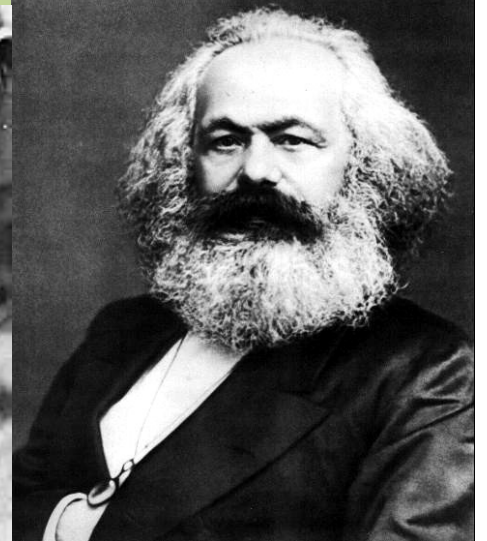


The Many Effects of the Industrial Revolution:

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750 – 1900)



The Early Impact of the Industrial Revolution:

- **New “Industrial” Cities.** In general, the growth of factories in England led to urbanization and increased populations in English cities.
- For example, London became the largest city in Europe. By 1850, London had 2.3 million residents! Manchester had 20,000 inhabitants in 1758 and reached 400,000 just a hundred years later.



- However, because city growth came quickly proper housing, sanitary codes, and police protection were lacking.
- Many roads were unpaved with no drains, garbage piled up on the streets, and often whole families lived in crowded dwellings.
- These conditions existed wherever industrialization took place.





- Many of the cities' poor developed tuberculosis, rickets (a bone disease caused by a lack of sunshine), and cholera. As a whole, life expectancy was much shorter for those living in urban areas (24 years in Manchester!).



- **The Environment is exploited.**

- Mass deforestation occurred in England & Western Europe as people cut trees for lumber to use in construction.
- In North America land was taken away from Native Americans and made available to farmers and loggers.
- Rural countrysides saw the construction of roads, canals, and railways.
- Rivers and the air became polluted.



- **New employment opportunities, (but under poor conditions) and new social changes.**
- Despite the abundance of new jobs (metalworkers, machinists, etc.) most of the work was repetitive and **menial** (Ex: workers did one simple task over and over all day, which on average was 14 hours, 6 days a week).
- *But wait! What were all these people doing before? Well there weren't that many people before, populations soared in the early 1700s because of the successful adoption of New World crops. People tended to be farmers or were craftsmen in towns.*
- *Why not go back to farming?! The need for more farmers actually went down because of new farming methods and crops, so they couldn't.*

- Unlike work in agriculture that fell upon the seasons, the parameter of industrial work was set by the clock.
- Since people were now working in factories they were removed from the home for long hours.
- Accidents were common and workers were easily replaced.
- The unskilled nature of factory work meant women and children could be employed and paid less (because they were women & children!).
- Therefore, there was a major social impact (mothers away from children, husbands working in places separate from their wives).

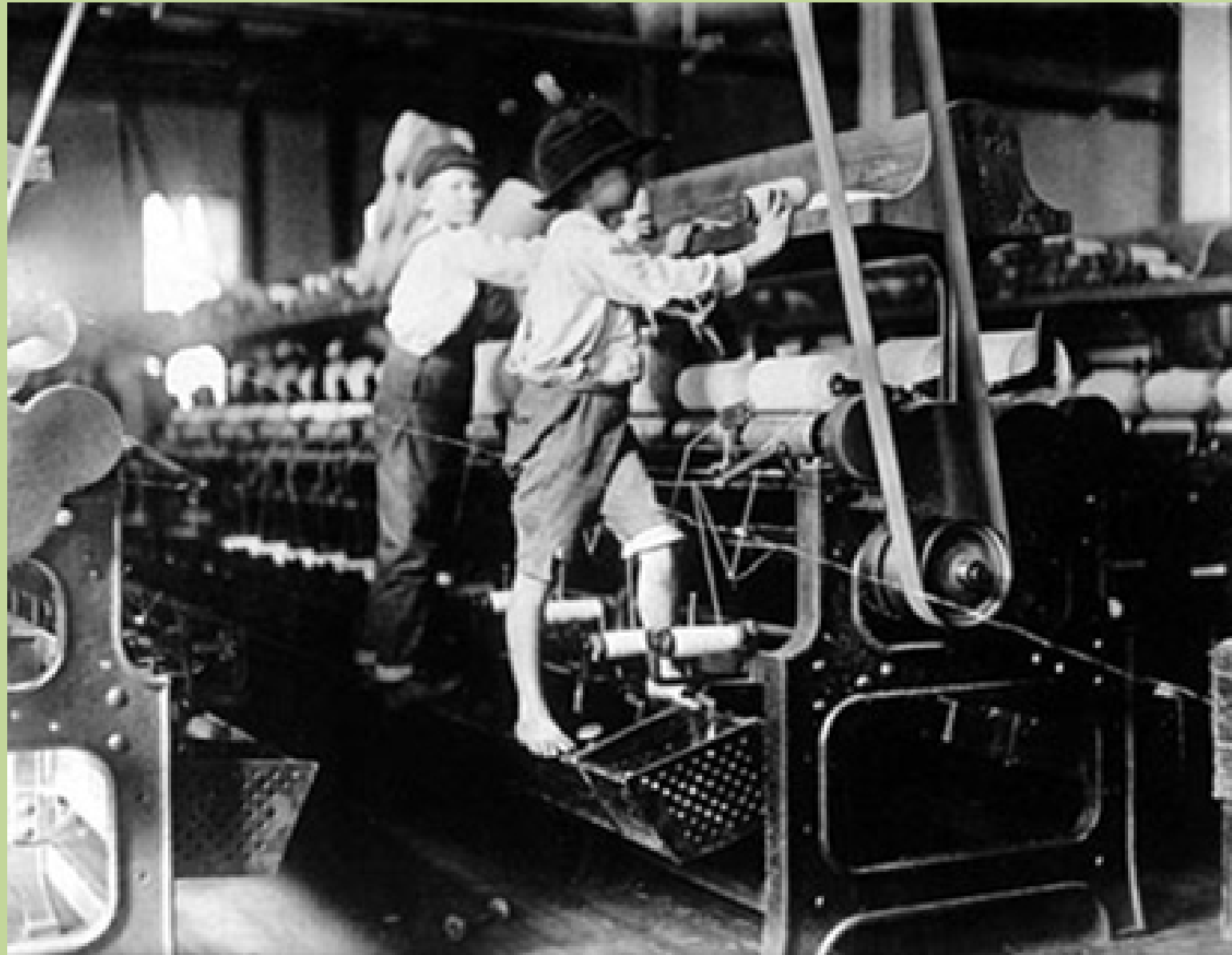
- The concept of children working was not new, but instead of harvesting wheat under the careful eye of their father, they were now working with dangerous machines under the supervision of a stranger.
- Occasionally infants were brought to work with mothers.



- In the Americas women and children were also used as workers in Industrial factories; for example women at the Lowell Mills (which were predominately located in the north).
- In the South, plantation work was carried out by slaves. By 1850, there were 3.2 million slaves in the U.S., most of whom worked in the cotton fields that fed Northern & British factories.











- The Industrial Revolution created two societies in the “Industrialized World,” while leaving behind another “Non-industrialized World” in the dust.

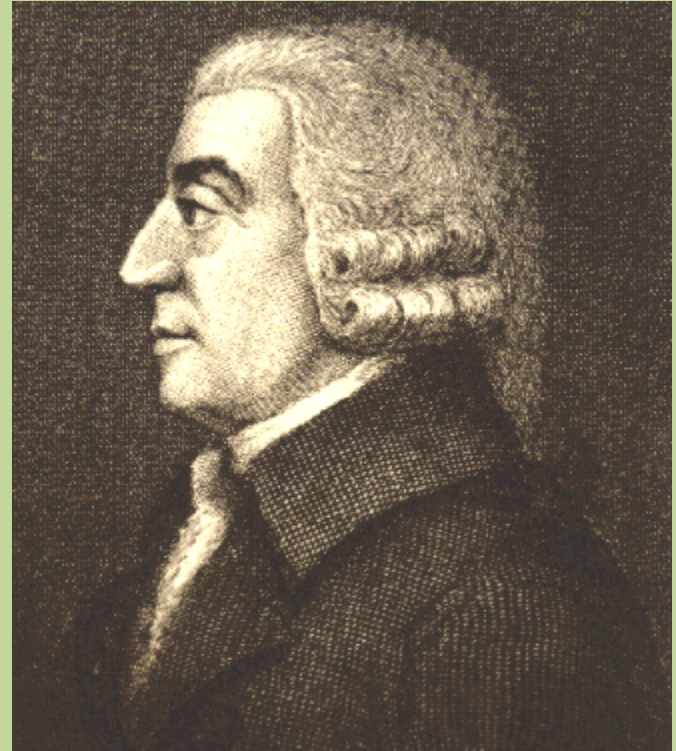
- Factory owners / entrepreneurs

- Wealthy
- Some were from the middle class, but were now finding themselves part of high society
- Wives became part of the “cult of domesticity,” (i.e. they were removed from the business world and became domestic housewives.

- Workers

- Entire families worked
- Lived in crowded housing
- Lower life expectancy
- For the poorest some resorted to prostitution, alcoholism, & child abandonment

- The lack of regulations on industry was a byproduct of laissez faire / free market capitalism.
- Scottish economist Adam Smith (*The Wealth of Nations*, 1776) argued that an invisible hand existed and that government should refrain from intervening in business.



If US grain is cheaper, then the Americans will focus on agriculture instead of industrializing, which means Britain will win!



- David Ricardo: argued for free trade, thus an end to mercantilism and government regulated trade.
 - His ideas helped repeal the British “Corn Laws” (high tariffs on grain / wheat imports) in 1846 in favor of free trade. As a result, it was a victory for laissez faire and a defeat to land owners who now had to compete with cheaper grain imports.
- Thomas Malthus: thought the social problems that coincided with the Industrial Revolution were not necessary an effect of the Industrial Revolution, but the higher population. He thought that population growth unchecked would lead to starvation; therefore don't blame laissez faire.

Quick Video



*Population, Sustainability, and Malthus: Crash Course
World History 215*

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAKW_i0bDpQ

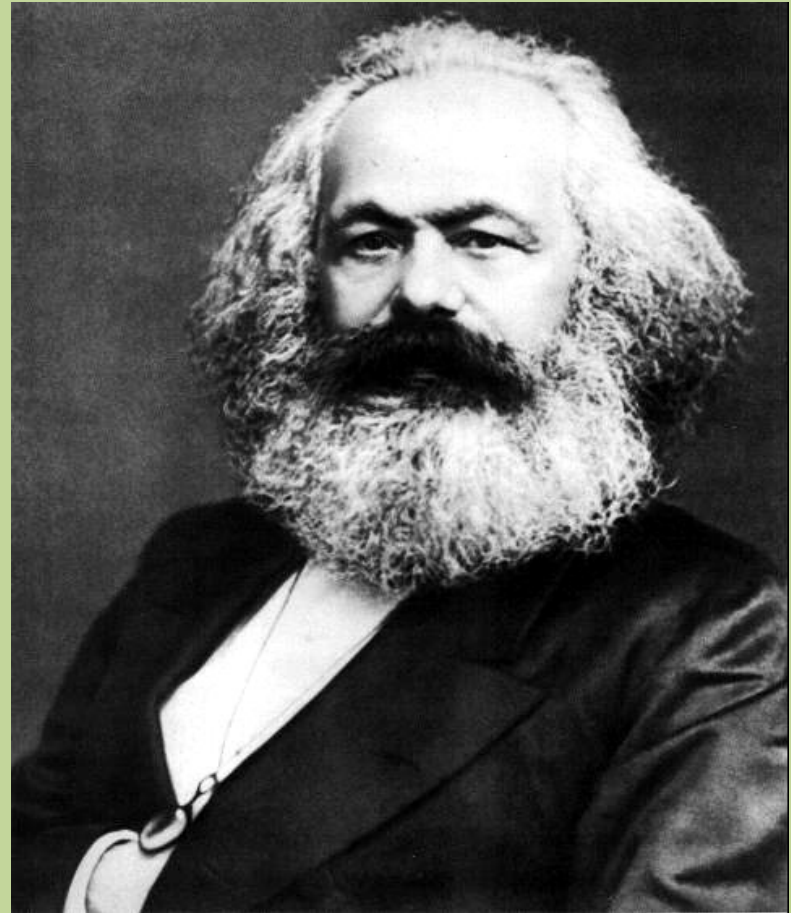
Early critics of laissez-faire

- **Friedrich List:** argued that German states had to create high trade barriers with England as a way of preventing German citizens from turning into “serfs for England,” and to protect German infant industries who couldn’t compete just yet.
- **Jeremy Bentham:** thought that Parliament should make reforms to alleviate social problems (hence government action).
- **Auguste Comte:** thought that the scientific method could help solve social problems. Similar to Charles Fourier, he recommended that the poor form worker communities under the protection of benevolent business leaders.
- Positivists were often criticized for being Utopian & naïve. Nonetheless, Robert Owen did manage a mill town in Scotland similar to their ideals.

What about Karl Marx?

- Marx was a socialist who developed the theory of communism (mid 1800s).

For whatever reason “Bulliet” decides to discuss him several chapters from now.

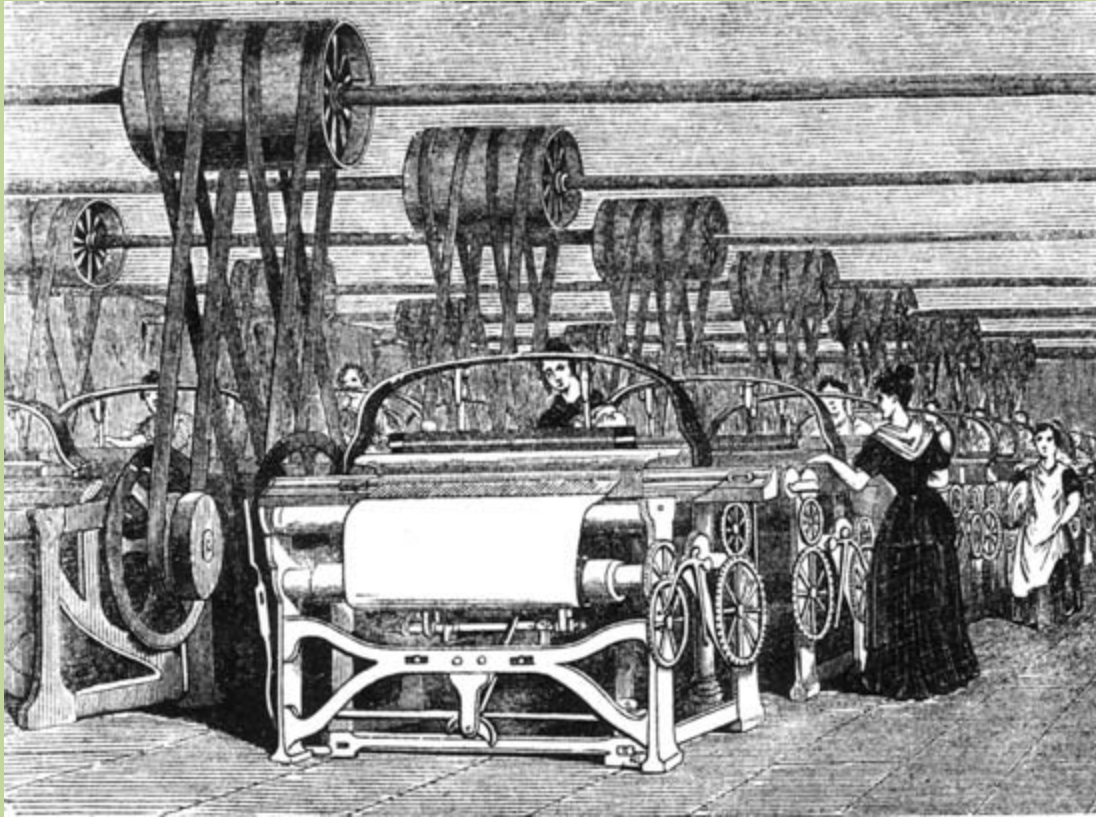


- In reality, new philosophical theories did nothing to improve the lot of the average worker. Occasionally workers would go on strike or purposely destroy machines, but neither stopped the Industrial Revolution.
- Beginning in the 1820s, Parliament began to look into abuses of industrial life.
 - Factory Act of 1833 (limited the hours a child could work, under 9 could not work in textile mills)
 - Mines Act of 1842 (prohibited children & women from working underground)
 - Ten Hour Act of 1847 (women & children couldn't work more than 10 hours a day in factories)
- In contrast to the Revolutions of 1848 on continental Europe, British reforms prevented widespread political discontent.

- The growing strength of Industrialized countries greatly contrasted with those who did not. Britain was even able to prevent others from industrializing.
- Egypt: Britain forced Egypt's leader Muhammad Ali to eliminate import duties, therefore local industries had to compete with British manufactures. Egypt was left to just exporting its raw materials (cotton).



- India: Similar to Egypt the influx of cheap factory made British goods put Indian weavers out of work. India became an exporter of raw materials.



- Britain was able to industrialize behind a wall of protective tariffs, but once they had industrialized they were all for (in favor of) free trade.
- Free trade compels countries to focus on what they do best compared to others.
- Therefore, Britain by the early 1800s wanted free trade globally because it gave them an advantage. Other countries like the U.S. and Germany wanted tariffs to protect their infant industries from the more efficient British manufacturers.

“If only we the British know “industry” then everyone else is stuck exporting raw materials!”





But, is industrialization really that great? I mean look at those poor kids in the factories and women in the textile mills. Not to mention the impact on the environment. Does industrialization really make you that much stronger?

Yes! Doesn't the North win the Civil War? They had more railroads to transport troops and supplies, factories to produce weapons, more people because immigrants emigrated there to work in the factories, etc. The more economically developed you are the more likely you are to win.

