**5HUM0325 Peace Power and Prosperity: lecture 7: trade unions**

Purposes of trade unions:

1.

2.

3.

**Combination Acts 1799-1800** (repealed 1824-5)

Luddism 1811-13

Large strikes in cotton industry in 1818 and 1826

1829 – General Union of the Operative Spinners formed under leadership of John Doherty, and 1830 National Association for the Protection of Labour

Grand National Consolidated Trade Union in 1830s

‘Ten Hour’ campaign in the 1820s and 1830s –

**Factory Act 1833** - No children were to work in factories under the age of nine. A maximum working week of 48 hours was set for those aged 9 to 13, limited to eight hours a day; and for children between 13 and 18 it was limited to 12 hours daily. The Act also required children under 13 to receive elementary schooling for two hours each day.

**1842 Mines Act -** No female or boys under 10 years old was to be employed underground

1834 – Tolpuddle ‘martyrs’

1842 – ‘Plug’ riots/strike

‘new model unions’ from the 1850s

Amalgamated Society of Engineers

1853 – Amalgamated Society of Cotton Spinners

1858 – National Miners’ Association

**1852 Industrial and Provident Societies Act**

**1855 Friendly Societies Act**

**1860 – Miners’ Regulation Act**

1860 London Trades Council

**1867 revision of Master and Servants Law**

1868 – start of annual Trades Union Congresses

1871 – Liberals banned peaceful picketing – restored by the Conservatives in 1875

1889 – London Dock Strike

1888 – Lib-Lab electoral candidates – first was Keir Hardle for Mid-Lanark

January 1893 – Independent Labour Party founded in Bradford

1895 – general election – all 28 ILP candidates defeated. 12 Lib-Lab MPs

1897-8 – Engineers lock out

February 1900 – TUC called a conference in London at which the Labour Representation Committee was formed – 353,070 members from affiliated unions.

1901 – Taff Vale case

1906 – general election – 56 representatives of labour elected, 29 of them from LRC. LRC had 1 million members and all the large unions apart from miners, who joined in 1909.

1910 – general election – Labour fought 78 seats and took 38.4% of the votes in those constituencies.

**Historiography –**

Fabian and Socialist histories:

* Sidney and Beatrice Webb, *History of Trade Unionism* (1894)
* John and Barbara Hammond, *The Town Labourer* (1920)
* Henry Pelling, *A Short History of British Trade Unionism* (1984)
* Eric Hobsbawm, *Worlds of Labour* (1984)

New approaches in 1980s and 1990s:

* - international comparisons
* - class as not the only form of identity – culture, gender

Working class culture – e.g. Patrick Joyce, *Visions of the People* (1993)