Britain and France were the Western powers against Germany, with Russia on the Eastern front. In World War II the Western AUies, now including USA, were of course related to their Eastern ally, the USSR. It was then really not until the postwar division of Europe, and the subsequent cold war between these former allies, that West and East took on their contemporary political configurations, of course building on some obvious geography and on some (but different) earlier cultural configurations. The nature of this definition then permitted the extension of Western or the West to free-enterprise or capitalist societies, and especially to their polilical and military alhances (which then sometimes complicated the geography), and of Eastern , though less commonly; to socialist or communist societies. (Hence the curious description of Marxism , which began in what is by any definition Western Europe, as an Eastern ideology.) The more obvious geographical difficulties which result from these increasingly political definitions are sometimes recognized by such phrases as Western-style or Western-type. After this complex history, the problem of defining Western civilization, a key concept from C18 and especially C19, is considerably more difficult than it is often made to appear. It is interesting that the appropriation of its cultural usage (Graeco-Roman or Christian) to a contemporary political usage (the West) has been complicated by the substitution of North-South (rich-poor, industrial-nonindustrial , developed-underdeveloped societies and economies) for West-East as, in some views, a more significant division of the world. But of course North-South , developed from the political and economic form of the West-East contrast, has its own geographical complications.
See C1VILIZATION, DEVELOPMENT

WORK
Work is the modern English form of the noun weorc, oE and the verb wyrcán, oE. As our most general word for doing something, and for something done, its range of applications has of course been enormous. What is now most interesting is its predominant specialization to regular paid employment. This is not exclusive; we speak naturally of working in the garden. But, to take one significant example, an active woman, running a house and bringing up children, is distinguished from a woman who works: that is to say, takes paid employment. Again: ‘early man did not work at all in the true sense . . . real work, steady work, labour for one’s Uvelihood, came into being when agriculture was invented’ (1962). The basic sense of the word, to indicate activity and effort or achievement, has thus been modified, though unevenly and incompletely, by a definition of its imposed conditions, such as ‘steady’ or timed work, or working for a wage or salary: being hired.
There is an interesting relation between work and LABOUR (q.v.). Labour had a strong medieval sense of pain and toil; work, earlier, in one of its senses, had also the strong sense of toil . Toil itself was derived from a Latin rw for stirring and crushing, and came through first as a synonym for trouble and turmoil before it acquired its sense of arduous labour in C14. Labour and toil are still harder words than work, but manual workers were generalized as labourers from C13, and the supply of such work was generalized as labour from C17. Work was then still available for a more general sense of activity: Tie upon this quiet life, I want worke’ (1 Henry IV , II, iv). But a labourer was also a worker from C14. Workman had come through from oE and was joined by workingman from C17. An effective class of workfolk was spoken about from at latest C15, and of workpeople from C18: often, in the kind of records we have, in a familiar tone: ‘You caimot imagine what a parcel of cheating brutes the work people here are’ (1708). The specialization of one sense of working to the working class, in eC19 (see CLASS), drew on these earlier effective class definitions.
The specialization of work to paid employment (see UNEMPLOYMENT) is the result of the development of capitalist productive relations. To be in work or out of work was to be in a definite relationship with some other who had control of the means of productive effort. Work then partly shifted from the productive effort itself to the predominant social relationship. It is only in this sense that a woman running a house and bringing up children can be said to be not working. At the same lime, because the general word is necessary, a person may be said to do his real work on his own, some-

times quite separately from his job . Time other than that spent in paid employment is significantly described as ‘your own time’, Tree time’, or as ‘holiday’ (the old word for a day of religious festival), or as ‘leisure-time’. (Leisure came from a Latin word for permit (Itcere), and from C14 meant opportunity or free time; it is significant of the narrowing specialization of work that we now have ‘leisure-time activities’, often requiring considerable effort but not described as work, which belongs to our ‘paid time’.)

The development of job is perhaps even more significant. Its origins are obscure; it has always been predominantly a colloquial word. There are uses as ‘lump’ or ‘piece’ from C14, and as ‘cartload’ from C16. From 1557 we have ‘certen Jobbes of woorke’. The sense of a limited piece of work came through strongly in C1 7, and jobbing and jobber , in senses we still have, came to mean doing occasional small ‘jobs of work’. The range of application is then very interesting. It is recorded in thieves’ slang from eC18, and is still active in this sense. It is recorded in the context of preferential treatment, moving towards sharp practice and corruption, from mC17; this is still just current in jobbery . Stocks were jobbed , from C17, by brokers and dealers who did not own them but made their money from them. Yet in spite of all these senses job has also come through as the now primary and virtually universal term for normal employment. By mC20 it had effectively completed a process of substitution for older terms, not only in manual work or in dealing, but in work previously described as situation , position , post , appointment and so on. These may still be formally used, but in practice nearly everyone describes them all as jobs (from a job in the Government or the Foreign Office - where people also have CAREERS (q.v.) - to a job on the buses or in a university or on a building site). What has then happened is that a word formerly specifically reserved to limited and occasional employment (and surviving in this sense, as in a price for the job; in view of the word’s history the description of individual subcontracting in building as the lump might be significant) has become the common word for regular and normal employment. Certainly we say a regular job , but we also distinguish a proper job from going around doing this and that - jobbing . The jobs problem is a problem of regular paid employment.

It is extraordinarily difficult to trace this history. There is evidence that it first developed this modern sense in the United States. But the word has always been a description of a certain amount of work from the point of view of the person doing it. Even the criminal and corrupt senses have this essential element, before the word was picked up and used, often derogatorily, by others. Work is still centrally important, and in much everyday use means only labour or a job . But experience of every kind of work has quahfied some of its more positive senses. Works, plural, is still neutral, but a work is relatively dignified. Labour, from its general sense of hard, difficult or painful work, became a term for a commodity and a class. As the latter it was adopted as a conscious term for a political movement which, among other things, asserted the dignity of labour. All these developments have interacted; many are still important. But running along at their base has been this short, colloquial and popular word job , with its significant practical range; the piece of work, the activity you get paid for, the thing you have to catch or to shift or to do, the ordinary working experience.