Reading Assignment

Chapter 21:
The Industrial Revolution, pp. 655-658, 661-662, 664, 666-680, 682

Chapter 22:
Ideological Conflict and National Unification, 1815-1871, pp. 686-695, 697, 701, 712, 716

Supplemental Reading

See information below.

Key Terms

1. Capital
2. Chartists
3. Class consciousness
4. Communism
5. Conservatism
6. Dialectic
7. Dialectical materialism
8. Division of labor
9. Domestic system
10. Enclosure
11. Industrial capitalism
12. Laissez-faire
13. Liberalism
14. Malthusian population trap
15. Nation
16. Nationalism
17. Nation-state
18. Positivism
19. Proletariat
20. Realpolitik
21. Romanticism
22. Socialism

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and 19th centuries.
2. Identify the social and economic changes that made industrial development possible.
3. Explain how industrialization spread from Great Britain to the rest of Europe and the United States.
4. Describe the economic, social, and cultural effects of the Industrial Revolution.
5. Discuss the relationship between the growth of industry and Britain's dominance in trade and imperial strength during the nineteenth century.
6. Identify the main ideologies that inspired people to political action from 1815 to 1871 and how they helped to shape modern Europe.
7. Describe the role of nationalism in the unification of nation-states between 1848 and 1871.
8. Create and support an interpretation of how ideology influenced international warfare and diplomacy during this period.

Unit Lesson

The Industrial Revolution, a series of economic and social changes, took place in England in the late 18th and 19th centuries. It was made up of four related developments: the introduction of new technology; the use of new mineral sources of energy; a concentration of workers in factories; and new methods of transportation. The Industrial Revolution introduced the machine age, and the most significant machines were steam engines and the machines used to make cloth. The steam engine, invented by James Watt in 1763, was used to raise minerals from mines, provide heat for smelting iron ore, drives machines in textile mills, and eventually powered the railroad locomotive.

Until the late 18th century, humans or animals provided the power for most economic activities, including transportation. Heat was produced by burning wood or charcoal. Such organic sources of energy were renewable but only over a long period of time, and that slowed down economic growth. Windmills and waterwheels could also provide energy, but not heat, and were not widely or easily available. The Industrial Revolution made a decisive change by relying on minerals, such as coal, as the main source of a much more efficient energy.

One of the major developments of the Industrial Revolution was the large factory, where workers toiled among the great machines that produced goods. This form of production evolved out of rural household industry and the large handcraft workshop, where most goods were previously produced. To the immediate causes of the Industrial Revolution-competitive pressures encouraging innovation in technology, the switch to coal power, the development of factories and railroads-must be added the social and economic factors that allow industrialization to occur: a large population, improved agriculture,

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sufficient capital, people with scientific knowledge and entrepreneurial skills, and a demand for manufactured goods. The role of these factors can best be seen in the example of Great Britain.

In the 18th century, British agriculture experienced a revolution of its own that greatly increased agricultural productivity. Enclosure–consolidating land into compact fields under the control of one farmer–allowed the introduction of such concepts as new crops and new crop rotations that restored nutrients to the soil allowing for greater yield.

The Industrial Revolution changed the landscape. Small towns grew into huge cities, which were dominated by factory smokestacks. In the countryside, railroads and canals altered the land. However, some of the new industrial architecture was not only impressive but also beautiful, while some artists found inspiration in the railroad.

Not since the Neolithic Age had anything so transformed human life as had the Industrial Revolution by the middle of the 19th century. Giving human beings unprecedented technological control over nature, industrialization affected everything from work routines to family life to the very appearance of the landscape. It changed the very definition of the West, making the West synonymous with industrialization and industrial capitalism, and creating new divisions between the West and the non-Western world.

European politics in the 19th century were influenced by liberalism, conservatism, socialism, and nationalism–four new ideologies with roots in the works of 18th century authors. The ideology of liberalism is centered on the principle that political, social, and economic freedoms are paramount, and the main function of government is to protect these freedoms. Although liberals' specific agendas varied from country to country, all of them had three objectives: 1) to establish and protect the individual rights, such as freedom of religion, that liberals sought to enshrine in constitutions; 2) to expand the franchise to all property owners, especially the middle class; and 3) to promote free trade, a view grounded in the ideas of Adam Smith, who argued for free-market capitalism. This kind of capitalism, often called laissez-faire, maintains that government generally should not intervene in the economy.

The ideology of conservatism sought to preserve the established order, in particular monarchy and aristocracy, and prevent the spread of those movements born of the French Revolution: liberalism and nationalism. Socialism arose as a reaction to the rise of industrial capitalism and the liberalism that justified it. Socialists advocated community ownership of the means of production to reduce inequalities of wealth and opportunity. The most radical form of socialism was developed by Karl Marx. Drawing from the ideas of the German philosopher Friedrich Hegel, Marx argued that history advances through a process called the dialectic, a method to study economic production. However, while Hegel believed that history advances because of the conflict of ideas, Marx and his associate Friedrich Engels argued that historical change was the result of economic factors, so his theory was known as dialectical materialism.

Nationalism emerged during and after the French Revolution. A nation refers to a large community of people who have a sense of unity based on a shared homeland and culture. In the early 19th century, nationalism was often identified with liberalism since both shared a belief in representative government. However, liberalism emphasized the individual while nationalism stressed political unity, and later in the nineteenth century nationalism was identified more with conservatism.

The four great 19th century ideologies were influenced by scientific rationalism and romanticism, which are two sharply divergent aspects of Western culture. Scientific rationalism had its origins in the Scientific Revolution and peaked in the Enlightenment. It stressed the powers of human reason, elevated science above all other forms of knowledge, and sought to create a science of human nature. Scientific rationalism, which produced the Industrial Revolution, continued to have a profound impact in the 19th century, where it gave birth to positivism, a theory arguing that nature has a direct link to, and the sciences can prove, positive knowledge.

Scientific rationalism was challenged by romanticism, which began as an artistic and literary movement but developed into a more general worldview. Romantics recognized the limits of human reason in comprehending reality and preferred to rely on intuition and imagination to reach more profound levels of being. Romantics did not limit reality to the material, similar to the positivists, but believed there was a spiritual and emotional dimension of reality.

Ideological encounters between 1815 and 1871 changed the political culture of the West. As ideologies became political movements, those ideologies themselves were often refined to accommodate political realities. These ideologies have lasted through present-day and have extended their influence beyond the Western world.

Supplemental Reading

Supplemental Readings are provided in the below links:

- “Consequences of the Industrial Revolution. BBC” http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00wr9r7
- Tables Illustrating the Spread of Industrialization http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/indrevtabs1.asp
- The Life of the Industrial Worker in Nineteenth-Century England http://www.victorianweb.org/history/workers1.html