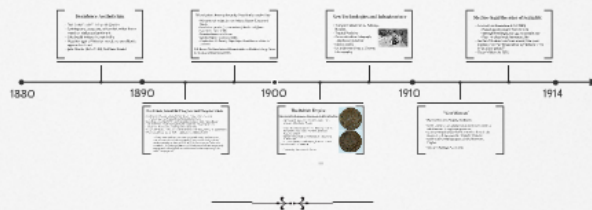


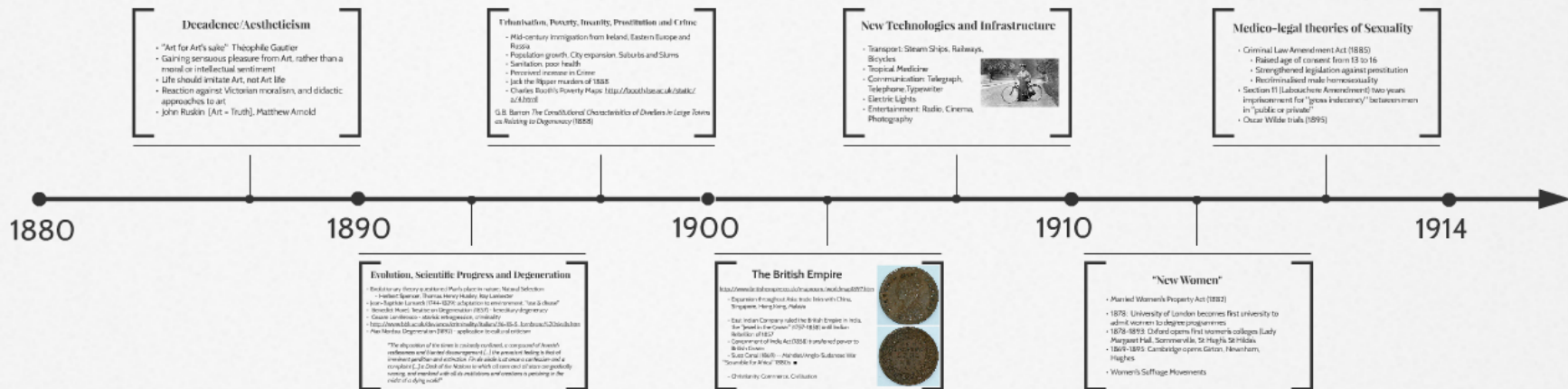
EN278: Ends and Beginnings



Why this period?

- *Fin de siècle*
- Long 19th
- Victorian (1837-1901) /Edwardian (1901-1910)
- Transitory period in culture, literature, & art
- Institutionalization/specialization of disciplines
- Anxiety

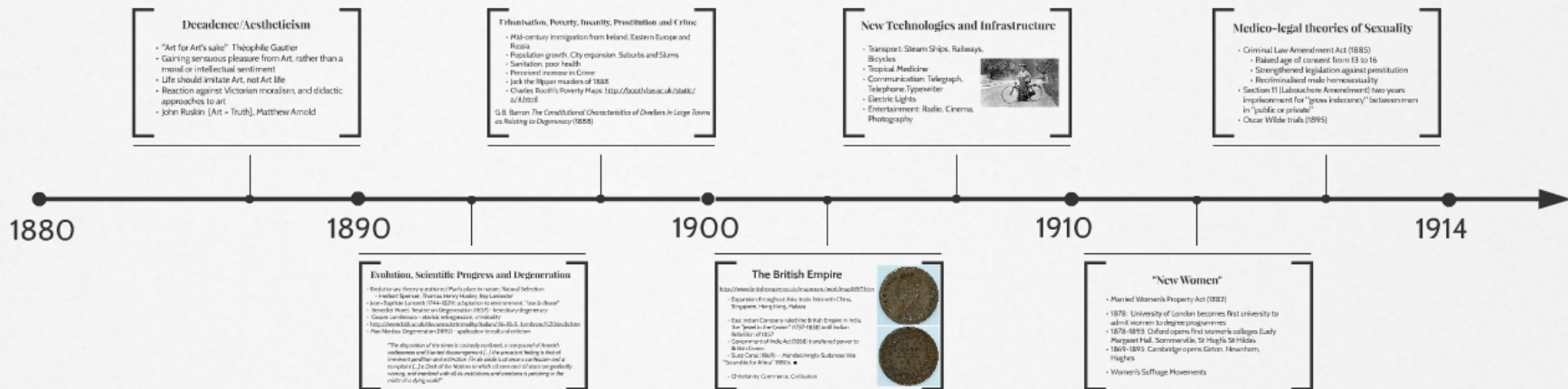
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Decadence/Aestheticism

- "Art for Art's sake" Théophile Gautier
- Gaining sensuous pleasure from Art, rather than a moral or intellectual sentiment
- Life should imitate Art, not Art life
- Reaction against Victorian moralism, and didactic approaches to art
- John Ruskin [Art = Truth], Matthew Arnold

Evolution, Scientific Progress and Degeneration

- Evolutionary theory questioned Man's place in nature; Natural Selection
 - Herbert Spencer, Thomas Henry Huxley, Ray Lankester
- Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744-1829): adaptation to environment, "use & disuse"
- Benedict Morel: Treatise on Degeneration (1857) - hereditary degeneracy
- Cesare Lombroso - atavistic retrogression, criminality
- http://www.bbk.ac.uk/deviance/criminality/italian/36-18-5_lombroso%20skulls.htm
- Max Nordau: Degeneration (1892) - application to cultural criticism

"The disposition of the times is curiously confused, a compound of feverish restlessness and blunted discouragement [...] the prevalent feeling is that of imminent perdition and extinction. Fin de siècle is at once a confession and a complaint [...] a Dusk of the Nations in which all suns and all stars are gradually waning, and mankind with all its institutions and creations is perishing in the midst of a dying world."

Urbanisation, Poverty, Insanity, Prostitution and Crime

- Mid-century immigration from Ireland, Eastern Europe and Russia
- Population growth, City expansion, Suburbs and Slums
- Sanitation, poor health
- Perceived increase in Crime
- Jack the Ripper murders of 1888
- Charles Booth's Poverty Maps: <http://booth.lse.ac.uk/static/a/4.html>

G.B. Barron *The Constitutional Characteristics of Dwellers in Large Towns as Relating to Degeneracy* (1888)

The British Empire

<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/maproom/worldmap1897.htm>

- Expansion throughout Asia: trade links with China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaya
- East Indian Company ruled the British Empire in India, the "Jewel in the Crown" (1757-1858) until Indian Rebellion of 1857
- Government of India Act (1858) transferred power to British Crown
- Suez Canal (1869) -- Mahdist/Anglo-Sudanese War
- "Scramble for Africa" 1880s 🌍
- Christianity, Commerce, Civilisation







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New Technologies and Infrastructure

- Transport: Steam Ships, Railways, Bicycles
- Tropical Medicine
- Communication: Telegraph, Telephone, Typewriter
- Electric Lights
- Entertainment: Radio, Cinema, Photography



"New Women"

- Married Women's Property Act (1882)
- 1878: University of London becomes first university to admit women to degree programmes
- 1878-1893: Oxford opens first women's colleges (Lady Margaret Hall, Sommerville, St Hugh's St Hilda's)
- 1869-1895: Cambridge opens Girton, Newnham, Hughes
- Women's Suffrage Movements

Medico-legal theories of Sexuality

- Criminal Law Amendment Act (1885)
 - Raised age of consent from 13 to 16
 - Strengthened legislation against prostitution
 - Recriminalised male homosexuality
- Section 11 (Labouchere Amendment) two years imprisonment for "gross indecency" between men in "public or private"
- Oscar Wilde trials (1895)

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