

PART IX INDUSTRIALISM AND THE HUMANITIES: THE MIDDLE AND LATE
NINETEENTH CENTURY

Chapter 28 The Industrial Revolution and New Social Thought

1. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the British countryside was being transformed by the *Industrial Revolution*, perhaps the most important event in the history of the human race.
2. It entailed the replacement of human labor with more efficient machine production.
3. Unlike other revolutions it affected different areas at different times, the British Isles first in 1785 and Western Europe by 1815 but before 1900, it was still limited to western Europe, North America, and Japan.

I. Britain in the Lead

1. There were several reasons for British precedence in the industrial revolution.
2. The British had the highest standard of living in the world and its efficient agricultural sector liberated a higher percentage of the working population for other pursuits.
3. Taxes were low, and the economy was not directed by the government.
4. The mechanization of cotton production encouraged invention and investment in other areas.
5. Continued progress, however, depended on Britain's access to markets abroad.
6. Continental and American competitors sought to emulate the new industrial civilization and competed for foreign markets by the end of the nineteenth century.

II. Karl Marx (1818–1883)

1. A German philosopher who spent much of his life in London, Marx was outraged at the distribution and concentration of wealth into largely just a few hands under the capitalist system of the Industrial Revolution.
2. In *Das Kapital*, he analyzed the capitalist system and predicted its downfall.
3. Marx believed bourgeois capitalism was a stage in historical development that would eventually be supplanted by the more just system of communism.

A. Communism

1. Marx believed that class conflict was approaching the breaking point.
2. Marx wanted to make the proletariat *class conscious* so they could be molded into a political force.
3. Communism advocated for the abolition of private property.
4. Marx believed agents of historical change were classes, not individuals.
5. The Communist Manifesto, which was written by Marx and Engels, represents the basic tenets of communist theory.

III. Material Progress

1. Marxism enjoyed its greatest success in countries undergoing the first stages of industrialization.
2. Western workers where industrialization was already established were experiencing a steady increase in their standard of living.
3. Belief in progress, without revolution, characterized all classes of the industrialized west in the late nineteenth century.

IV. Liberalism

1. While acknowledging the suffering of the poor, an important group of thinkers called *liberals* believed that, overall, industrialization and the unfettered capitalist system were a great boon to nearly all segments of society.
2. They believed that allowing individuals to pursue their own enlightened self interest would best serve the general good.
3. By the mid-eighteenth century, England and the continent stepped in to improve conditions and grant basic rights to workers.
4. Many critics of liberalism, such as Charles Fourier and others, contended that the existence of private property was inimical to the establishment of a just society.

A. John Stewart Mill (1806–1873)

1. Mill was the most eloquent of the new liberals.
2. Mill grew disenchanted with earlier liberal doctrine that promoted liberty and equality but was indifferent to the plight of the poor.
3. He was a vigorous opponent of slavery and a champion of women's rights.

V. Slavery and the Abolitionist Movement

1. The economies of the colonies and former colonies depended heavily on slave labor.
2. Demand for sugar, cotton, and tobacco contributed to the slave trade.
3. From the 1690s to the 1880s when slavery was at last abolished in the Western Hemisphere, between ten and fifteen million Africans had been bought and sold as slaves in the New World.
4. The moral crusade to abolish slavery known as *abolitionism* began with the Society of Friends (The Quakers) in the 1720s.
5. "Slave narratives," the life stories of escaped slaves, helped fuel the abolitionist movement in Europe.
6. The abolitionist movement in the United States become organized in 1831 when William Lloyd Garrison founded the journal, *The Liberator*.
7. Harriet Tubman rose to fame through her fearless leadership in *the underground railroad*, which transported escaped slaves in the South to freedom in the North.
8. An eloquent and leading abolitionist was Frederick Douglass who escaped from slavery in Maryland where he had taught himself to read.

VI. Women's Rights Movements

1. The abolitionist movement and the women's rights movement had been joined from the start.
2. Sojourner Truth, an African-American abolitionist, was also an impassioned advocate for women's rights.
3. Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized The Seneca Falls convention held in 1848 in upstate New York.
4. The convention could not unanimously agree on a plank demanding the right to vote for women, but the battle had begun.
5. At about the same time, Harriet Taylor and John Stuart Mill led the struggle for women's' suffrage in England.