

Chronology

| | HISTORY AND CULTURE | LITERATURE |
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| 1899 | <p>Second Boer War begins</p> <p>First petrol motor buses appear in London</p> <p>First wireless transmission across the English Channel</p> <p>Magnetic (tape) recording invented</p> <p>William James, <i>Talks on Psychology</i></p> | <p>Henrik Ibsen, <i>When We Dead Awaken</i></p> <p>Henry James, <i>The Awkward Age</i></p> <p>Arthur Wing Pinero, <i>Trelawney of the 'Wells'</i></p> <p>Arthur Symons, <i>The Symbolist Movement in Literature</i></p> <p>H. G. Wells, <i>Tales of Space and Time</i></p> <p>W. B. Yeats, <i>The Wind among the Reeds</i></p> |
| 1900 | <p>Labour Representation Committee established</p> <p>Relief of Mafeking (Boer War) – widespread celebration in Britain</p> <p>Conservative government re-elected (in power since 1895)</p> <p>Most children under eleven attending elementary school</p> <p><i>Daily Express</i> founded</p> <p>Max Planck's quantum theory</p> <p>Sigmund Freud, <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i></p> <p>Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>Ecce Homo</i></p> <p>Paris Exhibition includes display of major advances in film technology</p> | <p>Joseph Conrad, <i>Lord Jim</i></p> <p>Pinero, <i>The Gay Lord Quex</i></p> <p>Wells, <i>Love and Mr Lewisham</i></p> |
| 1901 | <p>Death of Queen Victoria; accession of Edward VII</p> <p>Funeral of Queen Victoria filmed</p> <p>75 per cent of population lives in towns</p> <p>B. S. Rowntree's <i>Poverty: A Study of Town Life</i> suggests a third of urban population living in poverty</p> <p>Britain's first submarine launched</p> <p>First transatlantic radio communication by Marconi</p> <p>Planck's law of radiation</p> | <p>Thomas Hardy, <i>Poems of the Past and Present</i> (~1902)</p> <p>Rudyard Kipling, <i>Kim</i></p> <p>G. B. Shaw, <i>Three Plays for Puritans</i></p> <p>Wells, <i>The First Men in the Moon</i></p> <p>Yeats, <i>Poems</i></p> |
| 1902 | <p>Boer War ends</p> <p>Balfour Education Act establishes state system of secondary schools</p> <p>Midwives Act</p> <p>William James, <i>The Varieties of Religious Experience</i></p> <p>First transatlantic telegraph from Marconi to King Edward VII</p> <p>Georges Méliès <i>Voyage to the Moon</i> makes significant technical advances in film</p> <p>First recordings by singer Enrico Caruso</p> | <p>Arnold Bennett, <i>Anna of the Five Towns</i></p> <p>Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i></p> <p>Walter de la Mare, <i>Songs of Childhood</i></p> <p>Arthur Conan Doyle, <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i></p> <p>James, <i>The Wings of a Dove</i></p> <p>Kipling, <i>Just So Stories</i></p> <p><i>Times Literary Supplement</i></p> <p>Yeats, <i>Cathleen ni Houlihan</i></p> |
| 1903 | <p>Workers' Educational Association founded</p> <p>Foundation of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), a militant branch of suffrage movement</p> <p><i>Daily Mirror</i> launched</p> <p>Wilbur and Orville Wright make first powered flight</p> <p>Motor Cars Act increases speed limit from 14 to 20 mph</p> <p>New York–London news service begins using wireless telegraphy</p> | <p>Samuel Butler, <i>The Way of All Flesh</i></p> <p>Erskine Childers, <i>The Riddle of the Sands</i></p> <p>Conrad, <i>Typhoon</i></p> <p>James, <i>The Ambassadors</i></p> <p>Shaw, <i>Man and Superman</i></p> |

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| 1904 | <p>Government Committee on Physical Deterioration investigates health of urban poor</p> <p><i>Entente Cordiale</i> settles colonial differences between UK and France</p> <p>The Empire, Manchester, is the first large music hall to be used as a cinema</p> <p>Offset printing invented</p> <p>Abbey Theatre, Dublin, founded</p> <p>8,465 cars licensed in Britain</p> <p>Ernest Rutherford, <i>Radioactivity</i></p> <p>Freud, <i>The Psychopathology of Everyday Life</i></p> <p>Thorstein Veblen, <i>The Theory of Business Enterprise</i></p> <p><i>Die Brücke</i>, Dresden group of Expressionist artists formed</p> <p>First regular motor bus service introduced in London</p> | <p>J. M. Barrie, <i>Peter Pan</i></p> <p>Conrad, <i>Nostramo</i></p> <p>Hardy, <i>The Dynasts I</i> (II 1906, III 1908)</p> <p>James, <i>The Golden Bowl</i></p> <p>J. M. Synge, <i>Riders to the Sea</i></p> |
| 1905 | <p>Start of suffragette agitation and first suffragettes imprisoned</p> <p>Demonstrations of unemployed</p> <p>Unemployed Workmen Act</p> <p>Aliens Act restricts immigration</p> <p>Rayon ('artificial silk') first produced</p> <p>Sinn Féin founded; Ulster Unionist Council formed</p> <p>Albert Einstein's special theory of relativity</p> <p>Freud, <i>Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality</i></p> <p>Havelock Ellis, <i>Studies in the Psychology of Sex</i>, I–VI</p> | <p>Doyle, <i>The Return of Sherlock Holmes</i></p> <p>E. M. Forster, <i>Where Angels Fear to Tread</i></p> <p>Harley Granville-Barker, <i>The Voyage Inheritance</i></p> <p>Shaw, <i>Major Barbara</i></p> <p>Wells, <i>Kipps</i></p> <p>Oscar Wilde, <i>De Profundis</i></p> |
| 1906 | <p>Liberal landslide in general election; 29 Labour MPs elected and Labour Party constituted</p> <p>Education (Provision of Meals) Act</p> <p>HMS <i>Dreadnought</i>, world's largest battleship, launched</p> | <p>de la Mare, <i>Poems</i></p> <p>Everyman's Library series begins publication</p> <p>John Galsworthy, <i>The Man of Property</i>; <i>The Silver Box</i> performed</p> <p><i>Modern Language Review</i></p> <p>Pinero, <i>His House in Order</i></p> <p>William Le Queux, <i>The Invasion of 1910</i></p> <p>Yeats, <i>Poetical Works</i></p> |
| 1907 | <p>Education Act allows for medical inspections in schools</p> <p>Qualification of Women Act allows women to stand for local councils</p> <p><i>The New Age</i>, new series, ed. A. R. Orage</p> <p>Robert Baden-Powell founds Boy Scouts</p> <p>Pablo Picasso, <i>Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. Version O)</i>, introduces cubism</p> <p>Henri Bergson, <i>Creative Evolution</i></p> <p>William James, <i>Pragmatism</i></p> | <p>Conrad, <i>The Secret Agent</i></p> <p>Forster, <i>The Longest Journey</i></p> <p>Edmund Gosse, <i>Father and Son</i></p> <p>James Joyce, <i>Chamber Music</i></p> <p>Synge, <i>The Playboy of the Western World</i></p> |
| 1908 | <p>Old Age Pensions Act introduces state pensions for the over-seventies</p> <p>Children's Act (or 'Children's Charter') introduces wide-ranging legislation for the protection and welfare of children</p> <p>Unemployed hunger march</p> <p>Ford's first Model T car sold in Britain</p> <p>Pathé's first regular newsreel</p> <p>First aeroplane flight in Britain</p> <p>Edward Carpenter, <i>The Intermediate Sex</i></p> | <p>Bennett, <i>The Old Wives' Tale</i></p> <p>W. H. Davies, <i>Autobiography of a Super-Tramp</i></p> <p><i>The English Review</i> founded by Ford Madox Ford</p> <p>Forster, <i>A Room with a View</i></p> <p><i>The Mask</i> (theatre quarterly)</p> <p>Wells, <i>The War in the Air</i></p> |

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| 1909 | <p>Lloyd George's 'People's Budget'</p> <p>Trade Boards Act introduces regulations for 'sweated' home-workers</p> <p>C. F. G. Masterman, <i>The Condition of England</i></p> <p>Louis Blériot flies across English Channel</p> <p>North Pole reached by Robert Peary (US)</p> <p>F. T. Marinetti launches futurism with first manifesto</p> | <p>Galsworthy, <i>Strife</i></p> <p>Hardy, <i>Time's Laughingstocks</i></p> <p>Ezra Pound, <i>Personae</i></p> <p>Wells, <i>Ann Veronica; Tono-Bungay</i></p> |
| 1910 | <p>Liberals re-elected to minority governments in two general elections; Labour wins 40 seats</p> <p>Edward VII dies; succeeded by George V</p> <p>South Wales miners' strike</p> <p>Suffragette prisoners go on hunger strike</p> <p>First post-impressionist exhibition in London</p> <p>First feature-length films</p> <p>Freud, <i>On Psychoanalysis</i></p> <p>Scott's ill-fated expedition to the Antarctic (-1912)</p> | <p>Bennett, <i>Clayhanger</i></p> <p><i>Essays and Studies</i> (journal)</p> <p>Forster, <i>Howards End</i></p> <p>Galsworthy, <i>Justice</i></p> <p>Wells, <i>The History of Mr Polly</i></p> <p>Yeats, <i>The Green Helmet</i></p> |
| 1911 | <p>London dockers' strike and major railway strike paralyses much of the country</p> <p>Parliament Act removes Lords' veto</p> <p>National Insurance Act makes (limited) provision for sickness and unemployment benefit</p> <p>Horse-drawn buses taken out of service in London</p> <p>Ford Model T assembly plant opened in Manchester</p> <p>Rutherford postulates nuclear structure of the atom</p> <p>F. G. Hopkins proves existence and importance of vitamins</p> <p>Beatrice and Sidney Webb, <i>Poverty</i></p> <p><i>Der Blaue Reiter</i> group of expressionist artists formed in Munich</p> <p>Franz Boas, <i>Primitive Mythology</i></p> <p>Sir James Frazer, <i>The Golden Bough</i> (11 vols.-1915; first two vols., 1890)</p> <p>Roald Amundsen reaches South Pole</p> | <p>Bennett, <i>Hilda Lessways</i></p> <p>Rupert Brooke, <i>Poems</i></p> <p>Conrad, <i>Under Western Eyes</i></p> <p>D. H. Lawrence, <i>The White Peacock</i></p> <p>Katherine Mansfield, <i>In a German Pension</i></p> <p>Wells, <i>The New Machiavelli</i></p> |
| 1912 | <p>Widespread strikes in Britain</p> <p>Irish Home Rule Bill and ensuing Ulster crisis as Unionists mobilise opposition</p> <p>Women's Franchise Bill rejected by the House of Commons; suffragettes riot in London</p> <p><i>Daily Herald</i>, 'The Labour Daily Newspaper', launched</p> <p><i>Titanic</i> sinks on maiden voyage</p> <p>Royal Flying Corps founded</p> <p>Harriet Quimby becomes first female aviator to cross the English Channel</p> <p>Some 400 cinemas in London; establishment of British Board of Film Censors</p> | <p>Robert Bridges, <i>Poetical Works</i></p> <p>de la Mare, <i>The Listeners</i></p> <p>Lawrence, <i>The Trespasser</i></p> <p>Thomas Mann, <i>Death in Venice</i></p> <p><i>Georgian Poetry</i>, ed. Edward Marsh (first of a series of anthologies)</p> <p><i>Poetry: A Magazine of Verse</i> (Chicago), ed. Harriet Monroe</p> <p><i>Poetry Review</i> (London), ed. Harold Munro (who also establishes the Poetry Bookshop in Bloomsbury)</p> <p>Pound, <i>Ripostes</i></p> |
| 1913 | <p>Ulster Volunteer Force established</p> <p>Triple Alliance of rail, transport and miners' unions formed</p> <p>Sylvia Pankhurst forms the East London Federation for Working Class Suffragettes; suffragette Emily Davison dies after throwing herself under the King's horse at the Derby</p> <p>Freud, <i>Totem and Taboo</i>; also <i>Interpretation of Dreams</i> (1900) first translated into English</p> <p>Igor Stravinsky's <i>The Rite of Spring</i> provokes riot at first performance in Paris</p> | <p>Lawrence, <i>Sons and Lovers; Love Poems</i></p> <p>Compton Mackenzie, <i>Sinister Street</i></p> <p>Marcel Proust publishes first of the seven volumes of <i>A la recherche du temps perdu (Remembrance of Things Past)</i> (last volume, 1927)</p> |

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| <p>1914 Home Rule Act passed but later suspended because of war; Ulster Volunteer Force armed; Curragh 'Mutiny' of British army officers in support of Unionists Suffragette riots in London First World War begins (28 June); Britain declares war on Germany on 4 August Defence of the Realm Act gives government emergency powers German sea bombardment of Yorkshire coast</p> | <p><i>Blast: A Review of the Great English Vortex</i>, ed. Wyndham Lewis, announces vorticism (runs only until 1915) <i>The Egoist</i> (formerly, <i>The New Freewoman</i>) Hardy, <i>Satires of Circumstance</i> James, <i>Notes on Novelists</i> Joyce, <i>Dubliners</i> Lawrence, <i>The Prussian Officer</i>; <i>The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd</i> Pound, <i>Des Imagistes</i> Wells, <i>The World Set Free</i> Yeats, <i>Responsibilities</i></p> |
| <p>1915 War intensifies with huge losses on all fronts; poison gas used for first time at Second Battle of Ypres; Zeppelin attacks on London German submarine blockade of Britain lifted after sinking of passenger liner, <i>Lusitania</i>: over 1,000 killed, including US citizens 'Shells Scandal' (shortage of munitions) leads to collapse of last Liberal administration: coalition government formed under Herbert Asquith Einstein's general theory of relativity</p> | <p>Richard Aldington, <i>Images</i> Bennett, <i>These Twain</i> Brooke, <i>1914 and Other Poems</i> John Buchan, <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i> Ford Madox Ford, <i>The Good Soldier</i> Franz Kafka, <i>Metamorphosis</i> Lawrence, <i>The Rainbow</i> W. Somerset Maugham, <i>Of Human Bondage</i> Dorothy Richardson, <i>Pointed Roofs</i>, first in a 13-novel sequence known as <i>Pilgrimage</i> (12th novel, 1938; 13th posthumous, 1967) <i>Some Imagist Poets: An Anthology</i>, ed. Amy Lowell (further Imagist anthologies followed in 1916 and 1917) Virginia Woolf, <i>The Voyage Out</i></p> |
| <p>1916 Strike of Clydeside munitions workers Conscription introduced 'Easter Rising' of nationalists in Dublin suppressed; 450 killed; leaders executed Battle of the Somme leaves over 1 million dead Theories of shell-shock develop from the treatment of war casualties Second coalition government formed under David Lloyd George</p> | <p>Bridges, <i>The Spirit of Man</i> Harold Brighouse, <i>Hobson's Choice</i> Hardy, <i>Selected Poems</i> H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), <i>Sea Garden</i> Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> Shaw, <i>Pygmalion</i> Wells, <i>Mr Britling Sees it Through</i></p> |
| <p>1917 Dada art movement launched in Zurich Carl Jung, <i>Psychology of the Unconscious</i> USA enters war Over half a million lives lost during the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) Russian Revolution (March) Freud, <i>Introduction to Psychoanalysis</i></p> | <p>T. S. Eliot, <i>Prufrock and Other Observations</i> Hardy, <i>Moments of Vision</i> Lawrence, <i>Look! We Have Come Through!</i> Edward Thomas, <i>Poems</i> Yeats, <i>The Wild Swans at Coole</i></p> |
| <p>1918 End of First World War; Armistice, 11 November Representation of the People Act (4th Reform Act) gives the vote to all men over twenty-one and women over thirty, nearly trebling the electorate to around 21 million people Maternity and Child Welfare Act Marie Stopes, <i>Married Love</i>; <i>Parenthood</i> Conservative-dominated coalition government re-elected Membership of trade unions peaks at around 8 million Fisher Education Act raises school-leaving age to fourteen Ministry of Health established Influenza pandemic, kills over 21 million people worldwide by 1920 Rutherford splits atom Oswald Spengler, <i>Decline of the West</i> (vol. 2, 1922)</p> | <p>Brooke, <i>Collected Poems</i> Joyce, <i>Exiles</i> Wyndham Lewis, <i>Tarr</i> Mansfield, <i>Prelude</i> Siegfried Sassoon, <i>Counter-Attack</i> Edward Thomas, <i>Last Poems</i> Rebecca West, <i>The Return of the Soldier</i></p> |

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| 1919 | Treaty of Versailles: war settlement imposing reparations on Germany Anglo-Irish War begins Nancy Astor becomes first woman MP Sex Disqualification Removal Act opens professions to women Over 1,000 strikes between 1919 and 1920 First transatlantic flight by John Alcock and Arthur W. Brown | Aldington, <i>Images of War</i> Coterie (runs only until 1921) <i>English Studies</i> Maugham, <i>The Moon and Sixpence</i> Shaw, <i>Heartbreak House</i> Sassoon, <i>War Poems</i> Woolf, <i>Night and Day</i> |
| 1920 | Government of Ireland Act partitions Ireland Unemployment Insurance Act League of Nations founded (precursor of the United Nations) Communist Party of Great Britain founded Oxford admits women to degrees (1880 at London University) Jung, <i>Psychological Types</i> | Agatha Christie, <i>The Mysterious Affair at Styles</i> Eliot, <i>The Sacred Wood</i> Lawrence, <i>Women in Love; The Lost Girl</i> Rose Macaulay, <i>Potterism</i> Mansfield, <i>Bliss</i> Wilfred Owen, <i>Poems</i> Pound, <i>Hugh Selwyn Mauberley</i> Lytton Strachey, <i>Eminent Victorians</i> Wells, <i>The Outline of History</i> Yeats, <i>Michael Robartes and the Dancer</i> |
| 1921 | Economic slump National Unemployed Workers' Movement (NUWM) established Anglo-Irish Treaty establishes Irish Free State in Southern Ireland Marie Stopes opens first birth-control clinic in London | Aldous Huxley, <i>Crome Yellow</i> Luigi Pirandello, <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i> Shaw, <i>Back to Methuselah</i> |
| 1922 | Unemployment stands at 2 million; first of many 'hunger marches' organised by the NUWM throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Miners' strike defeated as Triple Alliance fails on 'Black Friday' (15 April) Geddes Committee recommends large cuts in government spending, curtailing post-war reconstruction efforts Conservatives win election; Labour forms official opposition for first time Irish Civil War breaks out (ends 1923) Mussolini comes to power in Italy Radio broadcasting begins; British Broadcasting Company formed Major Jack C. Savage develops skywriting Sir James Frazer, <i>The Golden Bough</i> (one-volume abridged edn) | <i>The Criterion</i> , ed. T. S. Eliot Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i> Galsworthy, <i>The Forsyte Saga</i> Hardy, <i>Late Lyrics and Earlier</i> A. E. Houseman, <i>Last Poems</i> Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i> (published in Paris; banned in the USA until 1933, and in the UK until 1936) Lawrence, <i>Aaron's Rod; England, My England; Studies in Classic American Literature</i> Mansfield, <i>The Garden Party</i> I. A. Richards, <i>Principles of Literary Criticism</i> May Sinclair, <i>The Life and Death of Harriett Freen</i> Woolf, <i>Jacob's Room</i> |
| 1923 | British empire at its largest-ever extent Matrimonial Causes Act allows women to sue for divorce on same grounds as men, including adultery | <i>The Adelphi</i> , ed. J. M. Murry Bennett, <i>Riceyman Steps</i> E. E. Cummings, <i>Tulips and Chimneys</i> Huxley, <i>Antic Hay</i> Lawrence, <i>The Ladybird; Kangaroo; Birds, Beasts and Flowers</i> Macaulay, <i>Told by an Idiot</i> Sean O'Casey, <i>The Shadow of a Gunman</i> |

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| 1924 | <p>First Labour government in Britain under Ramsay MacDonald (January)</p> <p>Housing Act provides for subsidised public housing and generates over half a million new homes by 1932</p> <p>London tram strike</p> <p>Conservative government re-elected (December)</p> <p>First manifesto of surrealism</p> <p>Freud, <i>The Ego and the Id</i></p> | <p>Ford, <i>Some Do Not</i> (first book of <i>Parade's End</i> tetralogy)</p> <p>Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i></p> <p>T. E. Hulme, <i>Speculations</i></p> <p>O'Casey, <i>Juno and the Paycock</i></p> <p>Shaw, <i>Saint Joan</i></p> |
| 1925 | <p>Pensions Act provides pensions at sixty-five</p> <p>Guardianship of Infants Act gives women equal rights to their children</p> | <p><i>Calendar of Modern Letters</i></p> <p>Noël Coward, <i>Hay Fever</i></p> <p>H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), <i>Collected Poems</i></p> <p>Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i></p> <p>Ford, <i>No More Parades</i></p> <p>Hardy, <i>Human Shows</i></p> <p>Ernest Hemingway, <i>In Our Time</i></p> <p>Lawrence, <i>St Mawr</i></p> <p>Hugh MacDiarmid, <i>Sangschaw</i></p> <p><i>Review of English Studies</i></p> <p>Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway; The Common Reader</i></p> <p>Yeats, <i>A Vision</i></p> |
| 1926 | <p>General Strike</p> <p>Electricity (Supply) Act sets up Central Electricity Board to coordinate supply through a national grid (completed by 1936)</p> <p>Television first demonstrated by John Logie Baird; British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) established</p> | <p>Ford, <i>A Man Could Stand Up</i></p> <p>Lawrence, <i>The Plumed Serpent</i></p> <p>T. E. Lawrence, <i>Seven Pillars of Wisdom</i></p> <p>MacDiarmid, <i>Penny Wheep; A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle</i></p> <p>O'Casey, <i>The Plough and the Stars</i></p> <p>Sassoon, <i>Satirical Poems</i></p> <p>Wells, <i>The World of William Clissold</i></p> |
| 1927 | <p>Trade Disputes Act makes general strikes illegal</p> <p>Charles Lindbergh, first solo transatlantic flight</p> | <p>Forster, <i>Aspects of the Novel</i></p> <p>Robert Graves and Laura Riding, <i>A Survey of Modernist Poetry</i></p> <p>Joyce, <i>Pomes Penyeach</i></p> <p>T. F. Powys, <i>Mr Weston's Good Wine</i></p> <p>Jean Rhys, <i>The Left Bank</i></p> <p>Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i></p> |
| 1928 | <p>Minimum voting age for women in Britain reduced to twenty-one from thirty years</p> <p>Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin (fully exploited from 1940)</p> <p>First films with sound in Britain</p> | <p>Edmund Blunden, <i>Undertones of War</i></p> <p>Ford, <i>Last Post</i></p> <p>Hardy, <i>Winter Words</i></p> <p>Huxley, <i>Point Counter Point</i></p> <p>Christopher Isherwood, <i>All the Conspirators</i></p> <p>D. H. Lawrence, <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> (uncensored version banned in the UK until 1960; in the USA until 1959); <i>Collected Poems; The Woman Who Rode Away</i></p> <p>O'Casey, <i>The Silver Tassie</i></p> <p>Rhys, <i>Quartet</i></p> <p>Sassoon, <i>Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man</i></p> <p>R. C. Sheriff, <i>Journey's End</i> (first produced; published, 1929; film version, 1930)</p> <p>Evelyn Waugh, <i>Decline and Fall</i></p> <p>Woolf, <i>Orlando</i></p> <p>Yeats, <i>The Tower</i></p> |

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| 1929 General election returns minority Labour government; Margaret Bondfield becomes first woman Cabinet member Wall Street Crash and start of international economic depression | Aldington, <i>Death of a Hero</i> Elizabeth Bowen, <i>The Last September</i> Bridges, <i>The Testament of Beauty</i> William Faulkner, <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> Robert Graves, <i>Goodbye to All That</i> Hemingway, <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> D. H. Lawrence, <i>Pansies</i> L. H. Myers, <i>The Near and the Far</i> (title volume of a tetralogy completed in 1940) John Cowper Powys, <i>Wolf Solent</i> J. B. Priestley, <i>The Good Companions</i> Erich Maria Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> (film version, 1930) I. A. Richards, <i>Practical Criticism</i> Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i> |
| 1930 Coal Mines Act reduces underground working to 7½ hours per day First solo flight to Australia by Amy Johnson Jet engine invented Freud, <i>Civilisation and its Discontents</i> | W. H. Auden, <i>Poems</i> Blunden, <i>Collected Poems</i> Coward, <i>Private Lives</i> Eliot, <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Faulkner, <i>As I Lay Dying</i> Hardy, <i>Collected Poems</i> D. H. Lawrence, <i>The Virgin and the Gipsy</i> Lewis, <i>The Apes of God</i> Maugham, <i>Cakes and Ale</i> Rhys, <i>After Leaving Mr Mackenzie</i> Sassoon, <i>Memoirs of an Infantry Officer</i> Shaw, <i>The Apple Cart</i> Waugh, <i>Vile Bodies</i> |
| 1931 Economic crisis and escalating unemployment (up to 3 million this year) brings about collapse of government; MacDonald forms National (coalition) Government which wins general election (October) with large Conservative majority Ford Dagenham plant opens and introduces mass-production of cars to Britain | Bowen, <i>Friends and Relations</i> Ivy Compton-Burnett, <i>Men and Wives</i> D. H. Lawrence, <i>Apocalypse</i> Woolf, <i>The Waves</i> |
| 1932 Unemployed hunger march to London Britain's economy begins to recover from depression British Union of Fascists formed by Sir Oswald Mosley | Auden, <i>The Orators</i> Eliot, <i>Sweeney Agonistes; Selected Essays</i> Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i> D. H. Lawrence, <i>Last Poems</i> Priestley, <i>Dangerous Corner</i> <i>Scrutiny</i> , ed. F. R. Leavis Woolf, <i>The Second Common Reader</i> |
| 1933 Hitler becomes German Chancellor | Auden, <i>The Dance of Death</i> Vera Brittain, <i>Testament of Youth</i> Compton-Burnett, <i>More Women than Men</i> Walter Greenwood, <i>Love on the Dole</i> George Orwell, <i>Down and Out in London and Paris</i> Stephen Spender, <i>Poems</i> Yeats, <i>The Winding Stair</i> |

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| 1934 | Unemployed hunger march and lobby of Parliament Special Areas Act provides limited assistance to alleviate unemployment in depressed areas UK League of Nations Union organises 'Peace Ballot' (November 1934–June 1935): 11.5 million respondents, most favouring international disarmament | Eliot, <i>The Rock</i> James, <i>The Art of the Novel</i> D. H. Lawrence, <i>The Tales</i> MacDiarmid, <i>Stony Limits</i> Orwell, <i>Burmese Days</i> Pound, <i>Make it New</i> Priestley, <i>English Journey</i> Rhys, <i>Voyage in the Dark</i> Shaw, <i>Collected Prefaces</i> Dylan Thomas, <i>18 Poems</i> |
| 1935 | National Government re-elected; Labour gains in areas of high unemployment Nylon invented Radar invented Italy invades Ethiopia | Walter Brierley, <i>Means-Test Man</i> Compton-Burnett, <i>A House and Its Head</i> Eliot, <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> Isherwood, <i>Mr Norris Changes Trains</i> Louis MacNeice, <i>Poems</i> Orwell, <i>A Clergyman's Daughter</i> Penguin Books launched with first ten sixpenny paperbacks |
| 1936 | Death of George V and accession of Edward VIII, who abdicates later in the year to marry divorcée, Mrs Simpson; his brother becomes King George VI 'Jarrow March' of unemployed from Tyneside to London Public Order Act bans political uniforms (mainly aimed at Mosley's fascist blackshirts) First regular television broadcasts Spanish Civil War begins with right-wing rebellion, led by General Franco, against government | Auden, <i>Look, Stranger!</i> Winifred Holtby, <i>South Riding</i> Huxley, <i>Eyeless in Giza</i> Orwell, <i>Keep the Aspidistra Flying</i> Sassoon, <i>Sherston's Progress</i> Dylan Thomas, <i>25 Poems</i> |
| 1937 | British Government under Neville Chamberlain pursues policy of appeasement towards Italy and Germany Charles Madge and Tom Harrison start the 'Mass Observation' project to survey and document the lives of the masses | Auden and MacNeice, <i>Letters from Iceland</i> Isherwood, <i>Sally Bowles</i> David Jones, <i>In Parenthesis</i> Lewis Jones, <i>Cwmardy</i> Orwell, <i>The Road to Wigan Pier</i> Priestley, <i>Time and the Conways</i> Woolf, <i>The Years</i> |
| 1938 | Munich agreement with Hitler claimed by Chamberlain as guarantor of 'peace in our time' | Bowen, <i>The Death of the Heart</i> Idris Davies, <i>Gwalia Deserta</i> C. Day-Lewis, <i>Overtures to a Death</i> Orwell, <i>Homage to Catalonia</i> Waugh, <i>Scoop</i> Woolf, <i>Three Guineas</i> |
| 1939 | Germany invades Czechoslovakia, breaking the Munich agreement, and then invades Poland; Britain and France declare war on Germany Madrid falls to Franco's troops bringing the Spanish Civil War to an end Electron microscope invented | Christopher Caudwell, <i>Studies in a Dying Culture</i> Eliot, <i>The Family Reunion</i> Isherwood, <i>Goodbye to Berlin</i> Joyce, <i>Finnegans Wake</i> MacNeice, <i>Autumn Journal</i> Flann O'Brien, <i>At Swim-Two-Birds</i> Orwell, <i>Coming Up for Air</i> Rhys, <i>Good Morning, Midnight</i> Spender, <i>Poems for Spain</i> |