

ERA V 1750–1914 Revolution, Romanticism, Industrialization, and Imperialism



CHAPTER 23

Chapter Summary

Western society was dominated by four themes: political revolution, industrialization, nationalism, and the spread of Western institutions and values to other parts of the world. While the Enlightenment debate between absolutism and democracy continued, many monarchies were overthrown, and parliamentary democracy and the right to vote expanded. Western society experienced dramatic cultural changes: increased secularism, expanded leisure time, and the dominance of romanticism and impressionism in art and literature. European settler societies became important international players in an altered world balance of power.

KEY TERMS

Population revolution: huge growth in population in western Europe beginning about 1730.

Proto-industrialization: preliminary shift away from an agricultural economy; workers become full-or part-time producers who worked at home in a capitalist system in which materials, work, orders, and sales depended on urban merchants; prelude to the Industrial Revolution.

American Revolution: rebellion of the British American Atlantic seaboard colonies led by merchants; ended with the formation of the independent United States.

French Revolution: overthrow of the monarchy by merchants and peasants in 1789; created a republic and led to Napoleon's Empire; the source of many liberal movements and constitutions in Europe.

Louis XVI: King of France executed during the radical phase of the French Revolution.

Declaration of the Rights of Man: adopted during the French Revolution; proclaimed the equality of French citizens; became a source document for later liberal movements.

Guillotine: used during the French Revolution against enemies of the state during the Reign of Terror.

Napoleon Bonaparte: army officer who rose in rank during the wars of the French Revolution; ended the democratic phase of the revolution; became emperor; deposed and exiled in 1815.

Congress of Vienna: met in 1815 after the defeat of France to restore the European balance of power.

Liberalism: political ideology in Western Europe; stressed limited state interference in private life, representation of the people in government; urged importance of constitutional rule and parliaments.

Radicals: advocated broader voting rights than liberals; urged reforms favoring the lower classes.

Nationalism: European 19th-century viewpoint; often allied with other "isms"; urged the importance of national unity; valued a collective identity based on ethnic origins.

Balkan Revolutions: rebellion of the Greeks and others against the Ottoman Empire; a key step in the disintegration of the Ottoman empire.

Reform Bills: a series of liberal British laws that gave the vote to most middle and working class males.

Steam Engine: devised a in the 1770s that could be used for production in many industries; a key step in the Industrial Revolution.

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Factory system: concentration of production at a single site during the Industrial Revolution; involved greater organization of labor and increased discipline.

Revolutions of 1848: radical and liberal movements within several European nations (Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary, France); after temporary success most were suppressed.

Benjamin Disraeli: British politician; granted the vote to working-class males; an example of conservative politician keeping stability through liberal reform.

Camillo di Cavour: architect of Italian unification in 1858; an example of conservative politician keeping stability through liberal reform.

Otto von Bismarck: architect of German unification under the Prussian king in 1871; an example of conservative politician keeping stability through liberal reform.

American Civil War (1861–1865): fought to prevent secession of the southern states; the first war to incorporate the products and techniques of the Industrial Revolution; resulted in the abolition of slavery and the reunification of the United States.

Social question: issues relating to workers and women, in western Europe during the Industrial Revolution; became more critical than constitutional issues after establishment of working class.

Socialism: political ideology following industrialization; attacked private property in the name of equality; wanted government intervention in the economy and an end to capitalist exploitation of the working class. Formalized by Karl Marx.

Karl Marx: German socialist who saw history as a class struggle between groups out of power and those controlling the means of production; preached inevitability of social revolution.

Revisionism: socialist thought that disagreed with Marx's formulation; believed that social and economic progress could be achieved through existing political institutions.

Feminism: sought legal and economic gains for women, among them equal access to professions and higher education; came to concentrate on the right to vote; won initial support from middle-class women.

Mass leisure culture: an aspect of the later Industrial Revolution; decreased time at work and offered opportunities for new forms of leisure time, such as vacation trips and team sports.

Louis Pasteur: discoverer of germs and of the purifying process named after him.

Charles Darwin: biologist who developed the theory of evolution of the species; argued that all living forms evolved through the successful ability to adapt in a struggle for survival.

Albert Einstein: formulated mathematical theories to explain the behavior of planetary motion and the movement of electrical particles; about 1900 issued the theory of relativity.

Sigmund Freud: Viennese physician who developed theories of the workings of the human unconscious; argued that behavior is determined by impulses.

Romanticism: 19th-century western European artistic and literary movement; held that emotion and impression, not reason, were the keys to the mysteries of human experience and nature; sought to portray passions, not calm reflection, and emphasized the importance of the individual in history ("heroism").

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OBJECTIVES

1. What were the Triggers for Change in the Age of Revolution?

The Enlightenment, Scientific, and Commercial Revolutions fostered enthusiasm for innovation and faith in progress. Innovations in Great Britain inaugurated the Industrial Revolution. Several factors led to change. European experience in the world economy drove manufacturers to speed up production, while governments encouraged commerce through a number of institutions. Population growth in Europe led to a ready supply of labor.

2. What were the Big Changes?

- Increased power of merchant ('middle') class and establishment of working (proletariat) class; strengthening of national identification.
- Overthrow of traditional monarchy and establishment of parliamentary and constitutional governments; debate over liberalization and the social question.
- Building of railroads and canals to facilitate trade. Expansion of Western influence and control through Imperialism: settler and trading colonies.
- Leisure society dominated by Romanticism.
- Industrialization occurred over several decades driven by the invention of steam power driven by private companies and government encouragement.

3. Compare the causes of the American and French Revolutions.

The American Revolution was a middle class revolt against perceived unfair taxation without representation by the British monarchy. The French Revolution was a merchant and peasant revolt against an outdated aristocratic society that placed huge financial burdens on the middle class. The American Revolution's success fueled the French Revolution, which spread liberal ideas across Europe.

4. Describe the lasting reforms of the French Revolution.

A written legal code, voting rights, meritocracy, equality under the law, and nationalism.

5. Trace new political movements that emerged in the aftermath of the French Revolution.

The rise of conservatism (resistance to democracy), liberalism (moderate reform), and radicalism (universal voting rights and equality).

6. Discuss the influence of revolutions in reconstructing the map of Europe, and how that affected European diplomacy.

New states in Greece, Belgium, Italy, and Germany. Economic and colonial competition required international congresses (Vienna, Berlin) to maintain power balances and prevent global war.

7. Trace the changes that led to industrialization.

Rural overpopulation, steam power, and the factory system were at the heart of the Industrial Revolution, but the changes that resulted were more far-reaching.

8. Describe the changes in social organization that industrialization created.

Fundamental change came in the balance between rural and urban living, with the number of workers in manufacturing outstripping those in agriculture for the first time in world history. Two groups of changes can be discerned. First, daily life was transformed, beginning with profound changes in the work day. As work changed, family dynamics changed. Politics were affected by the growing proletariat, as well as Enlightenment ideas and nationalism. Second, the consequences of industrialization spread worldwide. Some world areas began to industrialize, while many others became suppliers of cheap goods to the industrial world. Latin America, Africa, East, South, and

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Southeast Asia are examples, supplying foodstuffs like coffee and raw materials like copper and cotton to fuel industrialization elsewhere. Moreover, Europeans moved into new areas, looking for opportunities to control low-cost sources of goods. Slavery and serfdom were ended in most world areas. Lastly, intensification of production led to an increase in human impact on the environment. Social changes also influenced revolutionary ideas. By 1850, a new class structure was in place. Aristocrats declined in power as social structure became based on wealth. Middle-class property owners now were pitted against a working class. The rise of socialism changed political conditions.

9. **Identify the links between industrialization and revolution.**

All Western governments participated in some way in the processes of the Industrial Revolution. Lower-class groups began to turn to their governments to compensate for industrial change. Social revolts followed in the 1840s when governments proved unresponsive. Urban factory workers pressed for social reform, and women agitated for equal rights. Adherents sought liberal constitutions, social reforms. Ethnic groups demanded unity or increased autonomy. The failure of these revolutions actually led to the realization that more gradual methods were needed.

10. **Discuss how the Industrial Revolution changed the social structure and political alignment of the West.**

Before industrialization, Europe had a social order based on the peasantry and other workers, the aristocracy and those with political power, and the church. With industrialization the aristocracy and church remained, but with diminished power. Social status became based on wealth, and importance went to those associated with capital and the industrial economy. The political world reflected the change. Liberals sought to gain political power constant with the economic power of the middle classes; they wanted limited, constitutional government. Radicals and socialists aimed at extending power to the working classes: both wanted an extension of voting rights, while socialists wanted control of the economy. All political groups were manipulated by conservative politicians, often through the use of nationalism. Bismarck, for example, offered political reforms in return for social stability and national power. The West was able to acquire hegemony—through colonization or economic dependence—over most other world civilizations.

11. **Trace the increase of government functions in response to the “social question.”**

The social question involved issues relating to workers and women in Western Europe during the Industrial Revolution; it became more critical than constitutional issues after 1870. Governments in this era became more responsive to these movements.

12. **Describe the divergence of science and the arts in the period after 1850.**

Both science and the arts diverged as the new art style of Romanticism and the scientific disciplines warred with each other. Many believed the two were too closely related, which caused tensions and debates among followers. The Industrial Revolution brought great changes to the Western economy and society. Major technological innovations intensified international commercial contacts. Industrialism was not confined to the economic world, but affected art in many ways. Romanticism emphasized emotion and heroic struggle; Impressionism turned to natural subjects. Moreover, international exchange influenced artistic movements.

13. **Impact on Daily Life: Leisure.** In the industrialized world, leisure became a hindrance to greater productivity, and for the first time a sharp line was drawn between work and play. Yet, new sports came into being at the same time. Leisure itself was commercialized, as the travel industry emerged. The leisure activities of the West spread to nonindustrialized areas.

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Chapter Outline

I. The Age of Revolution

Optimism Against All Odds

Marquis of Condorcet

Progress of the Human Mind

A. Forces of Change

Enlightenment

Commercialization

Population growth

B. The American Revolution

1775, outbreak of the American Revolution

French aid

1789, new constitution

C. Crisis in France in 1789

Enlightenment influenced

1789, Louis XVI called parliament

Assembly

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen

July 14, Bastille attacked

Principles

serfdom abolished

equality for men

end to aristocratic privilege

church privilege ended

elective parliament

D. The French Revolution: Radical and Authoritarian Phases

Reaction

church

aristocracy

foreign powers

Radical shift

king executed

Reign of Terror

Maximilien Robespierre

1795, replaced by moderate government

Napoleon Bonaparte

authoritarian

supports key principles

expansionist

Empire

most of Europe by 1812

1815, defeated

E. A Conservative Settlement and the Revolutionary Legacy

Congress of Vienna of 1815

New political movements

Liberals

constitutional rule

protection of freedoms

especially middle class

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- Radicals
 - extension of voting rights
- Socialism
 - attacked property rights
- Nationalists
- Spread of Revolutions, 1820s, 1830s
 - Greece, Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium
- Extension of male suffrage
 - Britain, United States
- F. Industrialization and the Revolutions of 1848
 - Lower classes
 - political action
 - Britain accommodated demands
 - Revolts in Germany, Austria, Hungary
 - France, 1848, monarch overthrown
 - Goals
 - liberal constitutions
 - social reform
 - end of serfdom
 - women's rights
 - ethnic demands

II. The Consolidation of the Industrial Order, 1850–1914

- A. Adjustments to Industrial Life
 - Families
 - birth and death rates down
 - Labor movements
 - Rural cooperatives
- B. Political Trends and the Rise of New Nations
 - After 1850, leaders learned to adopt change
 - Benjamin Disraeli
 - vote for working-class males, 1867
 - Camillo di Cavour
 - supports industrialization
 - Otto von Bismarck
 - vote for all adult males
 - Nationalism used
 - Bismarck
 - German Unification, 1871
- C. The Social Question and New Government Functions
 - School systems
 - literacy increases
 - Welfare
 - health, old age
 - Social reform became key political issue
 - Socialism
 - Karl Marx
 - parties in Germany, Austria, France, 1880s
 - women gained right to vote in many countries

III. Cultural Transformations

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A. Emphasis on Consumption and Leisure

Pleasure-seeking more acceptable

Consumerism

newspapers

entertainment

vacations

Leisure a commodity

team sports

travel industry

B. Advances in Scientific Knowledge

Rationalism

Darwin

evolution

Einstein

relativity

Social Sciences

science applied to human life

Freud

C. New Directions in Artistic Expression

Romanticism

opposed to rationalism

human emotion

split between artists and scientists

IV. Western Settler Societies

Industrialization makes west more powerful

impact of improved transportation, communication

A. Emerging Power of the United States

American Civil War, 1861–1865

spurs industrialization

B. European Settlements in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand

Peopled by immigrants

Follow European political, economic, cultural patterns

Canada

federal system

Australia

from 1788

gold rush, agricultural development

federal system by 1900

New Zealand

Maori defeated by 1860s

agricultural economy

V. Diplomatic Tensions and World War I

Rise of Germany

Bismarck

unsettled balance of power

European global expansion

Latin America independent

Africa controlled by Europeans

China, Middle East

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- zones of European rivalry
- A. The New Alliance System
 - By 1907
 - Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
 - Triple Entente: Britain, Russia, France
 - Instability
 - Russian revolution, 1905
 - Austria-Hungary
 - ethnic conflict
 - Balkans
 - free of Ottoman control
 - divided by enmities
 - 1914, assassination of Austrian archduke
- B. Diplomacy and Society
 - Instability in 1800s
 - nationalism
 - political division
 - industrial pressures