

# 1750 - 1914 (2010-11)

## ~1750 Snapshot

early Industrial Revolution/evolution in Great Britain  
ethnocentric Qing China (Manchus) facing domestic crises  
large, decentralizing and weakening, Ottoman empire w/ disengaged sultans  
Russia - huge land based empire, partially westernized by Peter the Great, Catherine the Great  
absolute and constitutional monarchs in Europe  
Ireland, coastal India, Caribbean islands key peripheries in maritime British Empire  
large Spanish and Portuguese peripheries in Americas  
feudalistic, isolated, peaceful, and relatively prosperous Tokugawa Shogunate - Japan  
extensive slave and other product trade in Atlantic Ocean  
Seven Years War - global British and French conflict  
most American colonists perceive themselves as loyal British citizens  
European/western birth rate declining (slowing population growth rate) - migrations to colonies

## Major Developments

Causes and factors of changes from previous period and with period

Changes in global commerce (trade) communication, and technology (early globalization)

World Systems Theory  
changes in world trade patterns (including Suez Canal)

Industrial Revolution (industrial factory production using water, coal, steam engine power)

major technological innovations

(steam ship, railroad, telegraph, military weaponry, medicines)

mutual relation of industrial and scientific developments, commonalities

differential timing and transformative impacts in different societies

comparative causes and early phases in western Europe and Japan (Meiji Restoration)

common characteristics

global linkages in production and transportation

reactions and movements against, including Marxism

Political revolutions, new political ideas, and independence movements

Revolutions - compare two

French (including Jacobins)

Haiti

Mexico

China

United States

independence movements

U.S. - revolution or war of independence?

Latin America, rise of caudillos, domination by creole elites

rise of nationalism and "nation-states" and political reform movements - comparative examples

rise of democracy and its limitations

reform, women, racism

multi-national states and empires (land based and maritime)

overlaps between nations and empires

Demographic and environmental changes

population growth (Americas, East Asia, slowing in Europe)

population stagnation, then growth (Africa)

food supply issues (Malthus)

types of migrations (slavery, settler colonies, indentured servants, etc.)

push and pull factors, impacts

forests, plains, and arable/cultivable land carrying capacity

## North American forests (suggested case study)

### Social and gender structure changes

Industrial Revolution and commercial developments - impacts  
tensions between work patterns and ideas about gender  
debates re: nature of women's roles in industrialized and colonial societies  
comparative roles and conditions of western European upper/middle class and  
peasantry/working class

### Changing labor systems

Industrial Revolution commercial and demographic (population) developments  
(rural to urban migration)  
New forms of labor systems - Social Darwinism, but NOT Herbert Spencer  
Movements for workers' emancipation - Marxism, but NOT Utopian Socialism  
comparative labor systems and emancipation  
Latin American *encomiendas*, serfdom, slavery, indentured servants  
end of Atlantic slave trade, but maintenance of African slavery under colonial rule  
emancipation of serfs and slaves - Russia (suggested case study)  
debates re: causes of emancipation of serfs and slaves  
Asian, overseas indentured servants - second wave of indentured servants migration

### Rise of Western dominance, hegemony (varying economic, political, social, and/or cultural control)

patterns of expansion - imperialism, colonialism, and Social Darwinism  
comparative western interventions in Latin America and Africa  
impact of changing European ideologies on colonial administrations  
decline of Qing China  
Opium wars, beginning of "100 Years of Humiliation," Taiping Rebellion  
divided into spheres of influence, competing warlords, Boxer Rebellion  
Africa partitioned at 1884-85 Berlin Conference

### Cultural and political reactions to Western imperialism

reform - including Muhammad Ali (Egypt) and the Meiji Restoration  
*comparative nationalism - resistance and rebellion*  
*China (including Boxer Rebellion) and Japan*  
*Cuba and the Philippines*  
*Egypt and Nigeria*  
Ethiopia (suggested case study)

### *Patterns of cultural and artistic interactions among societies in different regions of the world*

*African and Asian influences on European art*  
*cultural policies of Meiji Japan*

## **Continuities**

slavery	European imperialism
rapid population growth (except Africa and Europe)	
rigid social hierarchies	patriarchy

## **Overarching Questions and Diverse Interpretations**

1. What are the debates over the utility of modernization theory as a framework for interpreting events in this period and the next?
2. What are the debates about the causes of serf and slave emancipation in this period and how do these debates fit into broader comparisons of labor systems?
3. What are the debates over the nature of women's roles in this period and how do these debates apply to industrialized areas? How do they apply in colonial societies?

4. How did rights of individuals and of groups (such as nations or ethnicities) change in this period?
5. To what degree did new types of social conflict emerge during the nineteenth century?
6. Through what processes did the influence of industrialization spread throughout the world?
7. How and with whom did the idea of “the West” as a coherent and leading force in history gain currency?