



DICKENS' STORIES IN OUR DAYS

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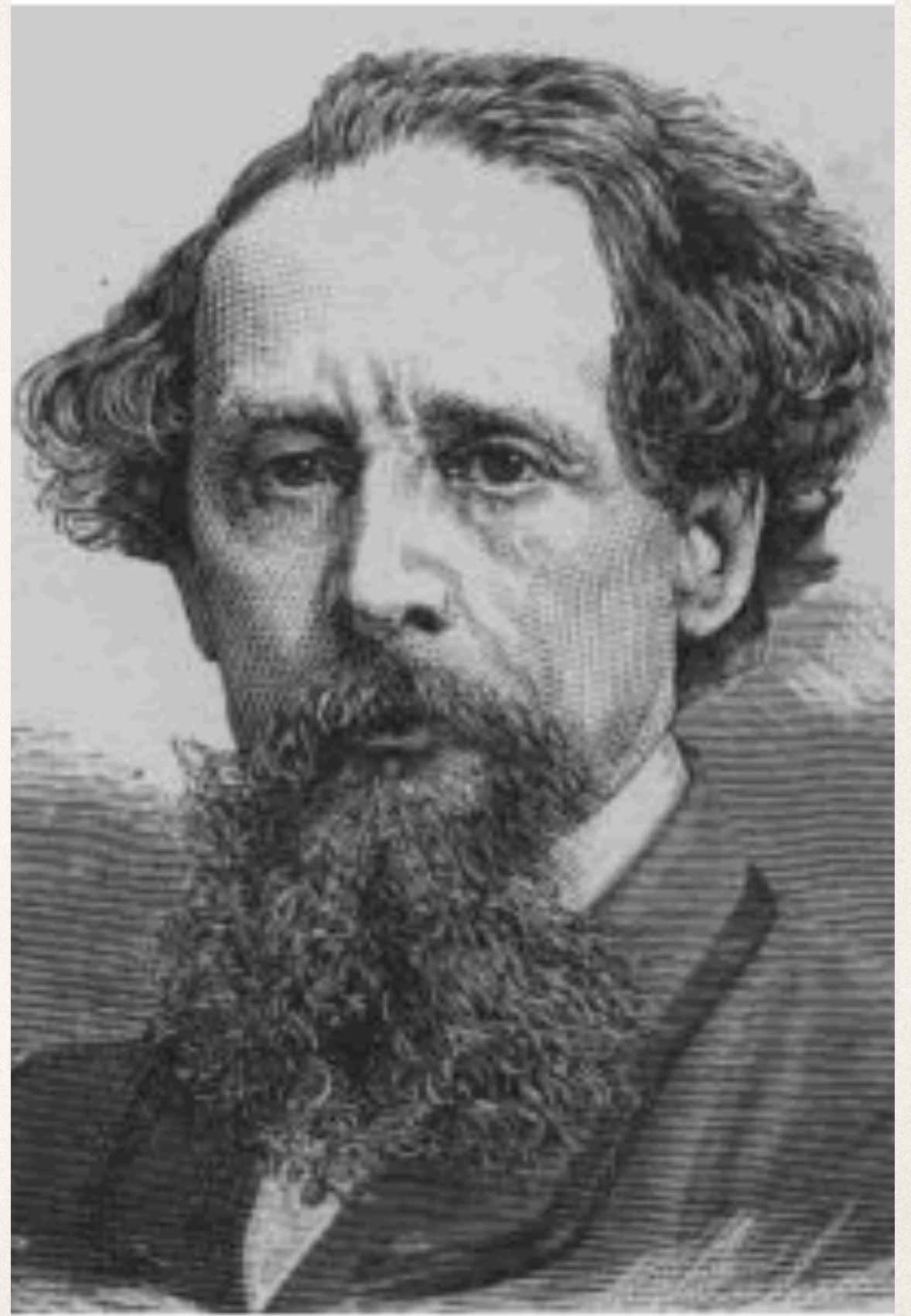
Thursday 5 March 15

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Dickens as Social Commentator and Critic

- ❖ He was one of the most important social commentators who used fiction effectively to criticize economic, social, and moral abuses in the Victorian era.
- ❖ Dickens developed a strong social conscience.
- ❖ Dickens showed compassion and empathy and he contributed to several important social reforms.

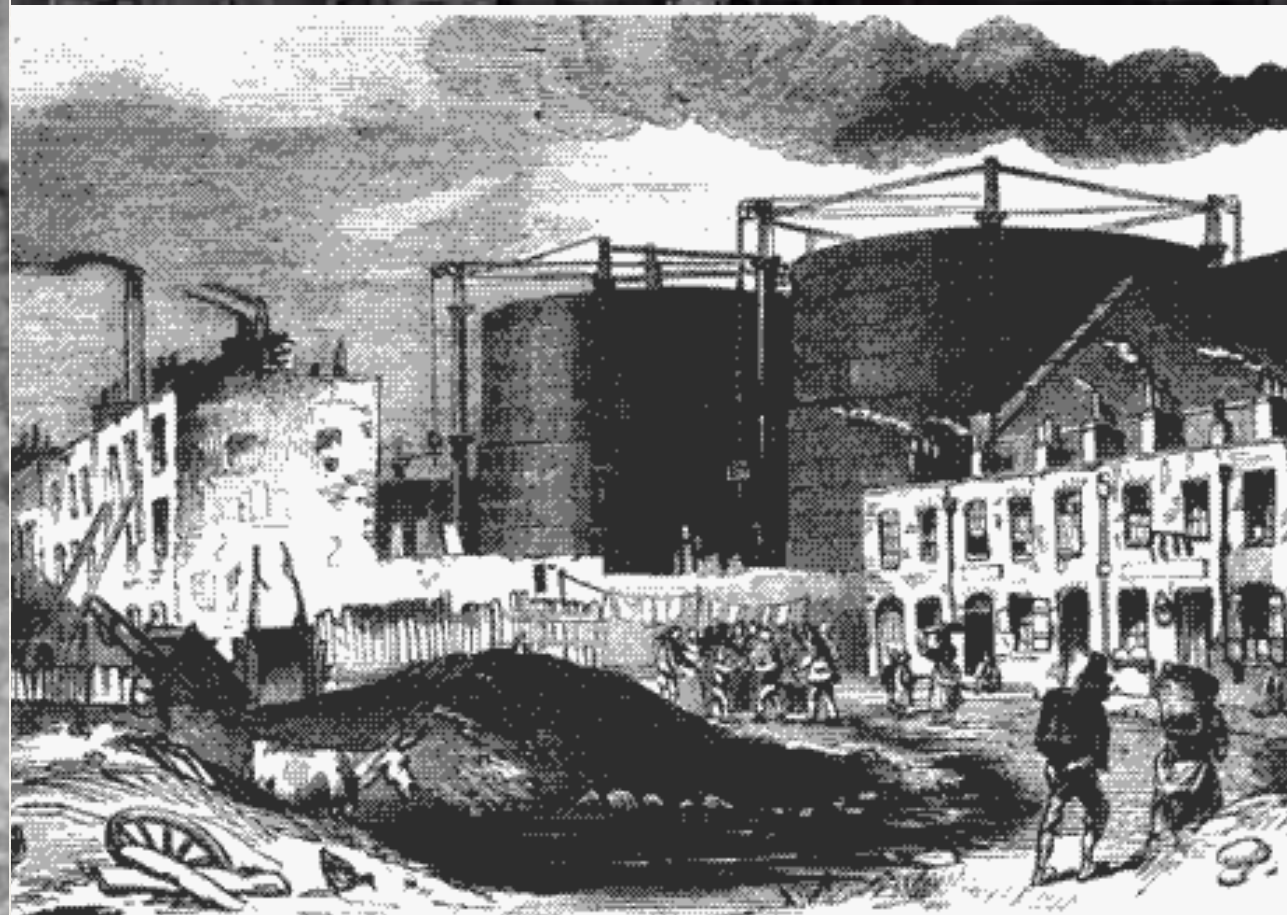


Dickens as Social Commentator and Critic

- ❖ Dickens believed in the ethical and political potential of literature.
- ❖ He treated his fiction as a springboard for debates about moral and social reform.
- ❖ Indirectly, he contributed to a series of legal reforms.



ss, National Child Labor Committee Collection, Lewis W. Hine



The condition of England

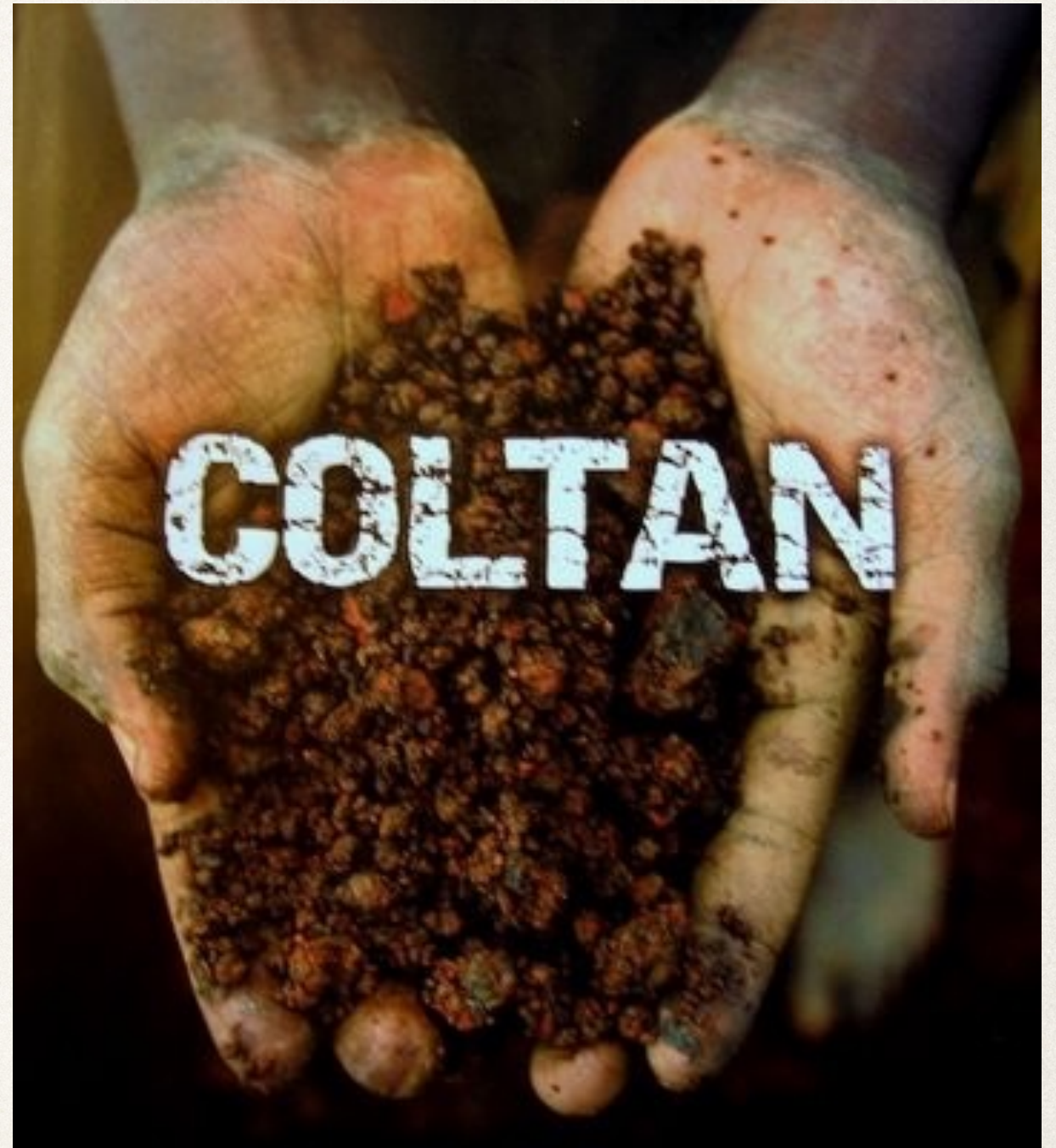
- ❖ *Oliver Twist* (1837-39) represents a radical change in Dickens's themes.
- ❖ In *Oliver Twist* Dickens presents a portrait of the macabre childhood of a considerable number of Victorian orphans.
- ❖ In *Hard Times* human relationships are contaminated by economics.
- ❖ Dickens is concerned with the conditions of the urban labourers and the excesses of laissez-fair capitalism.

Why Charles Dickens speak to us

- ❖ We may no longer live in Victorian times, but the human story has hardly changed.
- ❖ Yes we may have tablets and smartphones now but somewhere people are still working on miserable wages as they manufacture these.
- ❖ Child worker exploitation is still a reality right here in India.
- ❖ The bleak times of his works are still just as relevant in today's world. We still live in Dickensian times.

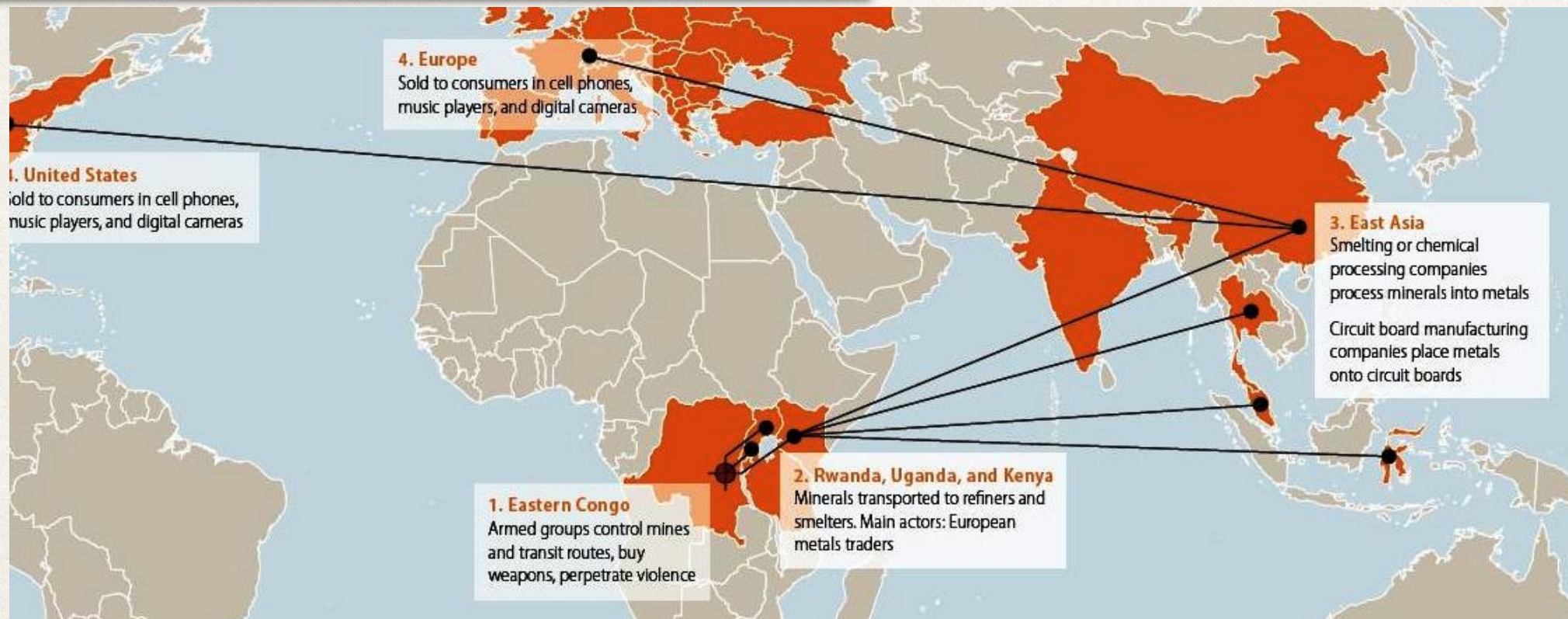
Coltan Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- ❖ Coltan is the name for columbo - tantalite mined in Africa.
- ❖ It is a crucial raw material for the production of modern electronics.
- ❖ Outside of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, coltan mining takes place in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Burundi, and Rwanda
- ❖ The extraction of coltan is a process that heavily influences the surrounding environment



Coltan Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- ❖ Mining for coltan is such a profitable industry, compared to other opportunities in the DRC, that workers are willing to compromise their human rights.
- ❖ Child labor is an increasing problem in the region. Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo are leaving their studies, often with their families, while embracing the 'get-rich-quick' attitude of much of the population.
- ❖ The primary motivation for this invasion was to gain control of the abundance of natural resources the country was known to obtain.
- ❖ These rebel groups are motivated more by economic reasons than the pursuit of political standards.



“Everything that happens shows beyond mistake that you can’t shut out the world; that you are in it, to be of it; that you get yourself into a false position the moment you try to sever yourself from it; that you must mingle with it, and make the best of it, and make the best of yourself into bargain”.

Charles Dickens