

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Mass Society and Democracy, 1870–1914

Lesson 1 The Growth of Industrial Prosperity

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How can industrialization affect a country’s economy? How are political and social structures influenced by economic changes?

Reading HELPDESK

Academic Vocabulary

transition changeover; the move from one form, stage, or style to another

Content Vocabulary

assembly line pioneered by Henry Ford in 1913, a manufacturing method that allowed much more efficient mass production of goods

mass production production of goods in quantity usually by machinery

bourgeoisie the middle class, including merchants, industrialists, and professional people

proletariat the working class

revisionist a Marxist who rejected the revolutionary approach, believing instead in evolution by democratic means to achieve the goal of socialism

TAKING NOTES: *Identifying Cause and Effect*

ACTIVITY As you read, use the organizer to show the effects of each innovation.

Steel	→	
Electricity	→	
Internal-combustion engine	→	

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IT MATTERS BECAUSE

By the late 1800s, the Second Industrial Revolution transformed most of Europe into industrialized societies. However, the transition was not easy for workers. Many sought reform to improve their lives.

The Second Industrial Revolution

Guiding Question *What were the causes and effects of the Second Industrial Revolution in Western Europe?*

The first Industrial Revolution focused on textiles, railroads, iron, and coal. The Second Industrial Revolution focused on steel, chemicals, and electricity. Petroleum was also developed. These products helped lead the way to new industries.

New Products and Patterns

In 1855 Sir Henry Bessemer, a British inventor, patented a new process for making high-quality steel. It became known as the Bessemer process. As a result, steel was now made efficiently and cheaply. Steel soon replaced iron in many products. Iron is heavier, but steel is stronger. Steel was used to build lighter, smaller, and faster machines and engines. It was also used in railways, ships, and weapons. In 1860 Great Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium made 125,000 tons (112,500 t) of steel. By 1913, the total was an amazing 32 million (29 million t) tons.

Electricity was an important new form of energy. It was easily converted into other energy forms, such as heat, light, and motion. Electricity also moved easily through wires. The first practical generators of electrical current were developed in the 1870s. Homes and factories were connected to electrical power sources by 1910. The connections were made to hydroelectric power stations and coal-fired steam-generating plants.

Electricity led the way to a series of inventions. Thomas Edison in the United States and Joseph Swan in Great Britain created the light bulb. Homes and cities began to have electric lights. Inventors also created new ways to communicate. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876. Guglielmo Marconi sent the first radio waves across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901.

Electric streetcars and subways appeared in major European cities by the 1880s. Electricity transformed factories as well. It could power conveyor belts, cranes, and machines. Factories could remain open 24 hours a day with electric lights.

The internal-combustion engine was run on oil and gasoline. It provided a new source of power for transportation. This engine gave power to ocean liners with oil-fired engines, airplanes, and automobiles. In 1903 Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first flight in a fixed-wing plane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. In 1919 the first regular passenger air service was established.

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Connection to TODAY

Dependence on Raw Materials

Both the First and Second Industrial Revolution depended on vast imports of raw materials such as cotton (for textile manufacturing) and copper wire (for electricity). One legacy of the invention of the internal combustion engine during the Second Industrial Revolution is today's dependence on a global trade in oil.

Industrial production grew quickly because of greatly increased sales of manufactured goods. Europeans could afford to buy more consumer products for several reasons. Wages for workers increased after 1870. The prices for manufactured goods were also lower because of lower transportation costs. One of the biggest reasons for more efficient (quicker and easier) production was the **assembly line**. The assembly line was a new manufacturing method pioneered by Henry Ford in 1913. The assembly line allowed a much more efficient **mass production** of goods.

In the cities, the first department stores began to sell new consumer goods. These goods included clocks, bicycles, electric lights, and typewriters. The steel and electrical industries made these products possible.

The Second Industrial Revolution did not benefit everyone, however. By 1900, Europe was divided into two economic zones. There was an advanced industrialized core of nations. It included Great Britain, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Germany, as well as the western part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and northern Italy. These places had a high standard of living and good transportation systems.

Another part of Europe was still mostly agricultural. This was the area to the south and east. It included southern Italy, most of Austria-Hungary, Spain, Portugal, the Balkan kingdoms, and Russia. These countries provided food and raw materials for the industrial areas. They had a much lower standard of living than the rest of Europe.

Toward a World Economy

Steamship and railroad transportation grew during the Second Industrial Revolution. All these developments resulted in a true world economy. By 1900, Europeans received beef and wool from Argentina and Australia, coffee from Brazil, iron ore from Algeria, and sugar from Java.

European capital was also invested in other countries. This was done to develop railways, mines, electrical power plants, and banks in those places. Foreign countries also provided markets for Europe's manufactured goods. Europe controlled the world economy by 1900 because of its capital, industries, and military power.

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Reading Progress Check

Stating How were the effects of industrialization uneven across Europe?

Organizing the Working Classes

Guiding Question *How was socialism a response to industrialization?*

The **transition** to an industrialized society was very hard for workers. The desire to improve their working and living conditions led many industrial workers to form socialist political parties and socialist trade unions. These political parties and trade unions were based on a theory developed by Karl Marx. One form of Marxist socialism was eventually called communism.

Marx's Theory

The *Communist Manifesto* was published in 1848. It was written by two Germans, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. They were shocked by the horrible conditions in the industrial factories. They blamed the system of industrial capitalism for these conditions. Industrial capitalism is an economic system in which private individuals own the industries.

Marx believed that all of world history was a "history of class struggles." According to Marx, oppressor and oppressed have always been against each other. One group—the oppressors—owned the means of production, such as land, raw materials, factories, and money. This gave them the power to control government and society. The other group was the oppressed. They owned nothing, and they depended on the owners of the means of production.

Marx believed that the division between the two groups was growing wider. He believed that the two groups were more and more hostile, or angry, toward each other in a great class struggle. The **bourgeoisie**, or the middle class, were the oppressors. The **proletariat** (PROH•luh•TEHR•ee•uht), or the working class, were the oppressed.

Marx thought that the struggle between the two groups would finally lead to a revolution. The proletariat would violently overthrow the bourgeoisie. Then the proletariat would form a dictatorship to organize the means of production. Marx also believed the final revolution would create a classless society. This was because the proletariat victory would remove the economic differences that create separate social classes. The state itself, which had been a tool of the bourgeoisie, would become weak.

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Socialist Parties

In time, working-class leaders formed socialist parties based on Marx's ideas. Most important was the German Social Democratic Party (SPD). The SPD began in 1875. The SPD was under the direction of Marxist leaders. These leaders supported revolution while organizing the SPD into a mass political party. The SPD competed in elections for the German parliament. When in parliament, SPD delegates worked to pass laws that would improve conditions for the working class. In 1912 the SPD became the largest single party in Germany even though the government tried to destroy it.

Socialist political parties also emerged in other European states. In 1889 leaders of the different socialist parties joined together and formed the Second International. (The First International had failed in 1872.) This was an association of national socialist groups to fight against capitalism worldwide.

Marxist parties were divided over their goals. Pure Marxists thought that capitalism could only be defeated by a violent revolution. Marxists called **revisionists** did not want a revolution. They argued that workers must continue to organize in large political parties and even work with other parties to gain reforms. As workers received the right to vote, they could reach their goals by working within democratic systems.

Trade Unions

Another force working for evolutionary, rather than revolutionary, socialism was the trade union, or labor union. Workers organized in a union to improve their conditions. The right to strike was another important part of the trade union movement. In a strike, a union calls on its members to stop work. This puts pressure on employers to meet their demands for higher wages or improved factory safety. At first, laws were passed that made strikes illegal, or against the law. In Great Britain, unions won the right to strike in the 1870s. By 1914, there were almost 4 million workers in British trade unions. In the rest of Europe, some trade unions were more successful than others in helping workers achieve a better life.



Reading Progress Check

Identifying What issue divided pure Marxist socialists from revisionists?
