

Changes Caused by the Industrial Revolution

Economic Changes

1. Machines replaced people in methods of production.
2. The *factory* replaced the *home* as the center of production.
3. The **standard of living** grew higher as more goods were produced.
4. Factory jobs tended to bore workers. Workers did the same thing every day and often *lost or never developed a sense of pride* in their work.
5. Workers grew dependent on owners. Owners could hire and fire workers for any reason.
6. Working *conditions* and *wages* were horrible.
7. Workers formed labor **unions**, an association of workers that pushed for benefits and **reform**. This was not an easy thing to do because labor unions were usually outlawed by the government. Many riots took place between **striking** union workers and the police.
8. Workers carried out *strikes* against owners. Workers refused to work until the owners met their *demands*. Strikes often turned into bloody battles.
9. *Trade* between countries increased.

Social Changes

1. The *standard of living* in the industrial countries grew higher and higher. Examples include Great Britain, the United States, and Germany.
2. Many farmers moved to cities to get jobs in factories. Consequently, cities grew at a fast pace. In the United States, for example, many rural people (those who lived in the countryside) from the South moved to cities in the North. In addition, millions of **immigrants** came to the United States in search of jobs.
3. As cities grew, problems increased. Some problems included over-crowding, lack of housing, poor **sanitary** conditions, disease, and poverty → *slums*.
4. *Women* and *children* entered the work force.

Political Changes

1. The land-owning class (*aristocrats*) was replaced by the industrial class (*capitalists*) as the leaders of governments.
2. A *laissez-faire* policy took the place of **mercantilism**. Laissez-faire meant free trade without interference from the government. Mercantilism, or the government policy of controlling overseas markets, meant that nations were strengthened by government control of its economic interests.
3. The *right to vote* for both men and women was expanded.
4. The *industrialized* or *developed* countries quickly became the strongest powers of the world. Countries were either thought of as *developed* or *underdeveloped*. By the end of the 19th century, the United States replaced Great Britain as the leading industrial nation in the world. In the 20th century, the Industrial Revolution would spread to almost every part of the world.
5. New types of economic systems developed. For example, **capitalism** expanded in the United States; **socialism** in Great Britain and France; and **communism** in the Soviet Union.
6. As the Industrial Revolution expanded, industrial nations sought new markets for their goods in other parts of the world. Capitalist nations became **imperialist** nations, extending their rule over other countries or territories, causing problems which led directly to World War I.

NEW POLITICAL FORCES:

MIDDLE CLASS — They were created by the wealth of industrialization. Stuck in a new position in the middle of society, they were hostile both to the aristocracy and to the lower classes. They were angered by their political exclusion from power in a system that still favored aristocrats — they felt they had the wealth and education to deserve a political voice. They also had contempt for the lower classes, particularly the growing mass of urban poor. In their lifestyles and political positions, they tried to separate themselves from this uneducated and politically powerless herd, with whom they had less and less culturally in common (and who often worked for them in their factories). Karl Marx called these middle class types the "**bourgeoisie**," and separated them from the urban lower class workers (the "**proletariat**").

INDUSTRIALISTS — They generally wanted government spending on infrastructure (railroads, road systems, shipping), free trade between nations, and little government interference with businesses and the way factories were run. They believed a "rising tide lifts all boats" — that the prosperity that industrialization and free, unhampered trade would bring would ultimately improve the lot of everyone. The bourgeoisie, whose money often came from industrialization, were some of the biggest champions of these positions.

LIBERALISM — A political position that meant something entirely different in the 19th century than it does today. It grew out of Enlightenment and American and Early French Revolution ideals, as summed up in *Declaration of Independence* (1776) and *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (1789). It was also encouraged by industrial growth; middle-class industrialists were also often 19th century liberals. Liberals favored freedom of trade in the manner described by Adam Smith; they were against both government tariffs and monopolies and other mercantilist practices, and the guilds and price-and-wage restrictions favored by traditional rural workers. Liberals also promoted religious tolerance, wanted reform of the political process but not full-scale democracy, sought a government ultimately answerable to elected representative institutions rather than a monarch (but not necessarily the abolition of monarchy altogether), and supported investment in infrastructure, especially the building of railroads.

NATIONALISM — 19th century nationalism as a political force came out of opposition to the **Congress of Vienna**, whose policies tended to support traditional dynasties over the ethnically diverse groups within their regions. It was also reinforced by the beginning of the **Romantic** cultural movement, which glorified folk traditions and idealized the past in a romantic, emotional way. Nationalists believed that political and ethnic borders should coincide with legal ones; that a people sharing a common language, experiences, and customs and culture had a natural right to share the same government. Liberalism and nationalism were often complimentary.

Nationalism created problems for extra-ethnic conglomerates like Russia, the Austrian Empire, and the British Empire (Ireland). It also inspired people in non-unified areas such as Italy and Germany to agitate for larger national structure through unification. It added to the instability of East Europe (the Austrian Empire) and the Balkans (the Ottoman and Turkish Empires).

SOCIAL CHANGES BROUGHT BY INDUSTRIALIZATION

As the workplace moved from homes to factories, families were split apart. Among working-class families, fathers were more likely to work and mothers to stay home. If added income was needed, the children would work, but they would not generally be working for family members anymore. This split families apart, and created gender divisions — the women's realm came to be seen as the home.

The **factory system** provided a supply of jobs, but generally at a lower skill level, which disrupted medieval and early modern guild systems and apprentice systems. The labor force at the bottom was often stuck there; they couldn't rise up to skilled worker positions.

"Means of Production": The tools and equipment necessary to produce goods were also no longer in the hands of common workers. With the rise of factories, the means of production — machinery and tools — were owned by factory owners; all the workers had control over was their labor. Factory owners had a much greater deal of control over their workers. They could insist on hours of work, behavior, even personal codes of conduct. During the early period of Industrial Revolution, factory owners were largely unsupervised, and could work their labor force, which had a great many children in it, half to death. Workers had no control over their environment; in some cases, they even lived in dorms or tenements provided by factory owner.

Changes in social conduct — The rise of the factory system resulted in a loosening of traditional family control. Sons and daughters now usually went to nearby towns to find work, and parents had less control over them. It was a more mobile society. Illegitimacy rates were rising. There had always been high instances of premarital sex (lots of pregnant brides in the early modern world), but now fewer social forces existed to force young men to marry the girls they impregnated.

At the same time, the women on the margins of society were in some ways doing better — there were a greater variety of jobs, although they were generally low-paying. Women in factories were generally single or widowed; married women usually could afford to stay at home, and society was coming to prefer this.

There was a basic trade-off in the Industrial Revolution for common people. Material standards of living were in some ways improving — more material goods were produced, so they were available at lower costs, and factories provided a variety of employment opportunities not previously available. At the same time, working conditions were often horrible and the pay was bad, and it was often difficult for unskilled workers to move to higher skill levels and escape the working class. The traditional protections of the medieval and early modern eras, such as guilds and mandated wage-and-price standards, were disappearing.