

Chapter 20

Industrial revolution

England was the first country to get industrialization and one of the major factors was through the agricultural revolution, to enable the production of more food to feed the growing population and fuel the industrial revolution. England also had very good financial institutions which gave capital to the entrepreneurs to fund the industrial revolution. England has a lot of markets including the local and colonial markets.

The Industrial revolution started around 1750. Technology was a major factor in starting the revolution the artifacts including the spinning loom, the steam engine so there is an emergence of new industries such as the pig iron industry pushed themselves forward. Due to the expansion of the industrial revolution and the clamor for new and useful goods causes the emergence of the industrial factory, most of the production before 1750's was done through domestic production at home which is known as Piece work, and didn't rely on mass production. Through mass production wage workers needed to think of themselves and their work in a very different way than they had previously, it also made people come to one place to get their goods; workers needed to be fast, needed to be efficient and the needed to meet certain quotas. Working conditions were bad and workers worked twelve hours days for 6 days a week with barely enough pay to meet their family's needs. These small companies introduced the time work discipline which showed the growing importance of the clock.

England shows their industrial prowess in something called the great exhibition of 1851 in which it portrays all its industrial might they showed textiles and spices from India and pieces from China and Canada.

After the industrial revolution becomes widespread throughout England it gradually spread through the other European countries namely Belgium, France and Germany. The spread of industrialization through these countries was not easy due to reasons such as political instability, and the lack of adequate colonial markets to sell to and also a lack of capital to finance the revolution. The governments of these countries also did not want to support domestic industrialization, for example **tariffs** which were taxes put on imports and exports. At this time in order to put a monopoly on the industrial revolution England put certain measures to make sure that they were the leading industrial nation so they put certain restriction on the shipping of printed information overseas.

Russia is one of the countries who did not industrialize during this period, with the prevalence of serfdom throughout Russia was a very good thing for Russia and the nobility and aristocracy did not wish to lose their sovereign power by switching to an industrialize nation.

The Social Impact

During and because of industrialization Europe experienced huge population growth, this is due partially to the agricultural revolution and also due to decreased death rate and between 1750 to 1850 few people die in wars, on the other hand there is massive over population in rural areas and there are three

reasons why, when problems hit rural areas it causes wide spread famine for example the potato blight in Ireland where the potatoes rot and turn black and millions starve and die, in Europe emigration is huge so there is a great loss of wealth and knowledge and also a loss in workers. The third problem of rural over population is **urbanization**, more and more people move to cities from rural areas, people lived in cramped tenements with poor sanitation; more than one family would share one tenement. Epidemic diseases ran rampant through cities especially cholera and typhoid fever.

There are a few efforts at urban reform before the 18th century and the big things they were trying to fix were the sanitation conditions that people live in by trying to improved the sewage and plumbing systems.

Another huge impact to the social structure was the increasing class stratification, particularly the growth of a visible middle class who had a bit of disposable income to their name there were two classes of middle class the entrepreneurs and the working middle class. The upper middle class believed that they should have considerable say in politics. Over the course of the 18th century we see more and more political power being taken away from the aristocracy by the upper middle class. And then we see the working class, coined the proletariat by Karl Marx they are mostly artisans and they were part of guilds, they had a lot of power because they owned the means of production. These artisans no longer have control over their businesses due to the emergence of the factory and mass production, this causes an influx of wage workers who start working in the factories who took their jobs.