



Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

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TOPIC 7.2. INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY AND THE MODERN FAMILY

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

<p>INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY</p>	<p>In sociology, “industrial society” refers to a society with a modern societal structure (i.e., a society consisting of largely urban populations that engage in manufacturing, commerce, and services). Such a structure developed in the west in the period of time following the industrial revolution. Pre-modern or pre-industrial societies are called agricultural societies.</p> <p>Some theoreticians argue that we are in the middle of a transition from industrial societies to post-modern societies. The triggering technology for the change from an agricultural to an industrial organisation was steam power, allowing mass production and reducing the agricultural work necessary for survival. The catalyst or trigger for the transition to post-modern society is global information technology.</p> <p>After viewing the PowerPoint presentation on “Industrial Society: From Integration to Fragmentation,” create a graphical representation of today’s family. How does it differ from previous models?</p>
<p>ONLINE RESOURCES</p>	<p>For more information on this topic, explore one or more of the following online resources:</p> <p>The History of the Family: Abstracts of articles on the evolution of family life.</p> <p>Young and Willmott: Four Stages of Family Life: From pre-industrial to asymmetrical family life.</p> <p>A History of the American Family: Modern: See also American Families in Post-Modern Transition.</p>
<p>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</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>Describe the separate spheres of men and women and the responsibilities associated with them.</p> <p>What occupations were available to women outside of the home? Why were they limited in this manner?</p> <p>What type of "legal relationship" existed between married men and their wives and children?</p> <p>How did the lives and options of working and middle class women differ?</p> <p>How did industrialization change the working class family?</p> <p>With the advantages of hindsight, what might have been done to ease the pains associated with industrialization and the social change that accompanied it?</p>