

SOURCES & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Everything in this packet is built on real scholarship, and most of it is free. If a claim here sparks a question, go to the source and check it yourself. That is the whole idea.

START HERE

Wells, H. G. *The Time Machine: A Norton Critical Edition*. Edited by Stephen Arata, W. W. Norton, 2009.

The novel plus the actual Victorian documents behind it: Lankester and Huxley on evolution and degeneration, and Wells's own science journalism from the early 1890s. If you read one thing past the novel itself, read this.

THE VICTORIAN BACKGROUND (FREE, PUBLIC DOMAIN)

Disraeli, Benjamin. *Sybil; or, The Two Nations*. Henry Colburn, 1845.
Source of the "two nations" line, the rich and the poor as two peoples who never meet, fifty years before Wells made the divide literal and buried one nation underground.

Hinton, Charles Howard. "What Is the Fourth Dimension?" 1880. *Scientific Romances*, Swan Sonnenschein, 1884.

Where the era's fourth-dimension craze comes from. Hinton taught readers to picture a fourth direction in space; Wells borrowed the machinery and pointed it at time, which Hinton did not.

Lankester, E. Ray. *Degeneration: A Chapter in Darwinism*. Macmillan, 1880. *Project Gutenberg*, www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/59171.

The scientific argument underneath the Eloi: a species freed from struggle can evolve backward into something simpler and softer. Lankester was a friend of Wells, so this is a colleague's idea, not a distant one.

Marx, Karl. *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*. Vol. 1, translated by Samuel Moore and Edward Aveling, edited by Friedrich Engels, Swan Sonnenschein, 1887.

The root of the class reading in the allegorical layer. Marx's image of capital as "dead labour that, vampire-like, lives only by sucking living labour" (ch. 10) is the metaphor Wells makes literal, then reverses.

Nordau, Max. *Degeneration*. Translated from the second German edition, William Heinemann, 1895. *Project Gutenberg*, www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/51161.

The fin-de-siècle panic in book form, a bestseller the same year *The Time Machine* appeared, arguing that modern civilization was sliding into decline. The cultural mood the Eloi make flesh.

WELLS'S LIFE

Sherborne, Michael. *H. G. Wells: Another Kind of Life*. Peter Owen, 2010.

The standard modern biography. Comprehensive, readable, and clear-eyed about the man's flaws as well as his genius. Primary source for the biography section, with Wells's own memoir below.

Wells, H. G. *Experiment in Autobiography*. Macmillan, 1934.

Wells on his own childhood at Uppark, the draper's apprenticeship, and studying biology under Huxley.

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