

The Age of Progress, 1815-1870: The Industrial Revolution

Lecture Summary: The industrial revolution is the historical term for a marked shift from wind and solar power to a coal powered world and the vast consequence of such a shift. To understand the industrial revolution is to delve into the history of science, labor, the environment and the history of philosophies and ideologies that both created the revolution and responded to it. This lecture gives a sweeping overview of the causes and consequences of the industrial revolution in Europe and North America.

I. Introduction

A. Industrial Revolution Defined

B. Why Europe?

II. Scientific Innovations leading the Industrialization of Europe

a. The Cotton industry

1. Spinning Jenny

2. Water frame

3. Cotton gin

b. Steam Engine

c. Railroads

III. Social Changes

A. Urbanization and its discontents

B. The New Industrial Working Class

a. Women and Children at work

b. Collective action - Labor Unions

IV. Environmental Changes

A. Earth

B. Water

C. Air

V. Intellectual and practical responses to Industrialism and industrial life

A. Time

B. Socialism and Utopias

a. Fourier

b. Saint-Simon

c. Robert Owen

C. Marxism

D. Anarchism