Notes from: A Tale of Two Cities – 1601-1724

I. *A Tale of Two Cities*, Netflix

17c – a period of change recorded by two very different surveys of the city:

 1) John Stow, late 16th c

 a medieval city of 200,000

 The Thames river – integral to London

 largely defensive, a barrier of invasion from enemies

 2) John Strype, 1724

 The Thames river – integral to London

 but now because of the focus on trade

 the river was an invitation to the world

Expansion of trade - Sir Francis Drake, the Golden Hind

 sailed around the world and pirated booty by permission of the crown

 this encouraged the further development of trade

 East India Company, Paul Banning (1601)

 new cargo-carrying ships were needed

 these were built east of London, in newly built shipyards

 in Deptford, Blackwell

 other trading companies built in Aldgate

New forms of agriculture were expanding also.

 previously the farmers lacked the skills to grow vegetables

 Dutch protestants came to London w/the secret of manure

 1609 - vegetable growth, market gardening, exploded

 This occurred in Southwark on the south bank

 where previously only legal brothels, gambling dens, theatre, etc. thrived

 Prostitution expanded into the east end (Ratcliffe)

1617 – more lodging went up b/n the main city and the new wharves –

 Wapping, Ratcliffe, Shadwell, Limehouse, and Poplar

 1664 - housing half the population of east London

 One former prostitute, Damaris Paige, opened a pub and brothel of her own,

 the Three Tuns

 she became notorious and very wealthy

To the west, the royal residences and upscale residences expanded

 The Strand – a main road that left London to the west to open country

 Covent Garden, a harmonious little town fit for gentlemen

 1631 - Earl of Bedford hired Indigo Jones to design it

 Piazza, with the porticoed church

 this transformed the area b/n the city of London and the palace area

 w/a wonderful, upscale area including the New Exchange

 This inspired further building to the west

 market gardens - food market supply houses & distribution centers

 Dung Warf – the distribution of the fertilizer

 driving the very profitable vegetable industry

1642 – England’s Civil War

 1643 – London was surrounded by ramparts and military fortifications

 of Dutch design

 This created an entirely new industry – the printing press

 political pamphlets became mass communication and profitable

 1649 – Charles I beheaded at White Hall

 Cromwell levied heavy laws of morality upon Londoners

 1651 – coffee was introduced by Daniel Edwards

 1652 – 1st coffee house opened

 good places for news & gossip

 1660 – Charles II takes the throne

1665 – The Great Plague

 8,000 died in just one week

 the sheer number of bodies changed the very landscape

1666 - The Great Fire

 the flames spread along the riverfront along the wharves

 the trading centers, warehouses were being laid waste

 the Royal Exchange was engulfed in flames

 in the space of 4 days, the city is wiped out

 13,000 houses destroyed

Rebuilding began almost immediately

 started w/the houses on their previous foundations

 the new city looked much like the old

 suburbs spread, esp. in the east Spitalfields

 becoming home to the Huguenots

 bringing silk work & trade, gold & silver skills, etc. with them

 in the 19th c, Jewish immigrants moved in as well

 to the west, north of Parliament, was London’s West End

 previously the hunting ground for the Tudors

 1662, Charles II gave the license to build in St. James’ field

 St. James Square

 Haymarket developed rapidly

 becoming the playground of the wealthy

 rich houses were being built in Bloomsbury, Grays Inn, and Lincolns Inn

 developing modern methods of mass housing

 to the east,

 Damaris also moved up in the world

 investing in the construction of houses around the Tower

 shipbuilding, warehousing continued to recover a pace

 By the end of the 17th c,

 the East India Co. had grown enormously

 Economic Stability

 1672 – Charles II needed money for a war w/the Dutch

 declared debts postponed for a year

 1694 - Parliament answered w/the founding of the Bank of England

 to secure investors w/their debts/loans