



# Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

Dr. Edrene S. McKay ■ (479) 855-6836 ■ Email: esm@cox-internet.com

## TOPIC 7.1. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Supplement to Chambers, *The Western Experience*, Chapter 22: Foundations of the Nineteenth Century: Politics and Social Change, pp. 769-803.

<p><b>A TIME OF CHANGE</b></p>	<p>The Industrial Revolution was a time of dramatic change – from hand tools and handmade items to products which were mass produced by machines. Workers became more productive, and since more items were manufactured, prices dropped, making exclusive and hard to make items available to the poor as well as the rich and the elite. Life generally improved, but pollution increased, working conditions deteriorated, and capitalists made women and young children work long and hard hours.</p> <p>See the PowerPoint presentation in Course Documents for details about the Industrial Revolution and the accompanying trends of mechanization, urban growth, proletarianization, and consumption.</p>
<p><b>ONLINE RESOURCES</b></p>	<p>For more information on this topic, explore one or more of the following online resources:</p> <p><a href="#">The Industrial Revolution</a>: Excellent treatment of agriculture, technology, the steam engine, transportation, electric power, railroads, steam ships, communication, and changing social patterns.</p> <p><a href="#">From Mass Production and Popularization to Motorization</a>: A brief summary of the movement from mass production to the production of the automobile. Color photographs of early model cars.</p> <p><a href="#">The Life of the Industrial Worker in Nineteenth Century England</a>: Michael Sadler’s parliamentary investigation of conditions in the textile factories. Resulted in passage of the Act of 1833 limiting hours of employment for women and children in textile work.</p> <p><a href="#">Andrew Ure, “The Philosophy of the Manufacturers,” 1835</a>: Representative of the views of the new class of the manufacturers whose wealth derived from ownership of factories.</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p>Drawing on the resources you have had an opportunity to explore (textbook, course documents, online resources, library resources), answer one or more of the following questions:</p> <p><b>Why was England able to achieve and maintain the leading position in the industrialization of the early to mid-nineteenth century?</b></p> <p><b>What do you think were the three most important inventions of the industrial age? How did they change the production process?</b></p> <p><b>In what ways might moving from the countryside to the city have changed people’s lives during this period?</b></p> <p><b>Why were workers able to develop a sense of class consciousness during this period of industrialization?</b></p> <p><b>How did the evolution of the middle and working class family differ during the 1800s?</b></p> <p><b>How did urbanization exacerbate existing social problems?</b></p>