Chapter 15
Industrialization, 1750–1850

People
Auguste Blanqui: Frenchman who coined term “Industrial Revolution” in the 1820s.
Richard Arkwright: inventor of the water frame, a power-driven machine to spin cotton.
William Marcoft: a working-class Englishman who believed in self-improvement and was an example of success by his own tenacity.
Robert Owen: a utopian socialist who set up a model factory communities in the new industrial age.
T.S. Ashton: an optimist about the impact of industrialization, he said that it had caused the English standard of living to improve.
Friedrich Engels: a German intellectual who went to England and wrote a pessimistic story of working conditions in industry.
Karl Marx: political theorist who described exploitation of working-class (proletariat class).
Elizabeth Gaskell: an English writer whose novels called attention to the misery of working class people.
Charles Dickens: English novelist whose stories highlighted the plight of the working class, and were intended to shame the rich into better treatment for the poor.
Benjamin Disraeli: future Prime Minister of England, he wrote about two nations (the rich and the poor) and social responsibility.

Terms
industrial discipline: strict rules about behaviour expected of factory workers, to keep the production synchronized.
division of labour: the efficient breakdown of skilled tasks into many simpler tasks requiring less skill (and also paid less).
wage labour: type of work in which money is earned outside the home, for an employer.
Sadler Report: a Parliamentary investigation into working conditions in new factories.
piecework: labour in which a worker is paid for each item produced.
standard of living: the level of material well-being enjoyed by individuals.
proletariat: a class of wage earners that laboured to earn a living; the working class.
industrial novel: a form of entertainment and social analysis, revealing misery of poor.
Luddism: a resistance movement which did “machine breaking” to protect people’s jobs and wages; it was led by the mythical Ned Ludd.
Mutual Aid or Friendly Societies: workers organized together to serve collective interests, and take care of each other.
1. • It was a revolution, since it was a “fundamental change in the structure of the economy,” and it had a great impact on lives.
• A better term might be “evolution” since the transformation took a long time. (over 100 years for Britain, 50–80 years elsewhere).

2. Cottage system involved spinning and weaving in homes whereas the factory system demanded that all workers labour on site.

3. • As skilled crafts were broken down into many simple tasks, production was reorganized and trades were “degraded.”
• Unskilled work was paid on a piecework basis.
• Division of labour meant loss of need for skills, and lower wages.

4. • Britain was experiencing a demographic revolution as well. The Population had been stable (doubling in 250 years). But in the eighteenth century, it tripled in just 100 years. The urban population rose from 17 to 48 per cent. The explanation had been the decline in death rates, but historians now focus on the fertility increase.

5. • Working conditions were often terrible.
   – Factories polluted
   – Strict discipline
   – Overcrowded towns
   – Lack of sanitation
   – Children and women required to work
   – Long hours
   – Health ruined
   – Depersonalized

6. • Women worked at wage labour while single, then cared for family and made some money on piecework basis at home unless widowed or never married.
• They treated as dependents, first as daughters, then as wives.

7. • Novels became popular as literacy grew, public education was introduced, and the middle class wanted to read of daily life.
• Novelists described the misery of workers, but thought change should happen voluntarily as wealthy class was persuaded to be socially responsible.
8. • Optimists praised the industrial revolution. T.S. Ashton argued that workers were better off:
  – More opportunity
  – Regular employment
  – More goods and higher standard of living
• Pessimists argue that industrialization led to deteriorating conditions for the working class, reduced quality of life and a greater disparity between the rich and the working poor.

9. • Government favoured employers in the name of “freedom” and “individualism” and prevented the forming of unions. (For example, in England 1799–1824, and in France the Le Chapelier Law 1791–1848.)
• Troops kept the factories secure.

10. • Early workers’ organizations were mainly for insurance for sickness accidents, and death.
• Craft unions developed (of skilled workers), not including unskilled workers until near the end of the century.
• Workers began to fight for the right to vote.