

Chapter 20: The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on European Society

Big Ideas:

- The **Industrial Revolution** spread from Great Britain to the continent, where the state played a greater role in promoting industry.
- The experiences of everyday life were shaped by **industrialization**, depending on the level of industrial development in a particular location.
- The problems of industrialization provoked a range of ideological, governmental, and collective responses.

Key Concepts:

1. Great Britain established its industrial dominance through the mechanization of **textile** production, iron and steel production, and new transportation systems.
 - a. Britain's ready supply of coal, iron ore, and other essential raw materials promoted industrial growth.
 - b. Economic institutions and human capital such as engineers, inventors, and **capitalists** helped Britain lead the process of industrialization, largely through private initiative.
 - i. The Crystal Palace at the Great Exhibition of 1851
 - ii. Banks
 - iii. Government financial awards to inventors
 - c. Britain's parliamentary government promoted commercial and industrial interests because those interests were represented in Parliament.
2. Following the British example, industrialization took root in continental Europe, sometimes with state sponsorship.
 - a. France moved toward industrialization at a more gradual pace than Great Britain, with government support and with less dislocation of traditional methods of production.
 - i. Canals
 - ii. Railroads
 - iii. Trade agreements
3. Industrialization promoted the development of new classes in the industrial regions of Europe.
 - a. In industrialized areas of Europe (i.e., western and northern Europe), socioeconomic changes created divisions of labor that led to the development of self-conscious classes, such as the **proletariat** and the **bourgeoisie**.
 - b. In some of the less industrialized areas of Europe, the dominance of agricultural elites persisted into the 20th century.
 - c. **Class identity** developed and was reinforced through participation in **philanthropic**, political, and social associations among the middle classes and in **mutual aid societies** and **trade unions** among the working classes.
4. Europe experienced rapid population growth and **urbanization**, leading to social dislocations.
 - a. Along with better harvests caused in part by the commercialization of agriculture, industrialization promoted population growth, longer life expectancy, and lowered infant mortality.
 - b. With migration from rural to urban areas in industrialized regions, cities experienced overcrowding, while affected rural areas suffered declines in available labor as well as weakened communities.
5. Over time, the Industrial Revolution altered the family structure and relations for bourgeois and working-class families.
 - a. Bourgeois families became focused on the nuclear family and the **cult of domesticity**, with distinct gender roles for men and women.
 - b. By the end of the century, wages and the quality of life for the working class improved because of laws restricting the labor of children and women, social welfare programs, improved diet and the use of birth control.

- i. Factory Act of 1833
 - ii. Mines Act of 1842
 - iii. Ten Hours Act of 1847
- 6. A heightened **consumerism** developed as a result of the second industrial revolution.
 - a. New efficient methods of transportation and other innovations created new industries, improved the distribution of goods, increased consumerism, and enhanced the quality of life.
 - i. Steamships
 - ii. Railroads
- 7. Because of the persistence of primitive agricultural practices and land-owning patterns, some areas of Europe lagged in industrialization, while facing famine, debt, and land shortages.
 - a. The "Hungry '40s"
 - b. Irish Potato Famine
 - c. Russian serfdom
- 8. Ideologies developed and took root throughout society as a response to industrial and political revolutions.
 - a. Radicals in Britain and **republicans** on the continent demanded **universal male suffrage** and full citizenship without regard to wealth and property ownership; some argued that such rights should be extended to women.
 - i. Chartists
 - b. **Socialists** called for a fair distribution of society's resources and wealth and evolved from a utopian to a Marxist scientific critique of capitalism.
 - i. Robert Owen