

FULL CITATION: Theodore Koditschek examines the transformation of Bradford’s social structure: how preindustrial social groups became classes, and how political ideology, religious beliefs, and culture were changed by industrialization and urbanization. His research taps a vast and diverse array of sources, from Home Office records to family correspondence and fiction. The work is theoretically sophisticated, moving beyond Marxian and Thompsonian paradigms to locate the abstraction of “class” in a concrete historical setting and emphasize the agency of bourgeois capitalists in the way the working class was made.


FULL CITATION: With conceptual clarity, mastery of the historical literature in numerous fields, and wide-ranging and sophisticated original research, Theodore Koditschek has expanded our understanding of the dynamics of class formation, class conflict, and emerging consensus in nineteenth-century England. This broad study demonstrates how economics, religion, politics, and ideology interacted and differentially affected individuals and classes in the new liberal industrial society. This book was chosen from a field of seventy-eight works published during the past five years on the domestic and imperial history of Britain in all eras. Many of these books were, in the view of the committee, excellent contributions to the field, a judgment that adds even greater distinction to Koditschek’s study.