

# THE ENCLOSURE ACTS

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# INTRODUCTION



**What ?**

The enclosure acts, or laws of enclosure.

**When ?**

Implemented between the 16th and 19th centuries.

**Where ?**

A key moment in England's economic and social history.

# SUMMARY



1. Historical Context
2. What were the Enclosure Acts?
3. How did they work ?
4. Consequences of the Enclosure Acts
  - Economic Transformation
  - Social impacts
  - Growing Inequality
5. A Key Figure: Arthur Young
6. Carl Marx description



# 1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT



English agriculture operated under a communal system of open fields.

These lands were shared by peasants.

The population grew and the demand for food increased.



Development of capitalism.

Privatization of these lands.



## 2. WHAT WERE THE ENCLOSURE ACTS ?



The Enclosure Acts were laws passed by the English Parliament that allowed the enclosure of common lands.

The lands were redistributed to us, wealthy landowners.

We lost our lands and our rights ...





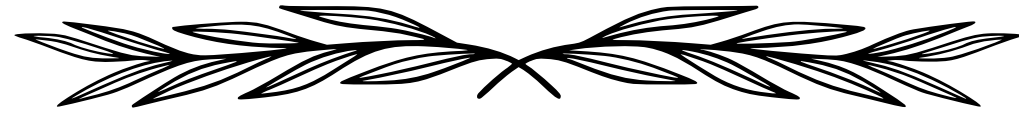
# 3. HOW DID THEY WORK ?



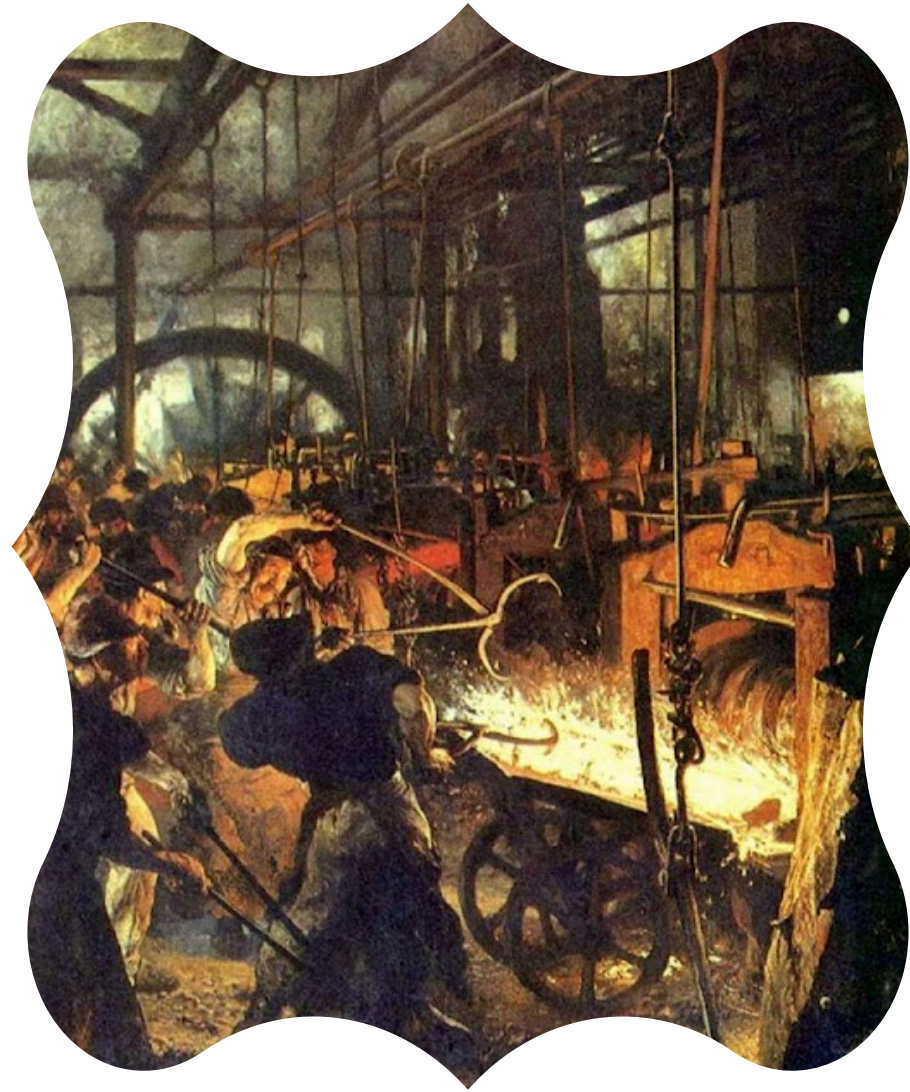
- Building hedges, walls, or fences to divide land into separate plots.
- It became a major driver of the Agricultural Revolution.



# 4. CONSEQUENCES



Economic transformation



Social impacts



Growing inequality



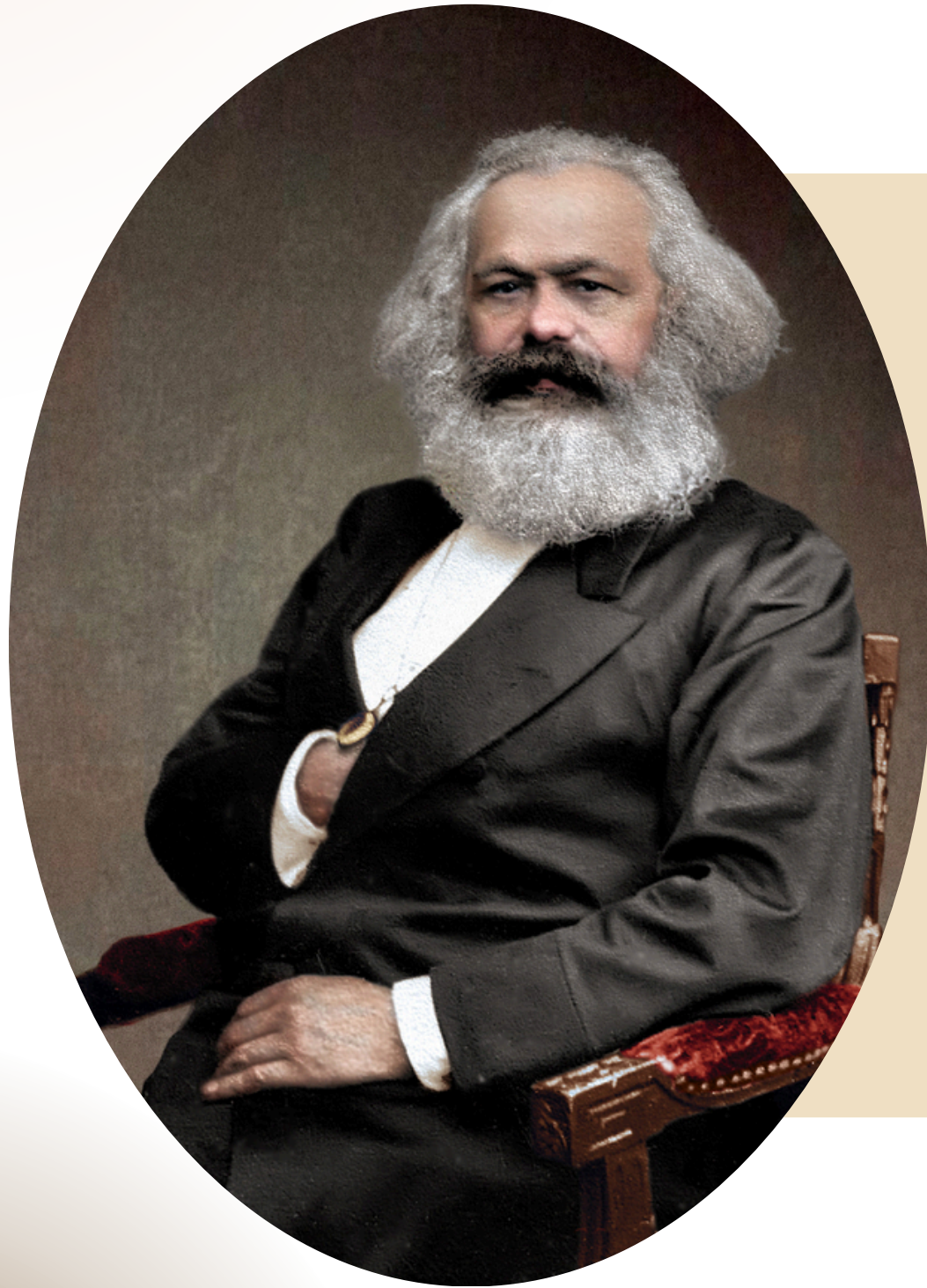
# 5. ARTHUR YOUNG



- Agronomist of the 18th century
- Significant role in promoting enclosures
- Following his ideas : “enclosures were necessary to modernize farming”
- Economic benefits of enclosures
- Injustices they caused for the poorest classes



# 6. KARL MARX



- Philosopher
- Economist
- Historian
- Sociologist
- Revolutionary theorist
- Father of the Marxisme
- For him : “the Enclosure Acts were a central element of the primitive accumulation of capital”



# CONCLUSION

