

'The Victorians' by A.N. Wilson: An excellent overview of the Victorian era, although the emphasis is definitely from an English perspective with a chapter which includes the question of Irish Home Rule and Parnell. Plenty of politics, personalities, conflict, culture and the Empire. Social issues were covered less than the group felt they warranted. We thought that Elizabeth Gaskell's novel "Mary Barton" would give readers a more authentic picture of urban poverty and deprivation. My favourite quote..... "The function of Parliament was to preserve the power of the political classes: and this in effect meant the rich". Plus ça change!