

## The Second Industrial Revolution, 1870-1914

Part A. Listed below are sentences indicating major consequences of the Second Industrial Revolution. Read the statements and categorize them on the chart on the following page. Decide how many categories you will need and put the underlined words from each statement in the appropriate category. Label each category with a fitting title.

1. The proletariat emerged as a large and distinct, urban class with potential political power.
2. Politicians realizing the strength of the masses, extended suffrage to gain the support of the proletariat and to retain power in their own hands.
3. To protect their rights, the working class organized trade unions.
4. In some industrialized countries, socialistic political parties were organized to gain the support of the workers.
5. By the late nineteenth century, some industrialized countries, i.e., Britain and Germany, became predominantly urban.
6. Because the majority of the new urban population had been uprooted from the countryside, traditional values of home, church, and class no longer were upheld in the impersonal city life.
7. New disciplines in chemistry, biology, and the social sciences responded to the changing pattern of human life.
8. Standardized parts, assembly lines, and sophisticated machinery combined to create mass production on an unprecedented scale.
9. The Internationals attempted to encourage Marx's idea of the transnational character of the proletarians.
10. Mainstream political parties, e.g., Conservatives and Liberals, competed for support of the masses by promising socialistic legislation.
11. The purpose of government was transformed in response to the needs of the industrial society.
12. Improvements in transportation and communication created a smaller, interdependent world.
13. The quest for new markets and investments encouraged the imperialistic tendencies of European governments.
14. The prosperity created by the new industrialization enriched both the bourgeoisie and the government, which could now be held responsible for the welfare of the people.
15. New improvements in medicine increased life expectancy, reduced diseases, and increased population.
16. Governments, responding to mass pressures, legislated working conditions, working hours, and unemployment and health insurance.

- 17. The gap between rich and poor widened during this period.
- 18. The frustration of the working class prompted strikes and other radical responses to their plight.
- 19. Overproduction and the demand for raw materials created a need for colonies.
- 20. Mass emigration characterized the entire period.
- 21. Europeans invested capital in secure areas of the world in an effort to raise their rate of return.
- 22. Increased land values in cities prompted the development of a new industrial architecture.
- 23. Possession of industrial capital allowed the bourgeoisie to dominate European society.
- 24. Principles of Social Darwinism justified the exploitation inherent in industrial society.
- 25. Forms of monopoly developed to eliminate competition.

**Categories**



Part B. Using the categories you developed above to guide your thinking, write a thesis statement on the overall impact of the Second Industrial Revolution.