



## The Industrial Revolution

Mechanization, Urban Growth,  
Proletarianization, Consumption

## Mechanization

- During the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the European manufacturing process shifted from small-scale production by hand at home to large-scale production by machine in a factory setting.



## At the Expense of Workers

- The shift meant high quality products at competitive prices, but often at the expense of workers. For example, the raw wool and cotton that fed the British textile mills came from:
  - Lands converted from farming to sheep raising, leaving farm workers without jobs
  - The southern plantations of the United States, which were dependent upon slave labor



## Urban Growth

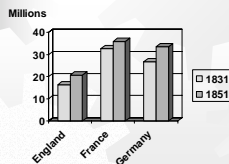
- Those who could no longer make a living on the land migrated from the countryside to the cities to seek work in the factories.

1850: Population Living in Cities



## Population Growth

- At the same time, the population of Europe continued to grow.



## The Plight of the Cities

- The sheer number of human beings put pressure on city resources:
  - Housing, water, sewers, food supplies, and lighting were completely inadequate.
  - Slums grew and disease, especially cholera, ravaged the population.
  - Crime increased and became a way of life for those who could make a living in no other way.



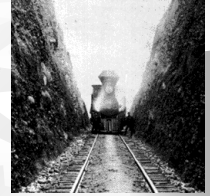
## Conditions in the Countryside

- The only successful farmers were those with large landholdings who could afford agricultural innovations.
- Most peasants:
  - Didn't have enough land to support themselves
  - Were devastated by poor harvests (e.g., the Irish Potato Famine of 1845-47)
  - Were forced to move to the cities to find work in the factories.



## The Role of the Railroads

- The railroads, built during the 1830s and 1840s:
  - Enabled people to leave the place of their birth and migrate easily to the cities.
  - Allowed cheaper and more rapid transport of raw materials and finished products.
  - Created an increased demand for iron and steel and a skilled labor force.



## The Labor Force

- No single description could include all of these 19<sup>th</sup> century workers:
  - Factory workers
  - Urban artisans
  - Domestic system craftsmen
  - Household servants
  - Miners
  - Countryside peddlers
  - Farm workers
  - Railroad workers
- Variations in duties, income, and working conditions made it difficult for them to unite.



## The Condition of Labor

- All working people, however, faced possible unemployment, with little or no provision for security.
- In addition, they were subject to various kinds of discipline:
  - The closing of factory gates to late workers
  - Fines for tardiness
  - Dismissal for drunkenness
  - Public censure for poor quality workmanship
  - Beatings for non-submissiveness



## Proletarianization

- During the century, factory workers underwent a process of proletarianization (i.e., they lost control of the means of production).
  - Factory owners provided the financial capital to construct the factory, to purchase the machinery, and to secure the raw materials.
  - The factory workers merely exchanged their labor for wages.



## Family Structures Changed

- With the decline of the domestic system and the rise of the factory system, family life changed.
  - At first, the entire family, including the children, worked in the factory, just as they had at home.
  - Later, family life became fragmented (the father worked in the factory, the mother handled domestic chores, the children went to school).



## Family as a Unit of Consumption

- In short, the European family changed from being a unit of production and consumption to being a unit of consumption alone.



## Gender-Determined Roles

- That transformation prepared the way for gender-determined roles.
  - Women came to be associated with domestic duties, such as housekeeping, food preparation, child rearing and nurturing, and household management.
  - The man came to be associated almost exclusively with breadwinning.

