

## Important Events of Victorian Era

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- 1832** Passage of the first [Reform Act](#).
- 1838** [Treaty of Balta Liman](#) (Great Britain trade alliance with the [Ottoman Empire](#))
- 1837** Ascension of Queen Victoria to the throne.
- 1839** [First Opium War](#) (1839–42) fought between [Britain](#) and [China](#).
- 1840** [Queen Victoria](#) marries [Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld](#). He had been [naturalised](#) and granted the British style of *Royal Highness* beforehand. For the next 17 years, he was known as *HRH* Prince Albert.
- 1840** [New Zealand](#) becomes a British colony, through the [Treaty of Waitangi](#). No longer part of New South Wales
- 1841** Birth of the Queen's heir-apparent *The Prince Albert Edward, Duke of Cornwall (Duke of Rothesay)*. He was swiftly made *Prince of Wales*. Sir [James Brooke](#) founds the [White Rajah](#) dynasty of [Sarawak](#).
- 1842** [Treaty of Nanking](#). The [Massacre of Elphinstone's Army](#) by the [Afghans](#) in Afghanistan results in the death or incarceration of 16,500 soldiers and civilians. The [Mines Act of 1842](#) banned women/children from working in coal, [iron](#), lead and [tin](#) mining. *The Illustrated London News* was first published.
- 1845** The [Irish famine](#) begins. Within 5 years it would become the UK's [worst human disaster](#), with starvation and emigration reducing the population of Ireland itself by over 50%. The famine permanently changed Ireland's and Scotland's demographics and became a rallying point for nationalist sentiment that pervaded British politics for much of the following century.
- 1846** Repeal of the [Corn Laws](#).
- 1848** Death of around 2,000 people a week in a [cholera](#) epidemic.
- 1850** Restoration of the [Roman Catholic](#) hierarchy in England and Wales. (Scotland did not follow until 1858.)
- 1851** [The Great Exhibition](#) (the first World's Fair) is held at the Crystal Palace with great success and international attention. The [Victorian gold rush](#). In ten years the Australian population nearly tripled.
- 1854** [Crimean War](#): The United Kingdom declares war on [Russia](#).
- 1857** The [Indian Mutiny](#), a widespread revolt in [India](#) against the rule of the [British East India Company](#), is sparked by [sepoys](#) (native Indian soldiers) in the Company's army. The rebellion, involving not just sepoys but many sectors of the Indian population as well, is largely quashed within a year. In response to the [mutiny](#), the East India Company is abolished in August 1858 and India comes under the direct rule of the [British crown](#), beginning the period of the [British Raj](#). [Prince Albert](#) is given the title *The Prince Consort*

- 1858** The [Prime Minister](#), Lord Palmerston, responds to the [Orsini plot](#) against French emperor [Napoleon III](#), the bombs for which were purchased in [Birmingham](#), by attempting to make such acts a [felony](#); the resulting uproar forces him to resign.
- 1859** [Charles Darwin](#) publishes *[On the Origin of Species](#)*. Victoria and Albert's first grandchild, Prince Wilhelm of Prussia, is born — he later became [William II, German Emperor](#). [John Stuart Mill](#) publishes *[On Liberty](#)*, a defense of the famous [harm principle](#).
- 1861** Death of [Prince Albert](#); Queen Victoria refuses to go out in public for many years, and when she did she wore a widow's [bonnet](#) instead of the crown.
- 1863** [The Prince of Wales](#) marries [Princess Alexandra of Denmark](#) at [Windsor](#).
- 1865** [Lewis Carroll](#)'s *[Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#)* is published.
- 1866** An angry crowd in London protests against [John Russell](#)'s resignation as Prime Minister, and is barred from [Hyde Park](#) by the [police](#). Disturbances like this convince Derby and Disraeli of the need for further parliamentary reform.
- 1867** The [Constitution Act, 1867](#) passes and [British North America](#) becomes [Dominion of Canada](#).
- 1870** Under the [Elementary Education Act 1870](#), basic [State Education](#) becomes free for every child under the age of 10.
- 1875** Britain purchased [Egypt](#)'s shares in the [Suez Canal](#) as the African nation was forced to raise money to pay off its [debts](#).
- 1876** Scottish-born inventor [Alexander Graham Bell](#) patents the telephone.
- 1878** [Treaty of Berlin \(1878\)](#). [Cyprus](#) becomes a [Crown colony](#). First incandescent [light bulb](#) by [Joseph Wilson Swan](#).
- 1879** The [Battle of Isandlwana](#) is the first major encounter in the [Anglo-Zulu War](#).
- 1881** The British suffer defeat at the [Battle of Majuba Hill](#), leading to the signing of a peace treaty and later the [Pretoria Convention](#), between the British and the reinstated [South African Republic](#), ending the [First Boer War](#). Sometimes claimed to mark the beginning of the decline of the [British Empire](#).
- 1882** [British troops](#) begin the [occupation of Egypt](#) by taking the Suez Canal, to secure the vital [trade route](#) and passage to India, and the country becomes a [protectorate](#).
- 1884** The [Fabian Society](#) is founded in London by a group of middle class intellectuals, including [Quaker Edward R. Pease](#), [Havelock Ellis](#), and [E. Nesbit](#), to promote socialism.
- 1886** Prime Minister [William Ewart Gladstone](#) and the Liberal Party tries passing the [First Irish Home Rule Bill](#), but the [House of Commons](#) rejects it.
- 1888** The [serial killer](#) known as [Jack the Ripper](#) murders and mutilates five (and possibly more) prostitutes on the streets of London. Victoria's eldest daughter, the Princess Royal, becomes German Empress when her husband succeeds as [Frederick III, German Emperor](#). Within months, Frederick dies, and their son becomes [William II, German Emperor](#). The widowed Vicky becomes the [Dowager Empress](#) as is known as "Empress Frederick".

- 1889** Emily Williamson founds the [Society for the Protection of Birds](#)
- 1893** [The Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh](#) succeeds as [Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha](#) when his uncle dies. The Duchy skips over [The Prince of Wales](#) due to his renunciation of his succession rights to that Duchy.
- 1898** British and Egyptian troops led by [Horatio Kitchener](#) defeat the [Mahdist](#) forces at the battle of Omdurman, thus establishing British dominance in the [Sudan](#). Winston Churchill takes part in the British cavalry charge at Omdurman.
- 1899** The [Second Boer War](#) is fought between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics.
- 1901** The death of Victoria sees the end of this era. The ascension of her eldest son, Edward, begins the [Edwardian era](#) (1901-1914); albeit considerably shorter, this was another time of great change.