



Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

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

TOPIC 9.2. THE DEBATE OVER CHILD LABOR

Supplement to Chambers, *The Western Experience*, Chapter 23: Learning to Live with Change, pp. 818-830.

WEB ACTIVITY	<p>From the list below, select the name of a person involved in the debate over the issue of children working in textile factories in the early part of the 19th century. At the Spartacus website, research the details of your character and your views on child labor. For additional help, see Child Labor, 1750-1850. Then write a brief biography of your character and prepare a two-minute speech for a debate entitled: "Parliament should pass legislation making it illegal for children under the age of twelve to work in textile factories." The International School of Toulouse has some examples of speeches.</p> <p>Factory Owners: Supported Child Labor Richard Arkwright Samuel Greg Robert Hyde Greg George Courtauld Samuel Courtauld Jedediah Strutt John Marshall Titus Salt David Dale</p> <p>Factory Owners: Opposed Child Labor John Fielden Robert Owen John Wood</p> <p>Campaigners: Supported Child Labor Edward Baines Andrew Ure John Edward Taylor John Bright Viscount Althorp</p> <p>Campaigners: Opposed Child Labor Frances Trollope Richard Oastler Michael Sadler John Doherty John Cam Hobhouse Lord Ashley Joseph Rayner Stephens Henry Hetherington Richard Carlile</p> <p>Doctors: Supported Child Labor Dr. Thomas Turner Dr. Edward Holme Dr. William Whatton Dr. William Wilson Dr. Henry Hardie</p> <p>Doctors: Opposed Child Labor Dr. Michael Ward</p>
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**FOR
DISCUSSION**

[Dr. William Blizard](#)
[Dr. Samuel Smith](#)

Child Workers: Girls

[Sarah Carpenter](#)
[Elizabeth Bentley](#)
[Hannah Brown](#)
[Mary Bucktrout](#)
[Eliza Marshall](#)

Child Workers: Boys

[Robert Blincoe](#)
[William Dodd](#)
[John Birley](#)
[Joseph Hebergram](#)
[David Rowland](#)
[Benjamin Gomersal](#)

In preparing your biography and speech, be sure to address the following points:

BIOGRAPHY

Include such details as:

- Where and when you were born
- What you do for a living
- Any experiences that might have influenced your views on child labor

SPEECH

Write a speech on the resolution: "Parliament should pass legislation making it illegal for children under the age of twelve to work in textile factories."

It will help you to consider the following issues:

The work that these children did:

- [Scavengers](#)
- [Piecers](#)

The way these children were recruited as factory workers:

- [Parish Apprentices](#)
- [Apprentice Houses](#)

Reasons why the children's health might be damaged by factory labor:

- [Accidents](#)
- [Physical Deformities](#)
- [Working Hours](#)
- [Punishments](#)
- [Food in the Factory](#)
- [Factory Pollution](#)

You will also need to consider the possible disadvantages that might result from banning child labor. For example, see what the following have to say about this:

- [William James](#)
- [Lord Francis Egerton](#)
- [William Bolling](#)
- [James Heywood](#)
- [Henry Thomas Hope](#)