CHAPTER 23

The Emergence of Industrial Society in the West, 1750-1914

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The Industrial Revolution created new economic structures; the changes rivaled those brought by the Neolithic revolution. All aspects of human life were touched. European power rose, and extensions of Western civilization developed in other lands.

The Age of Revolution. Even before industrialization, new ideas and social pressures caused a series of social and political revolutions in the West.

Optimism Against All Odds. In the book Progress of the Human Mind, the French writer Marquis de Condorcet concluded that progress was inevitable, that humankind was on the verge of perfection. His prediction turned out to be only partially correct.

Forces of Change. A series of political revolutions began in 1775 with the American Revolution and continued with the French Revolution of 1789, and later lesser revolutions. Major trends reversed previous quieter 18th-century European themes. Intellectual ferment was high beneath the calm 18th-century surface. Enlightenment thinkers challenged the existing order and opened a gap between intellectuals and established institutions. They were joined by businesspeople in encouraging economic and technical change. Another source of disruption was the effect of a huge population increase. Upper-class families, to protect their more numerous children, tightened their grip on public offices. Business families were more willing to take risks. Rural families were forced into the proletariat. The population growth stimulated a rapid expansion of domestic manufacturing and consumerism. Youthful independence grew as the possibility of inheritance from parents declined. Sexual behavior, especially among the lower social classes, altered, with premarital sex rapidly increasing the number of out-of-wedlock births.

The American Revolution. American colonists after 1763 resisted British attempts to impose new taxes and trade controls and to restrict westward movement. Young men seeking new opportunities turned against the older colonial leadership. Revolution followed in 1775. British strategic mistakes and French assistance helped Americans to win independence. In 1789, they created a new constitutional structure based on Enlightenment principles. The revolution, by extending male voting rights, created the world’s most democratic society. Social change was more limited: slavery continued.

Crisis in France in 1789. In France, ideological fervor for change had been growing from the middle of the 18th century. Enlightenment thinkers called for limitations on aristocratic and church power and for increased voice for ordinary citizens. Middle-class people wanted a greater political role, while peasants desired freedom from landlord exactions. Growing commercial activity created a market economy, affecting many individuals. The government and ruling elite proved incapable of reform. Louis XVI called a meeting of the long-ignored traditional parliament but lost control of events to middle-class representatives during 1789. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, proclaimed by the assembly, and the storming of the Bastille, were important events in the evolution of a new regime. After peasants acted on...
their own to redress grievances. The assembly abolished manorialism and established equality before the law. Aristocratic principles were undercut, and the church's privileges were attacked and its property seized. Royal authority was limited by a parliament with male voting rights based on property.

**The French Revolution: Radical and Authoritarian Phases.** The initial reforms provoked aristocratic and church resistance, causing civil war in some regions. Economic chaos added to the disorder. Foreign regimes opposed the new government. The pressures led to a takeover of the revolution by more radical groups. The monarchy was abolished and the king executed; internal enemies of the regime were purged during the Reign of Terror. The new rulers wished to extend reforms, calling for universal male suffrage and broad social reform. The metric system was introduced, and all male citizens became subject to military service. The invaders of France were driven out and revolutionary fervor spread to other European nations. The radical leadership of the revolution fell in 1795 and more moderate government followed. The final phase of the revolution appeared when a leading general, Napoleon Bonaparte, converted the revolutionary republic into an authoritarian empire. Napoleon confirmed many of the revolution's accomplishments, including religious liberty and equality under the law (but not for women). Napoleon concentrated on foreign expansion: France by 1812 dominated most of Western Europe, except for Britain. Popular resistance in Portugal and Spain, a disastrous invasion of Russia, and British intervention crushed Napoleon's empire by 1815. The ideals of the revolution—equality under the law, the attack on privileged institutions, popular nationalism—survived the defeat.

**A Conservative Settlement and the Revolutionary Legacy.** The victorious allies worked to restore a balance of power in the peace settlement of 1815. France was not punished severely, although its border states were strengthened. Europe remained fairly stable for half a century, but internal peace was not secured. The conservative victors attempted to repress revolutionary radicalism, but new movements arose to challenge them. Liberals sought to limit state interference in individual life and to secure representation of property classes in government. Radicals wanted more and pushed for extended voting rights. Socialists attacked private property and capitalist exploitation. Nationalists, allied with the other groups, stressed national unity. All groups gained ground; the key political discussion became centered on constitutional structures and political participation. The middle class was joined by urban artisans in the reform quest. New revolutions with varying results occurred in the 1820s and 1830s in Greece, Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, and Belgium. Britain and the United States were part of the process, but without revolution, as they extended male suffrage. Most of the revolutions secured increased guarantees of liberal rights and religious freedom.

**Industrialization and the Revolutions of 1848.** All Western governments participated in some way in the processes of the Industrial Revolution. Lower-class groups began to turn to their governments to compensate for industrial change. Revolts followed in 1848 and 1849 when governments proved unresponsive. A popular rising in France in 1848 overthrew the monarchy in favor of a brief democratic republic. Urban artisans pressed for social reform and women agitated for equal rights. The revolution spread to Germany, Austria, and Hungary. Adherents sought liberal constitutions, social reforms restricting industrialization, and the termination of manorialism. Also present were ethnic demands for unity or increased autonomy. The 1848
revolutions generally failed, as conservatives and middle-class groups protected their interests. Peasants alone secured their aims, making them very conservative henceforth. The general failure taught potential revolutionaries that gradual methods had to be followed. Social changes also influenced revolutionary ideas. Artisans concentrated on their work and operated within the system. By 1850, a new class structure was in place. Aristocrats declined in power as social structure became based on wealth. Middle-class property owners now were pitted against a working class. The old alliances producing revolutions had dissolved and revolution in the West became obsolete.

The Consolidation of the Industrial Order, 1850-1914. Industrial development continued after 1850, bringing new social changes. Political unification came to Germany and Italy, and governments elsewhere developed new functions. The rise of socialism changed political conditions. Urban growth continued, but at a slower pace; in the cities, the conditions of living ameliorated for all classes.

Adjustments to Industrial Life. Family life adjusted to the changes imposed by the industrial economy. Stable populations resulted from declining birth rates and death rates. Greater value was placed on children. Material conditions generally improved as individuals enjoyed better diets, housing, health, and leisure time. Labor movements formed and provided strength for seeking better wages and working conditions. Peasant protests declined and rural isolation diminished. Peasants learned to use market conditions to improve their lives. They developed cooperatives, specialized in cash crops, and sent children to school to learn better techniques.

Political Trends and the Rise of New Nations. Western leaders worked to reduce the reasons for revolution after 1850. Liberals and conservatives realized that cautious change was acceptable to their interests. British conservative Benjamin Disraeli granted the vote to working-class men in 1867. Count Camillo di Cavour, in the Italian state of Piedmont, supported industrialization and extended parliament's powers. Otto von Bismarck of Prussia extended the vote to all adult men. Conservatives used the force of nationalism to win support for the existing social order. In Britain and the United States, they won support by identifying with imperial causes; Cavour stimulated nationalist rebellion to unite most of the Italian peninsula under Piedmont. Bismarck fought wars in the 1860s and 1870s that led to German unity in 1871. Other nations also reduced key political issues. The American Civil War of the 1860s ended the dispute over sectional rights and abolished slavery. France established a conservative republic based on full adult male suffrage. Most Western nations by then had parliamentary systems in which basic liberties were protected and political parties contested peacefully for office.

The Social Question and New Government Functions. Government functions expanded after 1870. Civil service exams allowed individuals to win positions through their own talent. School systems generally became compulsory to the age of 12 and even beyond; literacy became almost universal. Wider welfare measures replaced or supplemented private agencies, providing assistance for accidents, illness, and old age. The changes meant that governments and ordinary citizens had more contacts than at any time in history. A realignment of the political spectrum occurred. Social issues became the key criteria for partisanship. The rise of socialism depended on working-class grievances and reflected Karl Marx's theory that made socialism the final phase of historical development. Leaders in many countries translated his theories into political action. Socialist parties became major forces in Germany, Austria, and France by the 1880s. Some socialists—revisionists—became supporters of parliamentary democracy to achieve their
goals. Feminist movements by 1900 also challenged the existing order, sometimes by violent actions. Many Western countries extended the right to vote to women during the early decades of the 20th century.

**Cultural Transformations.** Western culture changed because of consumer emphasis and developments in science and the arts.

**Emphasis on Consumption and Leisure.** Higher wages and increased leisure time produced important alterations in popular culture. Many working-class men and women accepted middle-class values. The idea grew that pleasure was a legitimate part of life. The productive capacity of factories meant that consumption had to be encouraged. Product crazes occurred; the stimulated consumerism overcame older customs hindering pleasure seeking. Mass leisure culture emerged with popular newspapers, entertainment, and vacations. Leisure had become a commodity to be regularly enjoyed. The rise of disciplined team sports was one aspect of the change. All the popular interests demonstrated a growing secularism present in all aspects of life.

**Advances in Scientific Knowledge.** Science continued to gain ground, but many other intellectual movements attempted to explain reality. The size of the intellectual and artistic community expanded and found a growing market for its products. Most of the activity was secular. Western cultural activity had been built on traditions of rationalism, and the continuing advances in science kept the tradition alive. Darwin offered evolutionary theory in biology and Einstein advanced the theory of physical relativity. The social sciences advanced as a means of gathering empirical knowledge concerning human affairs. Freud developed his theories of the workings of human consciousness.

**New Directions in Artistic Expression.** Rationalism was not the only intellectual current. Romanticism insisted that emotion and impression were the keys to understanding human experience. By 1900, the abandonment of conventional standards had expanded to painting, sculpture, and music. African and east Asian influences were joined to the Western experience. The split between Romanticism and rationalism caused much debate; scientists were supporters of the industrial order, while artists followed experimental paths to finding the reality of modern life. At neither popular nor formal levels did Western culture produce a synthesis during the 19th century.

**Western Settler Societies.** The Industrial Revolution prompted a major expansion of the West's power. New markets for manufactured goods and new sources of raw materials were needed. The transportation and communication networks resulting from the Industrial Revolution intensified the effect of the Western-led world economy. They also allowed Europeans and their superior weapons to spread their empires. Massive European immigration created overseas Western societies.

**Emerging Power of the United States.** The United States grew from its limited colonial origins to expand across North America. The profound differences that had existed between the industrial North and the slaveholding South were resolved by the North's victory in the Civil War. The conflict was the first modern war; industrially produced weapons caused extensive casualties. The Civil War accelerated American industrialization and made the United States a major competitor of the leading industrial nations. New technology greatly elevated American
agricultural production and exports. American cultural life was parochial; its major artists and writers sought inspiration in western Europe. Scientific work improved after the creation of research universities based on the German model. By 1900, the United States was emerging as a great power.

**European Settlements in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.** The three British colonies also received many immigrants during the 19th century. They established parliamentary governments, vigorous commercial economies, and followed European cultural patterns. Canada, after continuing friction between British rulers and French inhabitants, formed a federal system, with the majority of the French residing in Quebec. The Australian colonies developed after 1788 amidst an indigenous hunting and gathering population. Agricultural development and the discovery of gold spurred population growth and the economy. A federal system of government emerged by 1900. In New Zealand, missionaries and settlers moved into Maori lands. The Maori were defeated by the 1860s. Generally good relations followed, and New Zealand developed a strong agricultural economy and a parliamentary system. The three territories remained part of the British Empire and were dependent on its economy. Basic European cultural forms prevailed.

**In Depth: The United States in World History.** Should the United States be regarded as a separate civilization? Some argue that contact with western Europe was incidental to the development of the United States on its own terms. They assert that the vast continent forced changes in the European inheritance. There were clear differences. The absence of a peasantry and the presence of the frontier into the 1890s negated some of the social ills besetting Europeans. Political life was more stable and revolved around a two-party system. Socialism did not become a significant force. Religion was important, but was not a political issue. Slavery and racist attitudes were ongoing problems. In world history terms, however, the United States clearly is a part of Western civilization, sharing its political thought, culture, family patterns, and economic organization.

**Diplomatic Tensions and World War I.** The power balance within Europe was altered by the rise of Germany. Bismarck realized this and created a complex alliance system to protect Germany. European nations expended their energies in an overseas expansion that by 1900 covered most of the globe. Latin America remained independent, but was under extensive United States interest. China and the Middle East were the scene of an intense power competition. Imperial rivalries were a part of the tensions among Europeans. Britain worried about the growth of the German navy and Germany’s surging economy. France, to escape diplomatic isolation, drew closer to Britain and Russia.

**The New Alliance System.** By 1907, the great powers were divided into two alliance systems. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy were in the Triple Alliance; Britain, Russia, and France had the Triple Entente. All powers built up military strength. Each system was dependent on an unstable partner. Russia suffered from revolution in 1905; Austria-Hungary was plagued by ethnic nationality disputes. Both nations were involved in Balkan disputes. Balkan nations had won independence from the Ottomans during the 19th century, but hostility persisted among them, while nationalism threatened Austria-Hungary and its Slav population. Continuing crises finally led to the assassination of an Austrian archduke by a Serbian nationalist. The response of the nations in the two European alliances resulted in World War I.
CHAPTER 23

TIMELINE

*Insert the following events into the timeline. This should help you to compare important historical events chronologically.*

- Unification of Germany achieved
- Congress of Vienna meets to settle Napoleonic Wars
- Revolutions in Italy, France, Austria-Hungary
- Beginning of first stage of French Revolution
- Charles Darwin publishes major work
- Austrian archduke assassinated in Balkans

____ 1789
____ 1815
____ 1848
____ 1859
____ 1871
____ 1914

TERMS, PEOPLE, EVENTS

*The following terms, people, and events are important to your understanding of the chapter. Define each one on a separate sheet of paper.*

- Albert Einstein
- American Civil War
- Belgian Revolution
- Benjamin Disraeli
- Charles Darwin
- Charles Dickens
- Conservatives
- Declaration of Independence
- Factory system
- French Revolution
- Imperialism
- Marquis de Condorcet
- Population revolution
- Radicals
- Reign of Terror
- Revisionism
- James Watt
- Henry James
- Triple Entente
- Karl Marx
- Reform Bill of 1832
- Otto von Bismarck
- Romanticism
- Paul Cézanne
- Emmeline Pankhurst
- Oath of the Tennis Court
- Luddites
- Louis XVI
- Revolution of 1905
- Age of Revolution
- Protoindustrialization
- Nationalism
- Manifesto of the Rights of Man
- Maximilien Robespierre
- Feminist movement
- Demographic transition
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
- Industrial Revolution
- Mass leisure culture
- Liberals
- Napoleon Bonaparte
- Triple Alliance
- Monroe Doctrine
- Social Fabian Society
- Bastille
- Chartist movement
- Guillotine
- James McNeill Whistler
- Stamp Act of 1765
- American Revolution
- Greek Revolution
- Sigmund Freud
- Louisiana Purchase
MAP EXERCISE

The following exercise is intended to clarify the geophysical environment and the spatial relationships among the important objects and places mentioned in the chapter. Locate the following places on the map.

Italy (after 1870)  Germany (after 1871)
Russia              Austria-Hungary
France

How was the map of Europe altered after 1871? What effect did the changes in the European map have on traditional rivalries and alliances?
MUTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Protoindustrialization refers to
   A) the strictly agricultural economy that preceded the Industrial Revolution.
   B) the development of the rural factory system.
   C) the employment of laborers who worked at home, but in a capitalist system dependent on urban merchants.
   D) the development of systems of transportation and communication necessary for full industrialization.
   E) the industrialization that occurred first in England and was a model for the rest of Europe.

2. Which of the following was a cause of the American Revolution?
   A) The British loss of territory during the French and Indian War
   B) The abolition of slavery in the American South
   C) Increasing difficulties with the Native American population
   D) The failure of the American colonies to develop a parliamentary experience
   E) Restriction on free movement into frontier areas

3. Which of the following was a cause of the French Revolution?
   A) Enlightenment endorsement of absolute monarchy
   B) The middle-class demand for greater political representation
   C) The continued influence of the Protestant clergy at the French court
   D) French territorial additions during the French and Indian War
   E) The impact of revolutions in Spain and Belgium

4. The radical phase of the French Revolution led to all of the following EXCEPT
   A) the execution of the king.
   B) the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures.
   C) an extension of the revolution to warfare in the Low Countries, Italy, and Germany.
   D) a full-scale attack on private property.
   E) a new calendar.

5. In what year did the final phase of the French Revolution begin?
   A) 1793
   B) 1799
   C) 1804
   D) 1812
   E) 1815
6. Which of the political groups listed below would espouse the following statement: "The chief goal of any constitution should be to secure the vote for all men, regardless of class or wealth."

A) Liberals
B) Conservatives
C) Socialists
D) Radicals
E) Luddites

7. What was James Watts' contribution to the Industrial Revolution?

A) He invented a steam engine that could be used to drive machines.
B) He introduced a system of interchangeable parts to the factory system.
C) He invented a spinning machine that enabled the industrialization of the textile industry.
D) He built the first commercial railway system in Britain.
E) He improved the quality of steel that could be produced.

8. Which of the following statements concerning the British Chartists is most accurate?

A) The Chartists were primarily artisans and workers who sought universal male suffrage.
B) The Chartists were organizations of craftsmen who opposed the extension of the Industrial Revolution.
C) The Chartists were unions of farm laborers who attempted to have the taxes on grain production eased.
D) The Chartists attempted to break machines to protest the increased discipline of the industrial workplace.
E) The Chartists were members of the nobility seeking to assert their traditional rights against the lower classes.

9. One of the reforms that conservative politicians were most willing to enact in order to gain the support of both liberals and the working class was

A) legalization of unions and strikes.
B) the creation of extensive national police forces.
C) universal manhood suffrage.
D) universal conscription.
E) giving all citizens the right to vote.

10. In what nation did socialism produce the strongest political party?

A) Britain
B) The United States
C) France
D) Germany
E) Italy
SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

1. It was the ________ that most clearly set in motion the political restructuring of western Europe.

2. Thousands of people were executed during the ________, the radical phase of the French Revolution.

3. The final phase of the French Revolution was ushered in by the victory of ________, a leading general who soon converted the republic to an authoritarian empire.

4. ________ focused primarily on issues of political structure, as they sought ways to limit state interference in individual life.

5. ________ wanted wider voting rights and, in some cases, outright democracy.

6. The essence of the ________ was technological change, particularly the application of engines driven by coal to the production process.

7. Count ________ in the Italian state of Piedmont began to support industrial development and extend the powers of parliament to please liberal forces.

8. ________ held that emotion and impression, not reason and generalization, were the keys to the mysteries of human experience and nature itself.

9. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the ________.

10. Britain, Russia, and France constituted the ________.

TRUE/FALSE. Write ‘T’ if the statement is true and ‘F’ if the statement is false.

1. Napoleon confirmed some of the developments of the French Revolution, including religious freedom and equality under the Napoleonic law codes.

2. Otto von Bismarck was responsible for introducing universal male suffrage into Germany, with a system that distributed voting strength according to wealth.

3. Sigmund Freud developed his theories of the workings of the human unconscious, arguing that behavior is based strictly on emotional responses that cannot be reduced to rational understanding.

4. Canada, like the United States, was separated from its European origins by a war of independence.

5. During the radical stage of the French Revolution, King Louis XIV was executed.
6. Nationalists urged the importance of national unity and glory in the search for a collective identity that could conflict with liberal individualism.

7. The factory system allowed manufacturers to introduce greater specialization of labor and more explicit rules and discipline.

8. The overall success of the revolutions of 1848 drew the revolutionary era in Europe to a close.

9. Italy developed a system called Risorgimento in which parliamentary deputies were transformed once in Rome to a single-minded pursuit of political office and support of the status quo.

10. Karl Marx saw socialism as the final phase of an inexorable march of history shaped by the available means of production and those who controlled them.