

Charles  
1764



Grey  
- 1845

# The Grey Family



# Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire



# Reform Act 1832

**Great Reform Act ANALYSIS: Why was the Great Reform Act passed in 1832?**

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### Great Reform Act 1832

- ❑ **Franchise**
  - ✓ About four men out of every 100 could now vote. (This was twice as many as before. Although men had to own an amount of land to vote.)
  - ✗ But, no women could vote.
- ❑ **Constituency boundaries**
  - ✓ Big industrial towns such as Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool got their own MPs.
- ❑ **Rotten Boroughs**
  - ✓ Most MPs lost their rotten boroughs ending the practice.
- ❑ **Secret Ballot**
  - ✗ This was not changed, and MPs could still bribe voters.

### Great Reform Act

The Great Reform Act was a game changer. Some at the time thought it went too far in it's changes. Others thought it didn't go far enough.

But what is certain, is that this is a key milestone in the development of modern democracy.



## Reform Bill of 1832

- ❑ Bill was initially rejected by the House of Commons
- ❑ A new election was held and the bill was passed in the House of Commons, but rejected in the House of Lords
- ❑ Riots broke out in several cities
- ❑ Great Reform Bill was passed in 1832 with the help of King William IV
  - He created enough new peers in the House of Lords to assure passage of a third reform bill

# The Reform Act 1832



## Reform Bill of 1832

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- Provisions:
  - Increased number of voters by about 50%
    - \*About 12% of adult men
  - Extended the right to vote to middle-class men and some substantial farmers
    - \*Property qualifications continued to bar many from voting, however
  - Deprived rotten and pocket boroughs of their seats in the House of Commons
  - New industrial areas gained representation

**A man ought not to be governed by laws, in the framing of which he had not a voice, either in person or by his representative, and that he ought not to be made to pay any tax to which he should not have consented in the same way.**

**Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey**

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# Grey's Monument, Newcastle





Charles  
1764



Grey  
- 1845

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Grey. Maybe of the famous tea, but opinions differ on this.
- Born in 1764 in a long-established Northumbrian family, educated at Richmond School, Eton and Cambridge.
- Entered politics as MP for Northumberland in 1786. He became a part of the Charles Fox, Sheridan and Prince of Wales set.
- An advocate of both Parliamentary reform and Catholic Emancipation.
- Although he was Foreign Secretary during the Ministry of all the Talents under Grenville, his opinions did not appeal to George IV and he then did not hold further office until he was appointed as PM by William IV upon Wellington's resignation over Parliamentary Reform.

## The Grey Family



He married Mary Ponsonby in 1794, a union which produced 10 sons and 6 daughters,

## Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire



Before his marriage to Mary Ponsonby, he had a serious affair with Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire, which resulted in an illegitimate daughter, Eliza Courtney, who was raised by his parents. Georgiana's marriage only just survived this.


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- Grey's term as Prime Minister saw the passing of the Great Reform Act, 1832, and the Slavery Abolition Act, 1833, as well as the establishing of the colony of South Australia.
- He resigned in July 1834 as a result of infighting within his Government over Ireland that led to various resignations and spats between the Lords and the Commons.

# The Reform Act 1832

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- Unlike most politicians, he seems to have genuinely preferred a private life; colleagues remarked caustically that he threatened to resign at every setback.
- He returned to Howick, his house in Northumberland, but made just one last speech, in Edinburgh in September that year.
- Thereafter he spent his time with his books, his family and his dogs, before he died quietly in his bed in 1845.

## Grey's Monument, Newcastle



- Grey's Monument and Grey Street in Newcastle are named for him, as well as Grey's College in Durham (he had supported the 1832 Act of Parliament that established the University).