).
  - **British Nationality Act 1948** allowed British Empire subjects to live and work in the UK with no visa. (wanted to fill gaps in labour force e.g. NHS nurses).
  - 1948 Empire Windrush took migrants to UK from the Caribbean.
  - 1961 – UK had a 100,000 Caribbean population.
- Racist groups appeared – British Union of Fascists (Oswald Mosely): ‘Keep Britain White’
- The government took little action.

### Short-Term

- 1958 ‘Teddy Boys’ (white youths) began attacking Caribbean people and properties.
- August 24<sup>th</sup> 1958, 9 Teddy Boys attacked five Afro-Caribbean men and left three injured.

## Events

- August 30<sup>th</sup> 1958 – crowd of white youths (400) chased Caribbean population around Notting Hill.
- Caribbean population responded by arming (iron bars, butchers knives).
- Rioting stopped after a week. 140 arrested – mainly white.
  - Met Police denied the racism undertones. Said it was the work of "ruffians, both coloured and white".
- Arrests: 72 white, 36 ‘coloured’.

## Impacts

- Growing distrust between Metropolitan Police and Caribbean community who felt that the police had ignored the racist problems.
- A 2002 police report showed that the riots were the result of ‘nigger hunting’ by white youths. Deliberate attacks on the Caribbean community based on the colour of their skin.
- The Notting Hill Carnival was founded as a direct response – a way to celebrate the community for its diversity.

# London Pride Festival 1972

## Causes

### Long-Term

- **Changing attitudes to homosexuality:**
  - Male homosexuality was outlawed in 1885. (even in private). Female never outlawed – assumed it was few and far between.
  - Growing number of men in jail for homosexuality (1,069 men in 1954, average age 37).
  - Wolfenden Report 1954: ‘homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence’ AND found it was not a ‘disease’.
- **Sexual Offences Act 1967:** legalised homosexual acts, if in private between two men over the age of 21 (consenting).
  - Only lowered to 18 in 1994, then 16 in 2000 (alongside hetro).
  - Still outlaws ‘gross indecency’ – being gay in public potentially.
- **Stonewall Riots / Rebellion** - June 28<sup>th</sup> 1969 – eight officers in NY raid Stonewall Inn (Gay Bar). Bar owners fought back – throwing shot glasses. Riots ensued.
  - Police barricaded themselves in the inn. 6 day protest.
  - Media coverage of Stonewall raised profile of gay rights.
- **Gay Liberation Front founded in London at LSE in 1970.**

### Short-Term

- 1 year anniversary of Stonewall – ‘gay freedom marches’ in LA, San Fran, Chicago.
- Raise awareness of gay rights / marriage equality / AIDs epidemic.
  - Became ‘Pride’.
  - 1972 London followed USA with Pride Festival organised by the GLF.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> July chosen close to Stonewall Rebellion. 2000 people took part.
- Today it is an annual event all over the world. (early July in London). More than 1m now.

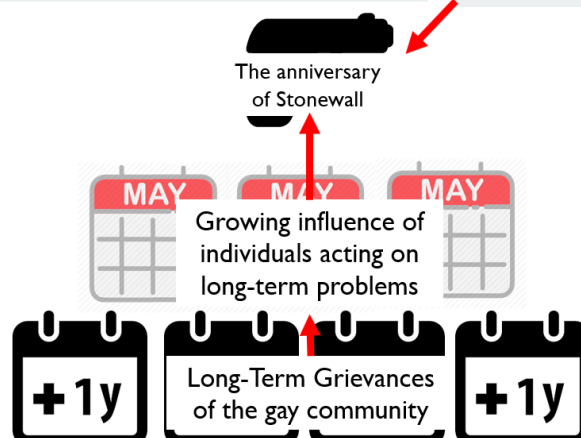
## How do factors cause something?

Explains **why** it happened when it did!

TRIGGER

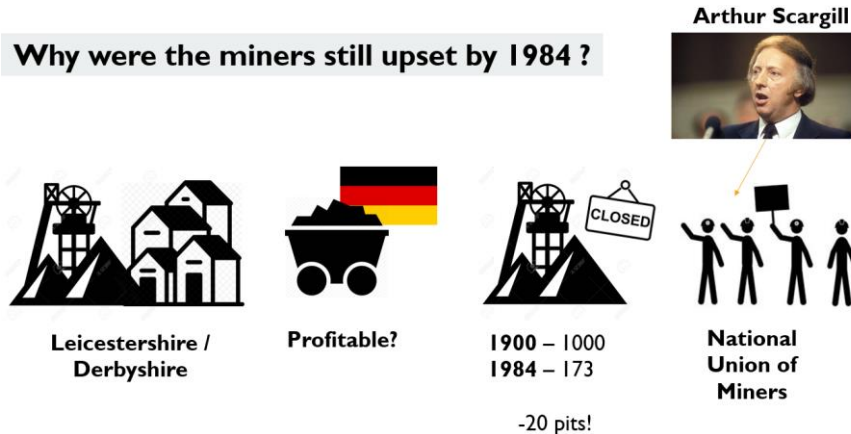
SHORT-TERM

LONG-TERM



# The Miners' Strikes 1984-5

## Why were the miners still upset by 1984 ?



## Causes

### Long-Term

- Gradual closing of pits – coal cheaper from elsewhere. Mining companies aren't profitable anymore.
  - More than 1000 in 20<sup>th</sup> century. By 1984 173 remaining.
  - Owned and ran by government (National Coal Board).
- Successful past strikes:
  - E.g. 1974 brought down Heath's government. (demanded wage increases to meet inflation).
- Role of Scargill. Head of NUM 1981
  - Communist, head of National Union of Miners.
- Thatcher disliked the MUN and prepared for a strike for years.

### Short-Term

- March 1984 – 187,000 miners strike with the National Coal Board announcing 20 pits closing (20,000 jobs lost). Strike to ensure no coal mines closed.

## Events

- March 1984 – 187,000 miners strike with the National Coal Board announcing 20 pits closing (20,000 jobs lost).
  - Create picket lines. Branded 'scabs' if you continued to work.
- 72% voted AGAINST striking... so Scargill got them to strike individually.
  - 4 / 5 ended up on strike – seeing the treatment of others.
  - Started with militant pits. Spread as people became sympathetic.
- Government had stockpiled coal and prepped the police to deal with riots.
- Battle of Orgreave 18<sup>th</sup> June 1984: clash between miners and police. 72 police injured.
- 11,000 arrested. 5,000 stood trial for offences.
  - Miners lost money by striking – but stood in solidarity. Sold furniture to pay for it.
    - Taxi driver taking a 'scab' miner to work was killed when a block of concrete was dropped on his car.
  - 10 months of striking! Had to go back to work.

## Impacts

- Huge drop in union membership – 55% (1979) to 31% by 1993.
- Only handful of 200,000 miners left in the UK (2,000).