

1. THE FIRST PRINTED BOOKS

Hand printing was the first type of print technology invented by China, Japan, and Korea. Beginning in AD 594, books in China were printed on rubbing paper and folded and sewn on both sides. For a long time, China's imperial state was the leading producer of printed material. As China's urban culture blossomed in the seventeenth century, the uses of print broadened. Scholar-officials, businessmen, and wealthy ladies began reading and writing their own poems and plays in print. Reading became more popular as a pastime. New technologies were drawn to this new reading culture. Western printing processes and machines for printing were brought in the late nineteenth century.

Topic	Details
Origin of Hand Printing	Developed in China, Japan, and Korea. First printed books in China appeared in AD 594. Printed on rubbing paper, folded, and sewn on both sides.
China's Role in Printing	The imperial state was the largest producer of printed materials for a long time.
Growth of Print Culture (17th Century)	Expansion of printing with the rise of urban culture. Scholar-officials, businessmen, and wealthy women engaged in reading and writing. Poetry and plays were printed and circulated. Reading became a popular pastime.
Technological Advancements	The demand for printed books led to new printing technologies. Western printing techniques and machines were introduced in the late 19th century, transforming the printing industry.

PRINT IN JAPAN

Introduction of Hand Printing:

- Buddhist missionaries from China introduced hand-printing to Japan between AD 768-770.
- Earliest Printed Book:
- The Buddhist Diamond Sutra (AD 868) was the first known printed book in Japan.
- It contained six pages of text along with woodcut illustrations.

Growth of Print Culture (18th Century):

Urban culture flourished, leading to the expansion of printing. Paintings and printed books depicted the vibrant urban lifestyle.

Variety of Printed Books:

Libraries and bookshops were filled with hand-printed literature. Books covered topics such as:
 Women's lives
 Musical instruments
 Urban culture and daily life

This period marked a significant expansion of Japan's printing industry, influencing its literary and artistic traditions. This period marked a significant expansion of Japan's printing industry, influencing its literary and artistic traditions.



Vajracchedikā
 Prajñāpāramitā
 or The Diamond
 Sutra: **World's
 oldest surviving
 printed book**

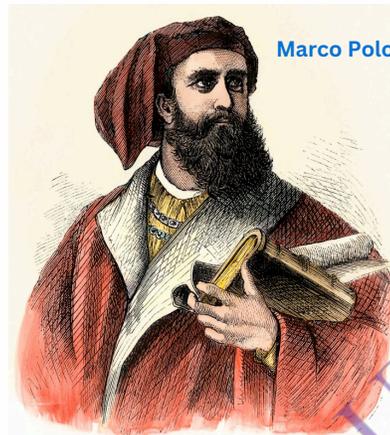
2. PRINT COMES TO EUROPE

Introduction of Paper to Europe

- The Silk Route played a crucial role in the spread of Chinese paper to Europe during the 11th century.
- The arrival of paper made it easier for Europeans to develop writing and printing techniques.

Influence of Marco Polo

- Marco Polo, an Italian traveler, visited China and learned about woodblock printing.
- Upon returning to Europe, he introduced this new printing technique, sparking interest in mass production of books.



Use of Woodblock Printing

To address this issue, woodblock printing became common in Europe by the early 15th century. This technique involved carving letters and images onto wooden blocks, inking them, and pressing them onto paper.

Although effective, it was still a slow process that required skilled craftsmanship.



Vellum is prepared animal skin or "membrane" used as a material for writing on. The term is derived from the Latin word vitulinum meaning "made from calf", leading to Old French velin for "calfskin".

Invention of the Printing Press

In the 1430s, Johann Gutenberg, a German craftsman from Strasbourg, invented the first printing press.

Gutenberg's press used movable metal type, making it far more efficient than woodblock printing.

This invention revolutionized the printing industry, allowing books to be produced faster and in larger quantities.

The mass production of books led to the rapid spread of ideas, knowledge, and literacy across Europe.

Gutenberg's printing press was a turning point in history, paving the way for the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution by making knowledge more accessible to the common people.



Topic	Details
Introduction of Paper to Europe	Chinese paper reached Europe through the Silk Route in the 11th century. This helped develop writing and printing techniques.
Influence of Marco Polo	Marco Polo brought the expertise of woodblock printing from China to Europe, increasing interest in book production.
Growth of the Book Trade	Rising literacy led to increased demand for books. Bookstores emerged across Europe, selling books to different regions. Handwritten manuscripts were too slow to meet the growing demand.
Use of Woodblock Printing	By the early 15th century, woodblock printing was widely used in Europe. Letters and images were carved onto wooden blocks, inked, and pressed onto paper. It improved book production but remained a slow process.
Invention of the Printing Press	Johann Gutenberg invented the first printing press in the 1430s in Strasbourg. Introduced movable metal type, making book production faster and more efficient. Led to the mass production of books, increasing literacy and spreading ideas across Europe.
Impact of Printing Press	Revolutionized the printing industry, making books more accessible. Contributed to major historical movements like the Renaissance, Reformation, and Scientific Revolution.

3. THE PRINT REVOLUTION AND ITS IMPACT

Transformation Through Print

- The Print Revolution was not just about book production; it changed access to information, knowledge, and authority.
- It influenced how people interacted with institutions and ideas.

What Is a Ballad?

- A ballad is a song or songlike poem that tells a story.
- The word ballad was originally derived from an Old French word meaning "dancing song"



A New Reading Public

- Before printing, information was mainly passed down orally.
- The printing press created a new audience by making books more widely available.
- Challenges:
 - Only educated individuals could initially read books.
 - Printers addressed this by producing popular ballads and folk stories with illustrations for the uneducated.
- As a result, oral culture merged with print culture, allowing printed texts to be read aloud and shared.

Religious Debates and the Fear of Print



- Many feared that if there was no control over what was printed and reading then rebellious and irreligious thoughts might spread.
- Religious reformer Martin Luther King criticised many practices and rituals of the Roman Catholic Church,
- Luther's translation of the New Testament led to the division within the church and to the beginning of the Protestant reformation.
- Roman Church began Inquisition to repress heretical ideas.
- In 1558 Roman Church began to maintain an index of Prohibited Books.



Effect of Print Revolution

- Printing reduces the cost of books, the time and labour required to produce each book came down.
- Multiple copies could be produced easily.
- circulation of ideas and opened a new world of debate and discussion.
- Brought a new intellectual atmosphere, helped spread the new ideas that led to reformation.
- Individual interpretation of faith even among little educated people.
- The writing of enlightened thinkers helped in French revolution.
- Ballad :- A historical account or folk tale in verse, usually sung or recited.
- Taverns :- Places where people gathered to drink alcohol, to be served food, and to meet friends and exchange news.
- Protestant Reformation :- A sixteenth-century movement to reform the Catholic Church dominated by Rome. Martin Luther was one of the main Protestant reformers. Several traditions of anti-Catholic Christianity developed out of the movement.

Print and Dissent

- Menocchio, a 16th-century miller, read printed books and reinterpreted the Bible.
- His ideas about God and Creation angered the Roman Catholic Church.
- As a result, he was tried twice and executed for heresy.
- In response to dissenting ideas, the Roman Church established the Index of Prohibited Books in 1558 to control what people could read.

Topic	Details
Transformation Through Print	The Print Revolution was not just about book production; it changed access to information, knowledge, and authority. It influenced people's relationships with institutions and ideas.
A New Reading Public	Before printing, information was mainly passed down orally. The printing press created a new reading audience by making books widely available. Challenges: Only the educated could read, so printers produced ballads and folk stories with illustrations for the uneducated. Impact: Oral and print cultures merged as printed texts were read aloud and shared.
Religious Debates and the Fear of Print	The printing press enabled the rapid spread of ideas, leading to debates and discussions. Fear arose that print could spread rebellious and irreligious ideas. Martin Luther's Role (1517): He wrote the Ninety-Five Theses, criticizing Roman Catholic Church practices. His writings challenged Church authority, leading to the Protestant Reformation.
Print and Dissent	Menocchio, a 16th-century miller, read printed books and reinterpreted the Bible, angering the Roman Catholic Church. He was tried twice and executed for heresy. To suppress dissenting ideas, the Roman Church established the Index of Prohibited Books in 1558 to control what people could read.
Impact of the Print Revolution	The print revolution increased literacy, challenged religious and political authorities, and reshaped knowledge sharing.

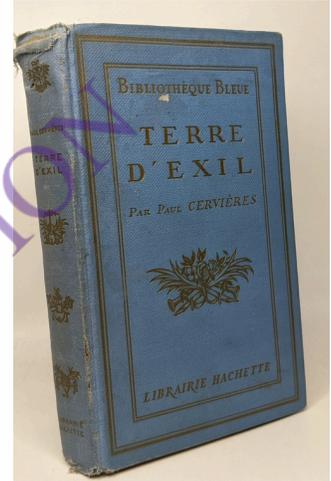
The Reading Mania

- Churches of different denominations set up schools in villages carrying literacy to peasants and artisans.
- In some parts of Europe literacy rates were as high as 60-80%.
- In England, penny chapbooks were carried by petty peddlers known as Chapmen.
- In France there was 'Bibliothèque bleue' which were low priced small books printed on poor quality paper and bound in cheap blue covers.
- Newspapers and journals carried information about wars and trade, as well as news of developments in other places.

Chapmen selling penny chapbooks



BIBLIOTHÈQUE BLEUE



Print Culture and the French Revolution

Many historians believe that print culture created the conditions for the French Revolution. Three key arguments support this idea:

1. Spread of Enlightenment Ideas

- The printing press helped spread the ideas of Enlightenment thinkers.
- Writers like Rousseau and Voltaire criticized tradition, superstition, and authoritarian rule.
- Their works encouraged people to think critically and logically, questioning existing power structures.

2. Growth of Debate and Discussion

- Print created a new culture of discussion and debate.
- It introduced new ideas about social change, inspiring people to demand reforms.

3. Criticism of the Monarchy

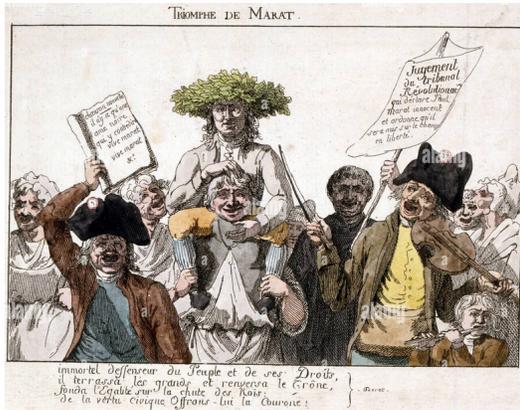
- By the 1780s, satirical writings and political pamphlets mocked the royalty and exposed their corruption and immorality.
- These writings shaped public opinion against the monarchy.

Impact of Print

- Although not everyone read the same books, print helped introduce new ways of thinking.
- It played a significant role in shaping revolutionary ideas and influencing public discourse.

4. PRINT AND THE CRITICISM OF THE MONARCHY AF

- Cartoons and caricatures depicted the monarchy as indulging in pleasure while the common suffered.
- Underground literature spread anti-monarchy sentiments, fueling hostility toward the ruling class.
- **Debates on print's influence:**
 1. Some historians believe print directly contributed to the French Revolution.
 2. However, people read various types of literature, including monarchical and Church propaganda.
 3. Readers chose which ideas to accept or reject, rather than being directly shaped by printed texts.
 4. Print did not dictate thought but opened the possibility of thinking differently.



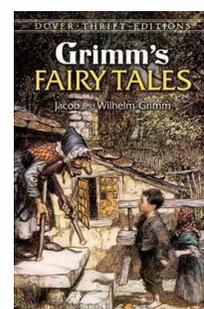
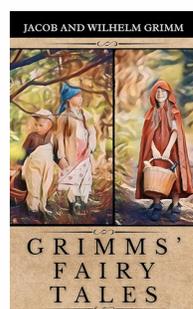
5. THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: RISE IN MASS LITERACY

The 19th century saw a rise in literacy across Europe, leading to new readers among:

1. Children
2. Women
3. Workers

1. Expansion of Reading Among Children

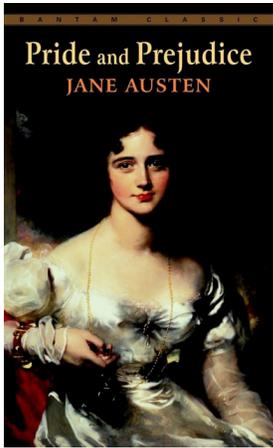
- Primary education became compulsory from the late 19th century, making children a key audience for books.
- School textbooks became a major part of the publishing industry.
- 1857: A children's press was established in France, dedicated to books for children.
- The Grimm Brothers collected and published traditional German folk tales in 1812.
- **Censorship in Children's Books:** Stories were edited before publication, vulgar or unsuitable content was removed to appeal to elite audiences.



2. WOMEN AS READERS AND WRITERS

- Women became key readers and writers in the 19th century.
- Penny magazines and housekeeping manuals were designed specifically for women.
- As novels became popular, women were seen as important readers.
- Famous women novelists included:

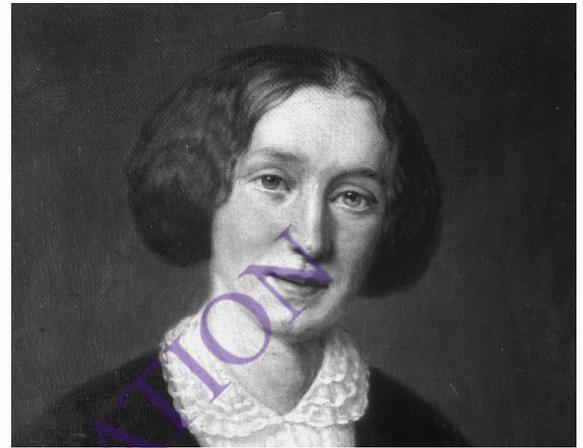
Jane Austen



The Brontë Sisters



George Eliot



- Their writings redefined women's roles, portraying them as strong, independent, and intellectual individuals.

ACHEEVERS FOUNDATION

3. WORKING CLASS

- Lending libraries had existed since the 17th century, but in the 19th century, they became key educational tools.
- White-collar workers, artisans, and the lower-middle class accessed books through these libraries.
- Self-educated workers also began writing their own works, including: Political tracts, Autobiographies
- Examples:
- Thomas Wood, a Yorkshire mechanic, rented newspapers and read them by firelight.
- Maxim Gorky's works (My Childhood and My University) narrate the struggles of poor people to gain literacy.

Innovations in Printing Technology

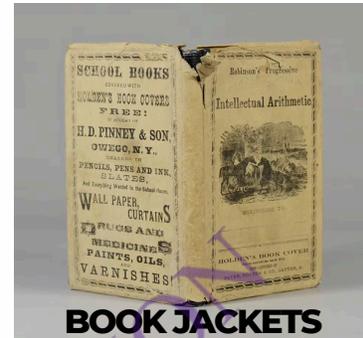
- Late 18th century: Printing presses were made of metal.
- 19th century: Several technological advancements improved printing speed and quality.
- Key Innovations:
 1. Richard M. Hoe (mid-19th century) developed the power-driven cylindrical press, printing 8,000 sheets per hour (ideal for newspapers).
 2. Late 19th century: The offset press was developed, allowing six-color printing at once.
 3. 20th century: Electrically powered presses accelerated printing operations.
- **Other developments:**
 4. Better paper feeding techniques
 5. Higher quality printing plates
 6. Automatic paper reels
 7. Photoelectric color controls

6. MARKETING STRATEGIES IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIE AF

- Printers and publishers developed new strategies to sell books.
- Serial publishing: Novels were published in installments in periodicals, making them more accessible.
- 1920s England: Cheap books were sold in a series called "Shilling Series."
- Book jackets (dust covers) were introduced in the 20th century to enhance book presentation and marketing.



SHILLING SERIES.



BOOK JACKETS

Impact of the Great Depression on Publishing

- During the 1930s Great Depression, publishers feared a decline in book sales.
- To sustain sales, they introduced cheap paperback editions.

7. INDIA AND THE WORLD OF PRINT

Let's analyze how printing developed in India and how concepts and knowledge were recorded prior to the invention of print.

Manuscripts Before the Age of Print

India had a rich tradition of handwritten manuscripts in:

Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, and vernacular languages.

Manuscripts were copied on palm leaves or handmade paper.

Features of manuscripts:

- Often beautifully illustrated.
- Pressed between wooden covers or sewn together for preservation.

Challenges of manuscripts:

- Expensive and fragile.
- Difficult to read due to different script styles.
- Limited circulation in everyday life.



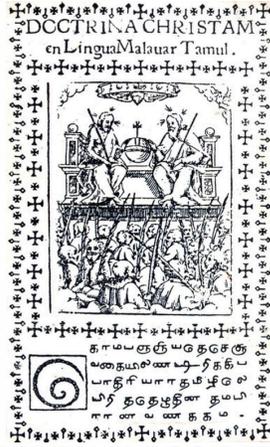
Education in Pre-Colonial India:

Bengal had a network of village schools, but students learned by dictation rather than reading texts.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRINTING PRESS IN INDIA



- The first printing press was brought to Goa by Portuguese missionaries in the mid-16th ce
- Jesuit priests printed tracts in Konkani and Kanara.
- Catholic priests printed: First Tamil book (1579) in Cochin, First Malayalam book (1713).
- Dutch Protestant missionaries printed 32 Tamil texts by 1710, many of them translations of older works.



FIRST TAMIL BOOK (1579)



TAMIL TRANSLATION OF BIBLE. TRANQUEBAR, 1713

GROWTH OF THE ENGLISH PRESS IN INDIA

- The English East India Company imported printing presses from the late 17th century, but the English-language press took time to develop.
- 1780: James Augustus Hickey started the Bengal Gazette, India's first English newspaper.
- Described as "a commercial paper open to all, but influenced by none".
- Included advertisements, even about slave trade.
- Also published gossip about British officials, angering the colonial government.
- Governor-General Warren Hastings suppressed Hickey's newspaper and promoted government-approved newspapers.
- By the late 18th century, many newspapers and journals appeared in print.
- Indians also started publishing newspapers.
- Gangadhar Bhattacharya launched the weekly Bengal Gazette, supported by Rammohun Roy.
- 1768: William Bolts attempted to set up a printing press in Calcutta but left for England before succeeding.



GANGADHAR BHATTACHARYA

RELIGIOUS REFORM AND PUBLIC DEBATES

AF

- In the early 19th century, religious discussions became increasingly contentious. Individuals criticized existing practices and advocated for reforms, while others opposed these reformist views. Newspapers and printed pamphlets played a crucial role in spreading new ideas and shaping public debates.
- Disagreements between Hindu orthodoxy and social and religious reformers arose over key issues such as sati (immolation), monotheism, widow remarriage, the Brahmanical priesthood, and idolatry, leading to intense debates.

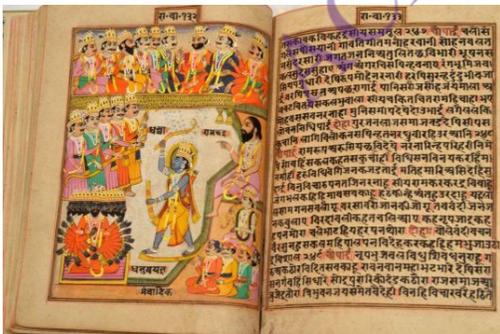
Major Publications:

- Sambad Kaumudi (1821): Published by Rammohan Roy to support reformist ideas.



- Jam-i-Jahan Nama & Shamsul Akhbar (1822): Two Persian newspapers promoting discussion.
- Bombay Samachar (1822): A Gujarati newspaper that contributed to religious and social discourse.

- The Deoband Seminary, established in 1867, published numerous fatwas to clarify Islamic teachings and guide Muslims in their daily lives.
- In 1810, the Ramcharitmanas by Tulsidas became the first Hindu scripture to be printed, published in Calcutta. By 1880, the Shri Venkateshwar Press (Bombay) and the Naval Kishore Press (Lucknow) expanded religious printing by publishing various vernacular texts, making religious literature widely accessible.



RAMCHARITMANAS

Vernacular

Definition:

Vernacular refers to informal language spoken within a specific community, often including slang, colloquialisms, and local expressions.

Functions

1. Cultural Identity and Unity
2. Everyday Communication
3. Expression of Local Art and Literature
4. Education and Learning
5. Media and Broadcasting



Print and the Formation of Indian Identities

- Print helped connect communities across different regions of India.
- Newspapers spread information, creating a sense of national identity.
- **Krishnaji Trimbuck Ranade (1849)** launched a Marathi newspaper to:
 1. Provide useful information on science, history, and geography
 2. Encourage free discussion on social issues
 3. Promote the welfare of the people.

Role of Newspapers in Political Awareness

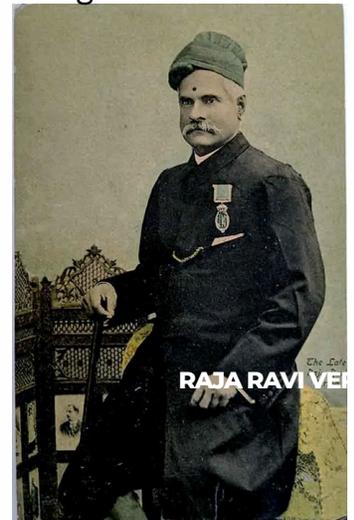
- Newspapers functioned like the Opposition in the British Parliament, critically examining government policies.
- They played a major role in:
 1. Studying social and political issues.
 2. Proposing reforms for the benefit of the people.
 3. Encouraging national political awareness.

8. NEW FORMS OF PUBLICATION

As reading became more popular, new forms of writing emerged to cater to the growing audience. The novel, developed by the expanding literary community in Europe, introduced readers to a diverse range of human experiences and perspectives. Other literary forms, such as songs, essays, and short stories, also gained popularity.

By the late 19th century, a new visual culture began to take shape. Painters like Raja Ravi Verma created artwork for mass distribution, making visual storytelling more accessible. By 1870, caricatures and cartoons had also become common, providing social and political commentary through illustrations.

- Poor wood engravers set up shops near printing presses, producing woodblock prints.
- Cheap prints and calendars became popular and were bought even by the poor.
- These prints influenced ideas about tradition, modernity, religion, politics, and society.
- 1870s:
 - Caricatures and cartoons were published in newspapers and journals.
 - Some mocked Westernized Indians, while others criticized social change.
 - Nationalist cartoons opposed imperial rule, while imperial caricatures ridiculed Indian nationalists.



WOMEN AND PRINT



The Rise of Women's Writing and Education

- Women's lives and thoughts were increasingly depicted in literature with greater emotional depth.
- Women's schools were established in urban areas, promoting female education.
- Journals began publishing articles by women, emphasizing the importance of educating girls.

Conservative Opposition

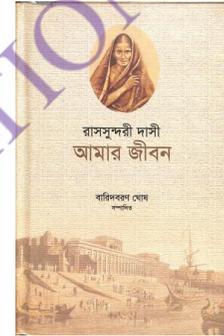
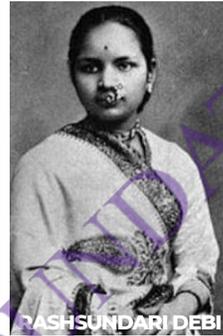
- Hindu traditionalists believed that educated girls would become widows.
- Some Muslims feared that reading Urdu romances would corrupt women.
- Despite these beliefs, social changes and books brought greater attention to women's lives and emotions.

Growth of Women's Publishing

- Early 20th century: Women started publishing their own journals, which became widely popular.
- Bengal (Battala neighborhood, Calcutta): A major center for publishing best-selling books.
- Late 19th century: Many books featured detailed woodcut prints and colored lithographs, increasing their appeal.

Women's Autobiographies and Social Reform

- East Bengal (early 19th century):
- Rashundari Debi, a young married woman, secretly learned to read in her kitchen. She wrote *Amar Jiban* (1876), the first full-length autobiography in Bengali.



- **Kailashbhashini Debi (1860)** wrote about women's suffering, including:

1. Being confined at home.
2. Forced to do hard domestic labor.
3. Denied education and justice.

- In 1880s (Maharashtra): **Tarabai Shinde** and **Pandita Ramabai** wrote with anger about:

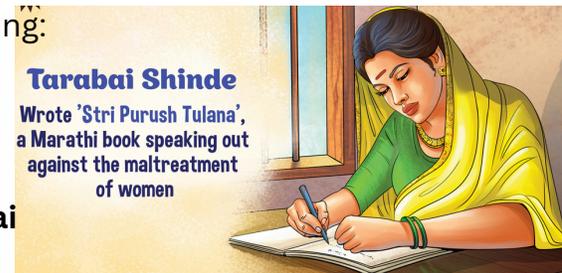
1. The miserable lives of upper-caste Hindu women.
2. The hardships of widows.

- Women found freedom and happiness in reading, despite social restrictions.
- Hindi printing grew in the 1870s, with a large focus on women's education.
- Early 20th century Journals for women became popular, discussing:

1. Education
2. Widow remarriage
3. The national movement

- Some journals also included:

4. Household tips
5. Fashion lessons
6. Short stories and serialized novels



PRINT AND WOMEN'S SOCIAL ROLES

Folk literature was widely printed in the early 20th century.

AF

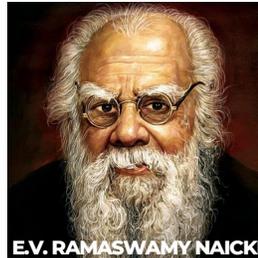
- Ram Chaddha's *Istri Dharm Vichar* and Khalsa Tract Society's booklets taught women to be obedient wives.
- Many writings were in dialogue format, discussing the qualities of a good woman.
- Battala (Calcutta) became a hub for cheap books. Books included religious texts, erotic literature, and scandalous stories.
- Pedlars sold books to homes, allowing women to read in their leisure time.

Fear of Cultural Change:

- Traditionalists feared that women's education would disrupt family structures.
- Satirical illustrations depicted gender role reversals, criticizing the influence of Western ideas.

PRINT AND THE POOR PEOPLE

- In 19th-century Madras, small and inexpensive books were sold to the underprivileged, increasing access to literature.
- Late 19th century: Issues of caste discrimination began appearing in printed texts and articles.
- Key figures addressing caste issues:
 - Jyotiba Phule
 - B.R. Ambedkar
 - E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker (Periyar)



Workers and Print Culture

1. Due to lack of education, factory workers were unable to write extensively about their experiences.
2. 1938: Kashi Baba published *Chhote Aur Bade Ka Sawal* to highlight the link between caste and class exploitation.
3. 1930s: Bangalore cotton mill workers established libraries to educate themselves, promoting self-learning and awareness.

9 PRINT AND CENSORSHIP

Early Censorship by the British (Before 1798)

1. Initially, the East India Company was not concerned with censorship.
2. Early restrictions targeted Englishmen in India who criticized Company rule.
3. The Company feared such criticisms would be used in England to challenge its trade monopoly in India.

Press Regulations in the Early 19th Century

1. 1820s: The Calcutta Supreme Court passed laws to control press freedom.
2. The Company encouraged pro-British newspapers.
3. 1835: Governor-General William Bentinck revised press laws due to public pressure.
4. Thomas Macaulay, a liberal colonial official, restored press freedom.



- **Press Regulations in the Early 19th Century**

- 1.1820s: The Calcutta Supreme Court passed laws to control press freedom.
- 2.The Company encouraged pro-British newspapers.
- 3.1835: Governor-General William Bentinck revised press laws due to public pressure.
- 4.Thomas Macaulay, a liberal colonial official, restored press freedom.

- **Press Censorship After the 1857 Revolt**

- 5.After 1857, British attitudes toward the press changed.
- 6.British officials demanded strict control over the vernacular press.
- 7.1878: The Vernacular Press Act was passed, modeled on Irish Press Laws.

- Gave the government the power to censor reports and editorials.
- Vernacular newspapers were closely monitored in all provinces.
- If a newspaper was found seditious, it was:
 - Given a warning.
 - If warnings were ignored, printing presses were seized.

- **Growth of Nationalist Newspapers**

- 1.Despite repression, nationalist newspapers increased in number.
- 2.They exposed colonial misrule and encouraged freedom movements.
- 3.Government efforts to suppress the nationalist press led to:
 - 4.Protests by Indian nationalists.
 - 5.A cycle of arrests and protests.

- **Tilak and Press Repression (1907-1908)**

- 1.1907: When Punjab revolutionaries were deported, Bal Gangadhar Tilak wrote sympathetically about them in his newspaper Kesari.
- 2.1908: Tilak was imprisoned for sedition, sparking: Mass protests across India.

- **Government Struggles to Control the Press**

- 1.The British struggled to find loyal newspaper editors.
- 2.Example:Editor Sanders (The Statesman, 1877) sarcastically asked:

"How much will I be paid for losing my freedom?"

The Friend of India refused a government subsidy to maintain independence

- **Mahatma Gandhi on Press Freedom (1922)**

Gandhi emphasized the importance of press freedom:

“Liberty of speech ... liberty of the press ... freedom of association. The Government of India is now seeking to crush the three powerful vehicles of expressing and cultivating public opinion.”
He believed the fight for independence was also a fight for freedom of speech and press.