

# THE ROAD TO SOCIAL WELFARE STATE: SETTING ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OR PHYSICAL FORCE DEMONSTRATIONS

MOHAMED CHERIF SEDDIKI

University of Amar Telidji Laghouat - ALGERIA

Received: 15.07.2018 & Accepted: 24.08.2018 & Published: 03.10.2018

## ABSTRACT

Setting on a political career is literally seen as a moral commitment that requires devotion and intense involvement in public interests. This consolidates the politicians' fame and popularity. Yet, the failure to address social grievances and public interests can entice reform movements. The concern of this paper is to demonstrate that change is often meant to orient policies rather than leading pressure to amend or release new privileges. In the last decade, there were some attempts to overthrow governors in response to the loss of civil rights, the deterioration of public services, and more importantly, the predation of governments. In some instances, contingents succeeded to restore liberties and secure amendments via physical force deeds. Are these examples enough to consider that public disturbance can be an effective means to achieve social or even political ends? Would rioting realize what political representation failed to achieve? Using an analytical approach, this paper tries to explore the accounts of British trade unions, exactly the workers who embarked on a long striving, often violent, to restore labour rights and political liberties. This can help us comprehend what better serves the achievement of social welfare. In the course of three quarters of a century, they set on different rallies and went through several

reverses. They first hoped to meet favourable working conditions, decent wages and less working hours, but soon their cause changed in character seeking more than the right to combine. Thus, it could be said that the industrial protest of all its forms did not only realize social privileges but also bring the working class to places of power. In this vein, this topic is significant for it recommends effective policies to managed disputes peacefully instead of repression and intimidation, which undoubtedly culminates into nothing, but violence.

**Keywords:** Peaceful change- Public disturbance - Radicals- Social Welfare

### 1- Introduction:

The occurrence of several incidents against civil rights and liberties remind us that the struggle for the restoration of these privileges is a recurrent issue in several corners of the world. In parliaments and elsewhere, individuals and groups, whether affiliated or independent, have conducted ceaseless campaigns denouncing all acts of repression or alienation, but with varied enthusiasm. Campaigns as such might result in social and legal privileges much better than political representation. Considering early nineteenth century Britain, governments of the day resisted the workers' attempts to combine for better living and working conditions. They used legislation to break up any uprising or reforming rallies ignoring lower classes needs as in the case of trade unions. Governors joined capitalists to pursue their ends at the expense of lower classes' rights. They failed to address social grievances and alleviate social pressure; they neither recognized their unions nor thought of better arrangements for living and working conditions. Apart from inadequate reforms, harsh of all were the governments' responses to social movements. Of course, there are several factors behind the outbreak of riots, but if anyone is to blame first, it will be the politicians' reaction to public discontent. In other words, the violation of rights and the excessive monopoly of employers impelled lower classes to combine or rather to revolt so as to recover their liberties.

Surveying some facts in nineteenth-century Britain can be a helpful clue. The period is a perfect scene to display the chief phases the working classes went through to realize a number of social and political objectives. After a series of campaigning activities, which range from violent riots to peaceful strikes and lobbying, the workers claimed their liberties and successfully position themselves in the social and political orders in their society. They ended up triumphant in spite of all the defeats their movement had experienced. Thus, analysing the events above might help us understand the factors behind the achievement of social welfare in the twentieth century. This entails exploring the nature of industrial relations, labour legislation, campaigning strategies that both employers and employees used to manage the industrial conflict, and related issues, which might clarify all that promoted economic prosperity and social stability in twentieth-century Britain. To this ending, I started with the governors' inability to address social grievances in early nineteenth century coupled with the drastic working and living conditions being the chief factors behind the first attempts of change. In this regard, Labour legislation was deliberately used to shield economic and political interests against foreign conspiracies and the turbulent events in the neighbouring countries, but in fact, it was meant to deter all attempts of unionism being a potential threat to economic and social interests of certain classes.

The paper then shifts to the working class responses, which often degenerated into physical force activities, against the violation of their rights, the deterioration of the working conditions, but mainly against the ineffectiveness of their policies. The workers stepped to rioting, striking, machine breaking, secret combining and other forms of industrial protest hoping to protect their livelihood. For a half of a century, they tried hard to organize labour, but they remained unable to enforce amendments due to a number of reasons. In fact, the workers did experience a lot of ups and downs, but it is worth noting that they held on their cause setting on varied fronts despite the defeats. This indicates that the workers' mechanisms were increasingly changing in order to cope with current implication. One should neither blame the Luddites<sup>1</sup> for slowing down industrialization

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the organized bands of 19th-century English handicraftsmen who rioted for the destruction of the textile machinery that was displacing them. The movement began in the vicinity of Nottingham

nor the Owenites<sup>2</sup> for being unrealistic, nor the Chartists, who brought forward parliamentary reforms at a time they lacked national support, for they collectively played a leading role in the realization of a number of social and legal objectives even if contemporaries considered them minor.

It is true that cuts in wages, dismissals, lockouts and other practices impelled the workers to combine against the violation of their rights, but they would not have defied their governors and employers only for decent wages or short working hours. The working class struggle was a worthwhile cause in the sense that it brought the workers to the political scene. With this in mind, the last part of this paper tries to point out the legacy of industrial protest, of all its forms, in changing the fate of the workers and the country's political order. The workers could not only lead pressure, via their unions and councils, to extract regulations, but they stepped to another phase of rallies. They got progressively involved in political campaigning and lobbying inside Parliament after they had realized the power of political representation. In other words, they could position themselves in a place of responsibility not only to consolidate labour but to serve their fellows' broad objectives. These social and political privileges are undoubtedly the product of a series of turbulent moments and painful accounts. All were necessary and complementary in the context that workingmen would not have claimed their labour rights if they had not set on varied forms of protest.

In brief, surveying the progress of Labour Movement in Britain is crucial in the sense that it provides bright examples of persistence on change, intense devotion to the

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toward the end of 1811 and in the next year spread to Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire. The Luddites were generally masked and operated at night. Their leader, real or imaginary, was known as King Ludd, after a probably mythical Ned Ludd. They eschewed violence against persons and often enjoyed local support. **Luddite.** (2010). Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopaedia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite.

<sup>2</sup> Owenism is the [utopian socialist philosophy](#) of 19th-century social reformer [Robert Owen](#) and his followers and successors, who are known as **Owenites**. Owenism aimed for radical reform of society and is considered a forerunner of the [cooperative movement](#). The Owenite movement undertook several experiments in establishment of [utopian communities](#) organized according to communitarian and cooperative principles. Ronald George Garrett (1972), *Co-operation and the Owenite socialist communities in Britain, 1825–45*, England: Manchester University Press

workers' cause and more importantly, effective practices in militancy and campaigning. Yet, this is never an attempt to advocate physical force or legalize the right to vandalize properties, but to recommend campaigning in partnership with governmental institutions for common interests. This is a chance to foster effective practices in voicing grievances and complaints away from violence and physical force acts. It could be said that decent political practices are much needed in our realm to promote prosperity and secure stability. In this vein, successful politicians are those who properly conduct the nations' affairs and help redress policies instead of getting involved in all that penalizes their societies. Political oppression, punitive legislation as well as the alienation of social partners can only widen the gap between governors and their communities.

## 2. Literature Review

The current paper takes into account former studies, which tended to search out the origins of social welfare in Britain. These attempts did not only place emphases on the existence of early guilds, clubs and combinations which were formed to defend the workers' interest, but also pinpointed the value of their activities, mainly industrial protest and direct action, to force change. It is in nineteenth century Britain that one can understand the outcomes of industrial protest. **Eric. J. Hobsbawm** and **A.E. Musson** used "bargaining by riots" and 'crude barbarism' to speak about the first forms of expression against mechanization and the displacement of craftsmen. Yet the *Luddies' Riots* are more than reactions to halt technical progress. Other works tackled the influence of labour societies on the workers' consciousness, which was central to social prosperity and political stability. In his "*A History of British Trade Unionism*", **Henry Pelling** explored the struggles of the workers and the endeavours they had made to promote better living and working conditions. He added that their accounts were heavily punctuated with repression and intimidation before the recognitions of their labour privileges.

Other studies associated the need for political and social reform with industrial protest. **Mary Davis** argued that the labourers was becoming more and more determined or rather radical about the workers' aspirations. They reacted in different ways and resisted all sorts of restrictions that were meant to lower their voices. Their activities ranged from the

legal petitioning of local authorities, justices of the peace, mayors and Parliament, to strikes and the more obvious forms of rowdy behaviour of mass meetings indicating the degree of social and political pressure they could no longer bear. Further emphases have been placed on the legacy of industrial protest, mainly reformers' thoughts and activities, which consolidated effective unionism. Chartist and Owenite rallies were important in the sense that they realized a number of social and legal objectives even if contemporaries considered them minor. **R.G. Kirby** argued that it is unwise to undermine those attempts or blame the Chartists and Owenites for being unrealistic. Again, this when labour societies became united setting on political means to serve or rather lobby the working class interests.

### 3. Methodology

An analytical approach is used in this research with a socio-historical dimension to understand the circumstances that prepared the labourers to set on a reform movement. This entails exploring the events between 1780 and 1906 in reference to the implications of the Industrial Age or rather what incentives were behind social disruption. Industrial protest was a response to the failures of the upper classes to address social grievances. In this context, emphases are on the experiences labour societies could learn and the endeavours the labourers could pursue. It could be assumed that the road to social welfare can be long and painful yet worthwhile in the sense that labour societies became triumphant in the end despite all that was meant to deter their reform movement. In fact, they remained resilient and determined to achieve their goals.

### 4. Results

The failure of local authorities and the predation of employers in different trades were the chief practices behind the eruption of physical force deeds among workers. Industrial protest of all its forms was central to the restoration of privileges and the protection of interests. Up to 1825, industrial disputes remained unresolved though pertinently addressed by the laboring men who could no longer bear the implications of the Industrial Age. The loss of rights, social strain and most of all, the abusive power of legislation, impelled the working class, groups and individuals, to lead pressure on

governors and employers. Though disorganized, the workers' response was neither pointless nor unsuccessful as it helped extract a number of amendments in favour of lower classes, in general, mainly the repeal of the Combination Acts. Yet, from 1850 onwards, the industrial protest changed in both structure and character.

Labour unionism became no longer local and limited to specific trades, but larger with national loyalties in different parts of Britain. New voices joined the cause for better living and working conditions, namely socialist reformers whose ideals contributed a lot to the workers' consciousness, solidarity and strength. These developments above are enough to state that Labour Movement in Britain had been progressive, innovative and mainly revolutionary after 1825. Despite all sorts of legal restrictions, labour societies proved difficult to put down. They were becoming more elaborate and determined to arrive at additional goals more than the right to combine. This was a landmark in the rise of new convictions or rather visions about how to organize labour, in particular. Their practices should not be viewed in the context of ways to remedy the ills of the working class, but effective canals to orient public opinion and policies towards better conditions. It could be said that social and political privileges were extracted and not granted.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Governments and Labour Privileges in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Britain:

It is true that social pressure and the degradation of urban services might lead to riots and strikes if not movements seeking reform, but political oppression might also produce physical force activities, exactly when governors, parliamentarians, and politicians, in general, fail to address peoples' grievances. This retreat of politicians can, by a significant paradox, encourage reformers or rather rioters to step forward for a social and political change. In this vein, struggles for social welfare should also be rendered to the failure of political representation. In Britain, the first decades of industrialization were socially devastating in the sense that the shift to industrial economy dictated a new regime on lower classes. In addition to dreadful living conditions in towns, the workers did heavily

fall victims to the evils of capitalism.<sup>3</sup> They, mainly women and children, were chained to their workplaces for meagre wages and long working hours. More than that, they were severely punished if caught sleeping or even wiping sweat. Worse of all were their living and working conditions.<sup>4</sup> At this point, it is worth mentioning that none could stand against those social and economic disruptions; none could assert the labourers' rights to decent wages, favourable working conditions, safe workplaces and other labour privileges, even clubs were still uncommon or rather helpless. Instead, governors, often manipulated by employers, ignored those social grievances for either they lacked the right competencies or they were themselves part of the industrial conflict.

Reform attempts are often resisted in a variety of ways including legal intimidation and hostility, but it is very important to mind that violence breeds violence. Governments might fail to find adequate remedies for social complaints due to a couple of factors. Yet, this is not by any means to use the power of legislation to lower the voices of change. This advocates the fact that governments' responses to reform movements can sometimes threaten individual liberties or rather encumber the progress of social prosperity. With this in mind, the working class struggle for labour privileges was punctuated by a chain of laws, which were meant to deter the workers' rallies and campaigns. The Combination Laws,<sup>5</sup> Factory Acts, the Master and Servant Act and lots of others sought ways and means to restrict the workers' liberties.<sup>6</sup> Workers, almost in all trades, were not allowed to combine or bargain; they were repeatedly accused of conspiracies and plots. Up to the mid-nineteenth century, a lot of governments facilitated legal proceedings and court trials in an

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<sup>3</sup> An economic system, dominant in the Western world since the breakup of feudalism, in which most of the means of production are privately owned and production is guided and income distributed largely through the operation of markets. **"Capitalism."** (2010). Encyclopædia Britannica. *Encyclopaedia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite*

<sup>4</sup> Trevor, M. (1996). *An Economic and Social History of Britain 1760-1990*. England: Longman Group, p.76

<sup>5</sup> British acts of 1799 and 1800 that made [trade unionism](#) illegal. The laws, as finally amended, sentenced to three months in jail or to two months' [hard labour](#) any workingman who combined with another to gain an increase in wages or a decrease in hours or who solicited anyone else to leave work or objected to working with any other workman. **Combination Acts.** (2010). Encyclopædia Britannica. *Encyclopaedia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite*.

<sup>6</sup> Smith, Anthony. (1959). *English Historical Documents, XI, 1783-1832*", New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 749-52

effort to restrain any attempt of reform. Practices above don't correspond to the well-being of workers. In fact, they wanted to break the rising labour movement. Even the governments' attempts to absorb public anger in the 1830's did utterly frustrate the working class for they brought minor improvements to the workers, particularly the clauses of Poor Laws. Literally, all forms of protest were met with rigid discipline and growing hostility. In St. Peter's Fields, for instance, the industrial conflict reached an alarming situation as the contingents had never expected that their peaceful march would end in a massacre. Overall, the workers' efforts to claim a better bargaining position during the early decades of the nineteenth century were generally doomed to failure due to a number of factors, mainly political repression, which constituted an enormous challenge difficult to overcome. Yet, political pressure had never deterred the workers from setting on new alternatives.

## 5.2 The Labourers' Responses to Political Pressure:

Being unable to handle legal responsibilities towards communities cannot only lead to the loss of liberties but set the stage for change if not chaos. The growth of tensions between the workers and the ruling class, up to the mid-nineteenth century, can be seen as a counter to political repression and the mismanagement of the industrial conflict. The workers were often brought face to face with their employers trying to win an increase in wages or a decrease in working hours but in vain. They were desperately looking for ways to protect their labour privileges against capitalist coalitions between employers and governors. In different trades, the workers submitted petitions, set on strikes, walked on marches, but again nothing seemed effective. On the contrary, their public discontent was generally met with dismissals, lockouts if not punitive measures against strikers and rioters. Additionally, the working class leaders were convicted of conspiracy and illegal combining the thing that compelled them to opt for secrecy and violent acts. Machine breaking between 1810 and 1816 was more than a response to the introduction of machines to their declining handicrafts. The Luddites reacted violently against the deterioration of their livelihood, inflation, taxes but mainly against the rule of their employers.<sup>7</sup> Thus, there is no

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<sup>7</sup> John, Archer. (1998). *Social Unrest and Popular Protest in England 1780-1840*. England: Cambridge, p.43

doubt that the resort to physical force activities was an attempt to prevent what capitalists, together with governors, were trying to enforce without the consent of the working class. For many contemporaries, industrial sabotage seemed insignificant as it failed to attain the desired effects, but in fact, rioters could slow down the pace of mechanization in spite of the penalties described in the **Frame Breaking Act**. Eventually, after passing a series of laws against the Luddites, machine breaking declined, but it is worth noting that uprisings broke out in other areas, mainly in agricultural districts indicating the impact of machine wrecking as an act of resistance. In other words, responses to industrialization were violent, disorganized yet very influential for they instigated a wave of change willing to realize social and political objectives.

*Such events as the Derbyshire Rising, the Pentridge Rising, the March of the Blanketeers, the Spa Fields meeting and the huge demonstration in St Peter's Field, Manchester, all serve to indicate the breadth, diversity and widespread geographical scale of the demand for economic and political reform.*<sup>8</sup>

In most instances, political repression proved unsuccessful to crush the labourers' rallies. In fact, labour legislation aroused their resentment or rather compelled them to set on new alternatives to organize labour effectively. In 1830's the working class movement progressed in different fronts, both social and political, to settle industrial quarrels. In response to social distress, some radicals opted for broad social changes. They had overall plans with high hopes for the future of the workers. In this regard, Owen's ideals about cooperative societies were promising in the sense that they revolutionized labour demands to more than wages and working hours. At his model village, workers benefited from better working conditions, schooling, decent wages and other privileges. This states the fact that the years of social campaigning helped achieve some developments in favour of the workers though still on a small scale since not all cooperative societies did succeed. The need for effective unions and additional liberties mounted other responses in form of parliamentary rallies. In late 1840's, the Chartists pinned new hopes of reform on political agitations. They set on strikes and demonstrations asking for voting rights and parliamentary changes, but as like as their fellows, they run into a stiff resistance. After

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<sup>8</sup> Mary, D. (2009). *A History of British Labour Movement*. New York: Pluto Press, p. 40

three petitions, the Chartists failed to generate support for their “Charter”,<sup>9</sup> which was meant to transform the political future of the working class. Of course, there existed a couple of factors behind the decline of Chartism in 1850’s, as the lack of national support and organization, but the ills of the working class lay in the fact that workers, in all trades, remained vulnerable to laws and legal proceedings. It seems that the workers, in spite of all the experiences above, were still in need of new routes to claim legal rights and achieve their goals.

In spite of all those reverses in Labour Movement during the first half of the nineteenth century, the working class seemed more inclined to fight for their legal status. After the decline of Chartism, a tendency towards unions of all trades replaced political rallies if not revived unionism. In mining, cotton and engineering industries, workers embraced new principles trying to organize labour differently. They extended membership to other trades and forged amalgamations, often with regional branches and headquarters in London in an effort to manage the workers’ concerns on a national basis. These developments, particularly the idea of national unions, showed to what extent the workers were resolved to position themselves socially and politically. In the years between 1851 and 1867, unionism grew considerably and changed massively in character making the working class less vulnerable to the monopoly of their employers. Apparently, the new model of unions, namely the *Amalgamated Society of Engineers*, could prevent cuts in wages, lessen the working day hours, exactly in mining and cotton industries, settle disputes, extract some concessions on factory regulations and support other labour societies in their strikes. In other words, the *Amalgamated Society of Engineers* set the stage for effective unionism in the years to come and paved the way for the recognition of unions. This indicates that the workers’ new attempts helped realize a better bargaining position. In a few years later, unions became more than mass associations to defend pure labour interests. They emerged as pressure groups more concerned with the voting rights, parliamentary amendments and other political liberties the workers were wholly deprived of. More than that, they could penetrate parliamentary circles and prompt committees to lobby labour

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<sup>9</sup> A bill drafted by the London radical William Lovett in May 1838. It contained six demands: universal manhood suffrage, equal electoral districts, vote by ballot, annually elected Parliaments, payment of members of Parliament, and abolition of the property qualifications for membership. "Chartism." (2010). Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopaedia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite.

interests the achievement, which changed the destiny of the working class. In fact, the extension of the voting rights in late 1860's brought the working class radicals and trade unionists to places of power. Indeed, the franchise transformed the social and political orders of the late nineteenth century since it made it possible for the working class to influence decisions, prompt labour amendments and defend their privileges in legal means.

### 5.3 The Legacy of the Industrial Protest:

Social partners are often thought to serve pure social concerns as raising funds for less privileged groups, promoting social causes and other civil service activities. Yet, they can also defend liberties and lead pressure if necessary to realize social prosperity and political stability. In this regard, some forms of industrial protest were a necessary evil in order to claim labour privileges. Almost in all trades, craftsmen revolted against the disruptions of capitalism and the abusive legislation. It might seem that machine breaking achieved nothing except insecurity and chaos, but the Luddites could start a wave of change, which would later develop into an organized movement to defend the workers' interests. Though violent, the Luddites' riots united craftsmen against employers and brought forward the fears of the working class being a voice difficult to lower. The resort to machine breaking was a bold action to protect interests rather than a fear to lose livelihood. They should be seen as a deliberate provocation led b employers to meet different goals at the expense of lower classes energies. In what follows, the Luddites are viewed from a different perspective: they were more than rioters afraid of machinery; they were activists who led an incisive struggle for favourable working conditions. "*Luddism was neither mindless, nor completely irrational, nor even completely unsuccessful.*"<sup>10</sup> It is thus a hyperbole to undermine the role of rioting for they made of workers aware enough of the necessity to oppose the rule of their employers and address the evils of capitalism.

Though different in nature from *Luddism*, additional forms of protests could extract some revolutionary amendments in favour of the workers. Over the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the progress of social and parliamentary campaigning could point out

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<sup>10</sup> Donald, Mackenzie. (Jul, 1984). Marx and the Machine. *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 473-502

the ills of the workers in different industries and the necessity to implement broad changes. Radicals and many liberally-minded politicians could prompt changes to amend factory systems, lift the ban on combinations and end industrial strain, in general. In this vein, Robert Owen pinned high hopes on cooperative societies to abolish all sorts of distress and change the character of individuals. He pinpointed equal rights to education, health, and favourable living conditions. So did some parliamentarians in defending the working class concerns.<sup>11</sup> In a nutshell, social campaigning left significant effects on the workers' mind-set despite the accusations of being unrealistic and fruitless. It validated the need to handle the workers' interests more sensitively if not paved the way for additional campaigns. The coming of the Chartists in the ensuing years can be seen as an extension to radicals' efforts to consolidate labour matters. The Chartists set off on several campaigning activities, mainly political agitations, to convey that parliamentary reform might be the right means to achieve social welfare. It is true that the Chartists' petitions to Parliament failed to generate support for their cause, but it is not by any means to deny the contributions of political and social campaigning to Labour Movement. The years of campaigning were formative enough to know that the effectiveness of labour unions lay in national organization and the centralization of funds.

In all the reverses of Utopian societies, general unionism, cooperative production and lately Chartism, it was the small labour societies which could survive all forms of legal restraint.<sup>12</sup> This conviction was enough to direct the workers' energies towards organization and effectiveness. Labour theories began to change and so did the principles of unionism in early 1850's. This revival of unionism was not only an attempt to hold on protests, but also to transform older combinations into larger unions able to dictate change. Indeed, the centralization of funds and the organizational measures introduced by the skilled workers in engineering industry made workers less liable to defeats and failures in strikes. In fact, the model set by the *Amalgamated Society of Engineers* influenced the horizons of labour societies. In the following years, unions grew larger with national loyalties. They were becoming resolved not only about factory concerns, but voting rights,

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<sup>11</sup> Chris, Williams. (2011). *Robert Owen and his legacy*. Cardiff: The University of Wales Press, p. 58

<sup>12</sup> Henry, Pelling. (1976). *A History of British Trade Union*. London: The Macmillan Press LTD, p. 47

education and even political representation.<sup>13</sup> Literally, the extension of voting rights in late 1860's became a turning point in the history of trade unionism for it made it possible for the working class leaders to lead pressure on their own at Westminster. Actually, the franchise of 1867 enabled the working class leaders to lobby for social and political privileges in favour of the workers. It took them few years to claim the legal recognition, which in return, opened new horizons for the working population. In this vein, *Trade Union Act* softened the ground for additional improvements and determined the workers' position in political life. Indeed, the working class after 1871 aspired to participation in the governorship of the country' affairs rather than being limited to industrial disputes and factory regulations. Briefly, industrial protests proved successful to realize social and political privileges local authorities had failed to offer. In different instances, the workers could remind their employers and governors that punitive laws and repression would never whittle away movements for better conditions.

## 6. Conclusion:

It is undeniable that the eruption of industrial protest in nineteenth-century Britain was due to the deterioration of living and working standards, but for these only, the working population would not have waited more than a century to achieve better conditions. They were more concerned with changing the quality of life they were living. In other words, they could neither bear the dreadful environment in cities and industrial districts nor the degradation of urban services nor the predation of both governors and employers. If it is to blame someone of the outbreak of riots and demonstrations as well as the state of utter instability during the early decades of the nineteenth century, it will be employers and governments of the day for they both ignored social grievances. In fact, they alienated the workers using repressive policies and all means to put down any reform movement. Practices as such precipitated different forms of protest, which were undoubtedly meant to lessen the industrial strain. A lot may find it strange to state that violence was an effective means that helped the workers achieve what their governors and employers had wrested. Almost in all the phases of the labour movement, physical force

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<sup>13</sup> Edward, Royle. (2012). *Modern Britain: A Social History 1750- 2011*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, p.161

activities proved an effective canal to restore rights, voice complaints and protect interests. After a series of campaigns on different fronts, the workers claimed considerable privileges and rights, which did really change the social and political calculations in their society. Thus, their industrial protest, though often violent, was of another nature for it developed out of the workers' ideals and convictions about labour organization. It was both diverse and progressive in the sense that workers set off on different canals and resisted all forms of repression to meet their objectives.

The road to social welfare and prosperity is also connected to political organization. Apart from different forms of campaigning, social welfare can be the outcome of effective policies and ambitious programmes, which tend to ensure the principle of justice. Governments are therefore invited to identify what affects the quality of life and then understand both means and ways to overcome daily challenges. More than that, they have to bear the complete responsibility for any failure to address social, economic or political questions. In this vein, involving social partners in the management of local affairs might be an effective means for it fosters communication on the one hand, and generates additional efforts to overcome strain and pressure on the other hand. Additionally, social partners are usually better placed to bridge the gap between governments and their communities in the sense that they clearly understand the worries and fears of their fellows. For this reason, political parties, community service groups, and other social partners are invited to institute changes on their programmes, reshape their objectives and collaborate with all sections of the same society for common interests. In other words, they are the right canals through which communities cannot only point out grievances or complaints but effectively participate in the governorship of their countries as well.

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