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