

# The Birth of Modern Industrial Society Europe 1815-1850

- \* Introduction
- \* Economic changes
- \* Social changes
- \* Political changes

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## Introduction

- \* **Industrial Revolution**, term usually applied to the social and economic changes that mark the transition from a stable agricultural and commercial society to a modern industrial society relying on complex machinery rather than tools.
- \* Dramatic changes in the social and economic structure took place as inventions and technological innovations created the factory system of large scale machine production and greater economic specialization, and as the labouring population, formerly employed predominantly in agriculture (in which production had also increased as a result of technological improvements), increasingly gathered in great urban factory centers.

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## Effects

- \* The Industrial Revolution has changed the face of nations, giving rise to urban centers requiring vast municipal services.
- \* It created a specialized and interdependent economic life and made the urban worker more completely dependent on the will of the employer than the rural worker had been.

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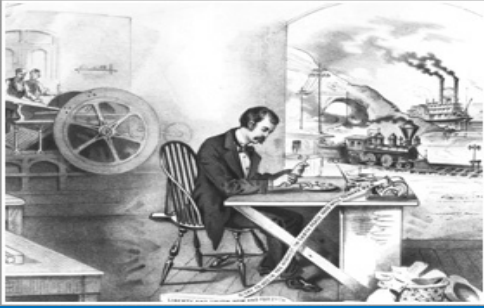
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The above pictures shows an inventor and in the background are inventions that were created during the Industrial Revolution. What are some of the inventions?

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## Economic Changes

- \* As economic activities in many communities moved from agriculture to manufacturing, production shifted from its traditional locations in the home and the small workshop to factories.
- \* Large portions of the population relocated from the countryside to the towns and cities where manufacturing centers were found.
- \* The overall amount of goods and services produced expanded dramatically, and the proportion of capital invested per worker grew.
- \* New groups of investors, businesspeople, and managers took financial risks and reaped great rewards.

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## Consumer Demand

- \* The existing system could not keep up with the demand of goods
- \* More consumers had sufficient income to afford exotic goods such as cotton cloth and china
- \* These were the rising "middle class"
- \* Traders realized that if they could produce goods in greater quantity at a cheaper price, they could find more consumers and make a higher profit.

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## Multiplier Effect

- \* Refers to the cycle of consumer demand, investment and innovations that drove the Industrial Revolution
- \* Cycle works as follows: increased consumer demand prompts entrepreneurs to invest in machines to speed up production, and thereby increase profit
- \* Faster production in one area of manufacturing prompts investment in another area. (example?)

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- \* Example: Faster methods of spinning cotton requires faster methods of weaving cloth
- \* Profit from increase production used to invest further innovations and inventions
- \* Multiplier effect caused Industrial Revolution to gather momentum and prompt new technologies

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- \* The cotton industry become the largest single employer of industrial labour, and cotton cloth became the most valued commodity in Britain's export trade.
- \* In the realm of technical innovations and in the number of people employed, the combination of coal, iron, and steam had an even greater multiplier effect than the cotton industry.
- \* Impact would become visible in the 1830s and 1840s with the introduction of steam locomotion and the boom in railroad construction.
- \* Why?
- \* Britain was producing two thirds of the world's coal, one half of its iron and one half of its cotton cloth.

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## Social Changes

- \* The social changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution were significant
- \* The Industrial Revolution brought with it an increase in population and urbanization, as well as new social classes
- \* The bad living conditions in the towns can be traced to lack of good brick, the absence of building codes, and the lack of machinery for public sanitation.
- \* The factory owners' tendency to regard labourers as commodities and not as a group of human beings.

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- \* The Industrial Revolution created a new working class
- \* The new class of industrial workers included all the men, women, and children labouring in the textile mills, pottery works, and mines
- \* Wages were low, hours were long, and working conditions unpleasant and dangerous

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- \* Women and children regardless of where they worked, had the most exploitative working condition and the lowest rates of pay.



- \* This is a picture of two children working in the mines. They were small enough to fit into narrow space. These are often the conditions children worked in.

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## Conditions in City Life

- \* People flooded into cities from the country side in hopes of finding jobs.
- \* Exclusive neighborhoods were built for wealthy bourgeoisie, while the working poor was forced to live in the ghettos
- \* The poor were forced to tolerate intrusions even at the most intimate times.

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- \* People were used to work and home being in the same place and it was normal for parents and children to work together
- \* Working day ranged from 12 to 16 hours
- \* As many as 8 to 10 people would share one room, families and single people of both gender would sleep together.
- \* Houses were built in rows or in squares with a common courtyard, in which there might be a water tap and a common toilet.
- \* There was little access to fresh air and little provision for clean water or removal of refuse, including human waste.

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- \* When production was in demand, workers would work extremely hard for a long hours.
- \* When the market was slow, they worked at a more leisurely pace.
- \* Employers imposed fines and penalties for lateness, for interruptions in work and for absenteeism

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## Social structure as a result of Industrial Revolution

- \* Increase in standard of living eventually resulted from urbanization
- \* Gap between wealthy and working class still remained enormous
- \* Industrial and urban development made society more diverse and less unified

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- \* Diversity within middle class
- \* Upper middle class: bankers, industrial leaders, large-scale commerce
- \* Diversified middle class: businessmen, professionals, merchants, doctors and lawyers
- \* Lower middle class: independent shopkeepers and small traders

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- \* Working class: about 80% of population
- \* Many were peasants and hired hands (especially in Eastern Europe)
- \* Less unified and homogenous compared to middle classes
- \* Highly skilled workers were at the top of working class (about 15% of pop.)
- \* Semi-skilled workers: carpentry, bricklaying, successful factory workers
- \* Unskilled workers and domestic servants were at the bottom.

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- \* Changing family
- \* Romantic love most important reason for marriage by 1850
- \* After 1850 the work of most wives increasingly distinct and separate from their husbands.
- \* Middle-class women begin to organize and resist their second-class status to husbands
- \* Child rearing more child-centered with wife dominating the home domain.

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## Political Changes

- \* The introduction of liberalism in the 18th century meant a new age in British politics, which continued through the Industrial Revolution
- \* Gladstone (Liberal) and Disraeli (Conservative) were two of the most influential political leaders of the late Industrial Revolution
- \* Both advocated reform of social structure; as a result, some of the more productive governments came to power.

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### Liberalism

- \* Emphasized rationalism, importance of individual happiness (individualism)
- \* Role of state is to protect the freedom and rights of the individual
- \* Believed that human rights would be lost if government intervened
- \* Generally, reflected views of middle class

### Conservatism

- \* Believed in value of traditional life
- \* More government necessary to control society and preserve general order
- \* Generally had a less optimistic view of human nature than liberals
- \* Reflected views of landed upper class

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## Laissez Faire: No Government Intervention

- \* Laissez faire would optimize economic growth (also known as free market)
- \* Who is the economic known for the “free market” theory?
- \* Held a very pessimistic view of the possibilities for improvement in the living standards of the poor

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## Utilitarianism: Government Intervention and Regulation

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) agree with Adam Smith’s argument that it was best to free individuals to pursue their own self-interest

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## Social Legislation

- \* New Poor Law drafted in 1834, which was based on the pleasure pain calculation called the “less eligibility principle.”
- \* In order to receive poor relief, an individual had to enter a workhouse and in order to discourage people from going on relief, conditions in the workhouse were designed to be worse than the conditions outside.
- \* Protesters saw workhouse as prisons and named them “Bastilles”
- \* Remained until 1909
- \* About 5 percent of the population was dependent on the New Poor Law

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\* Thought that the impact of legislation could be calculated by a simple formula called "principle of utility"

\* This principle states that laws should be designed to create "the greatest happiness of the greatest times"

\* If real conflicts arose, the government would intervene and create an artificial measure of social utility.

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\* The Factory Act of 1833 – prohibited the employment of children under nine and placed limits on working hours of those between the ages of 9 and 18

\* Factory Act of 1847 – limited children to 10 hour day. This limit became the standard working day for adults in textile mills.

\* The Mines Act of 1842 – prohibited the employment of women and of children under 10 years of age, in underground mines.

\* Why?

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\* With the conditions workers had to endure and the outbreak of killer diseases, Edwin Chadwick helped draft the Public Health Act of 1848, which included a General Board of Health to oversee conditions

\* The social legislation redefined the government's role in social policy.

\* It established new ways of investigating social problems and created a body of professional civil servants.

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How has the social  
legislation influenced the  
present?

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