THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

The French Revolution was followed by Napoleon's ascent.

In 1773 France declared war and Britain decided to fight France at sea. Britain has always had the supremacy on sea so it was advantaged.

The great hero of the British navy was Admiral Horatio Nelson who destroyed the French-Spanish fleet off Cape Trafalgar in 1805.

Napoleon was total defeat in 1815 during the Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium. The British troops, commanded by Arthur Wellesley overcome Napoleon who was occupied by the disastrous invasion of Russia.

The war produced many financial costs that Britain had to pay and for this reason, despite the victory Britain had gained relatively little from a long and exhausting war.

In 1807 Romantics bring on the idea to abolish slave-trading.

Also the inhuman working conditions in factories and severe employment, arising both by the increasing use of machinery, led to outbursts of machine-breaking, culminating in the Luddite riots. The Luddites caused so much alarm.

In 1819, during a peaceful public meeting in Manchester, soldiers fired into a crowed and eleven people were killed in the so-called "Peterloo Massacre".

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Si viene a costruire un nuova classe sociale working class che si organizza in gruppi (illegali inizialmente, solo poi nel 900 i sindacati saranno accettati come parte del sistema sociale. Fino a quel punto però ci furono molti massacri come il "Peterloo Massacre") per vedere i propri diritti riconosciuti.

The period after the end of the Napoleonic wars was called "the Regency", since the Prince Regent (George IV). In 1830 William Iv succeeded his brother and his short reign saw a new political awareness, leading to a new age of reforms. This was the background when Queen Victoria amended the throne in 1837.

L'età vittoriana prende il nome dalla regina Vittoria. La ferrovia è un'icona del vittorianesimo.