

AS THE WORLD TURNS: 1800-1918 AD

Overview

To review: the Ancient Era laid the foundations for every aspect of society (language, government, war, economics, etc). The Medieval Era was a time of transformation, that saw the ending of the old methods and institutions with a metamorphosis into what will become the “modern” methods and institutions. The 1300-1500s set the stage for the first global era. 1500-1640 saw the Europeans explore and colonize around the world - eliminating native groups while promoting scientific advances. 1700-1800 was an age of revolution, bringing drastic changes across the international landscape:

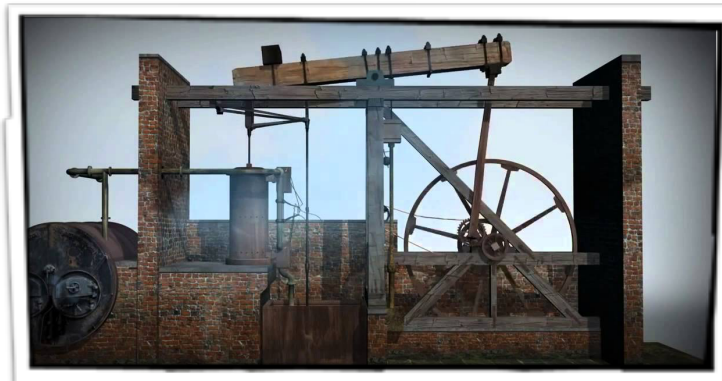
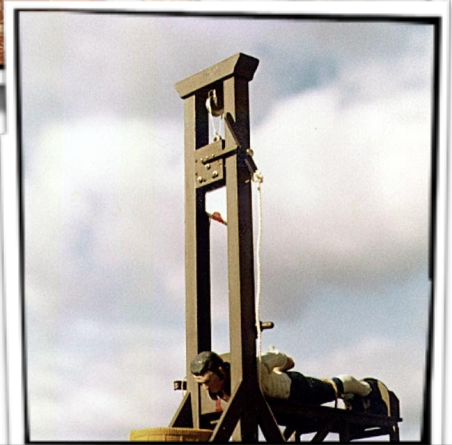
- The Enlightenment brought forward the ideas of the human equality, the Rights of Man, Separation of Powers, and Capitalist Free Markets.
- The Seven Years War was the first conflict on a global scale caused by European colonization and mercantilism.
- The American Revolution was the first of the colonies to break away, sparking a chain reaction of upheaval across Europe. The US Constitution sought to embody the Enlightenment ideals as the foundation of a new nation... however, leaving the social structure unchanged.
- The French Revolution sought to bring equality to all people in France, leading to a bloody rain of terror and disorder.
- The Haitian Revolution brought a further fragmenting of the colonies, as slaves overthrew their masters.
- Napoleon brought order to France, but then attempted global conquest. His rise and fall set off a chain of reactions that rippled across the globe.

As the world moved into the 1800s, the momentum of change was just beginning. The real revolutions were about to begin.

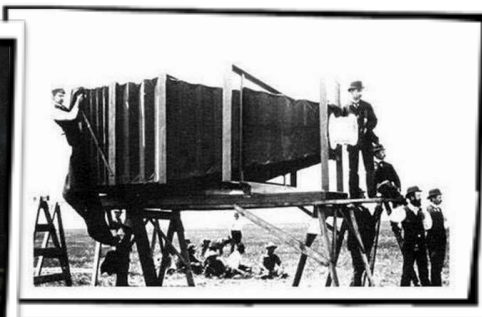
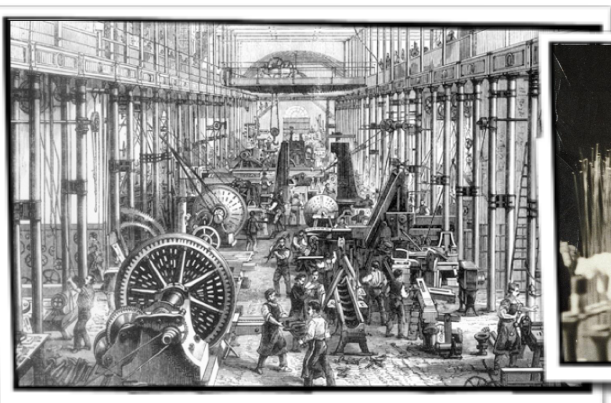
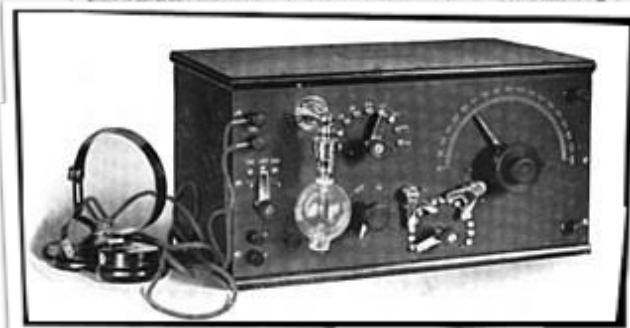
Europe: Part 1 - Metallic Hearts

Industrial Revolution... Great Britain struggled with shortages. Being a collection of islands, Great Britain was short on resources and farm land. The Bubonic Plague had caused a shortage of labor. The lack of advances had caused a shortage of goods that South and East Asia wanted to purchase - resulting in a trade imbalance. Great Britain needed a solution to these problems... and the answer was found in a combination of science and coal.

The steam power engine was the innovation that drove the Industrial Revolution. Great Britain had an abundance of coal that was close to the surface. The steam engine burned the coal to fuel the engine, which then allowed the engine to make other machinery “work.” As long as the engine had coal, power and energy could be created 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Humanity now had a machine with seemingly unlimited amounts of work potential. A few of the impacts of the Industrial Revolution include:

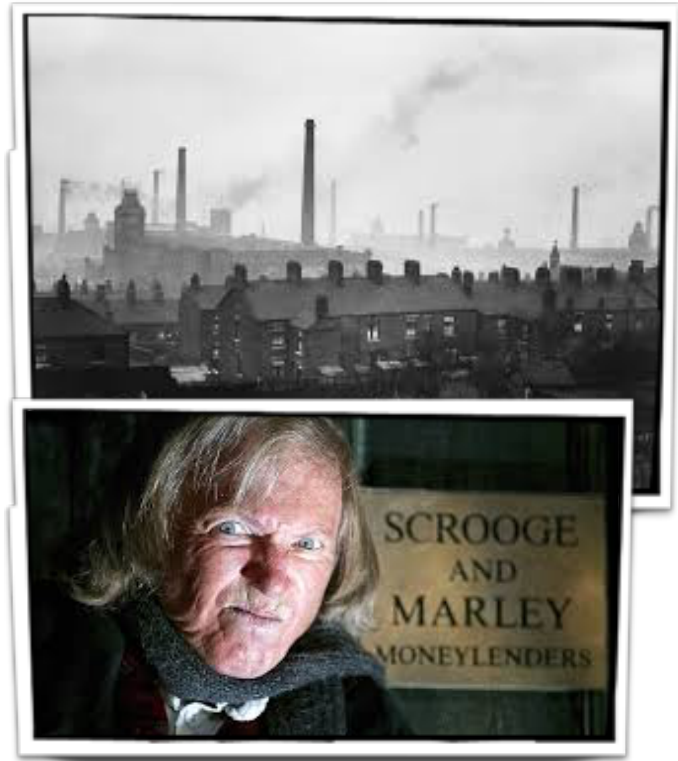


- **New Transportation:** Steam powered trains conquered the landscape - moving massive quantities of goods at unfathomable speeds. Steam boats allowed ships to carry more cargo, as well as travel without the wind and against the current. People could now travel faster and further, with less effort.
- **Farming and Mining Equipment:** A tractor could outwork dozens farmers. Tractors could also till harder soil, making more land farmable. Mining equipment allowed workers to drill deeper into mines and extract more materials, faster.
- **Electricity:** A seemingly infinite power source that allows machines and tools to function. This includes the electric light, allowing people to see and function past sunset.
- **Factories and Mass Production:** Engines and electricity gave birth to factories and mass production. Machines could produce nearly identical items faster and cheaper than people making clothes by hand. They could also make products that people could not make by hand - allowing for a rapid growth in technologies.
- **Mass Rapid Communication:** Electricities and factories, with a mixture of innovation, gave birth to mass communication. Telegrams and Telephones allowed people to be able to two-way communicate without being face-to-face. Radio waves were harnessed to allow signals to travel at the speed of light, carrying sounds across far distances. Photography was invented, capturing rays of light to create pictures.
- **Advanced Medicine and Germ Theory:** Electric powered medical technology allowed for greater medical advances. This included the discovery of Germ Theory: people do not get sick from evil spirits, but from germs that can be controlled with medicines.



The Industrial Revolution had many immediate and lasting effects upon British and European society:

- **Ending of Famines and Plagues:** Tractors and medical technology put an end to famines and plagues in Europe. Tractors increased the supply of food and the quality of harvest. Plagues began to be controlled by medicine, and vaccines were developed to prevent deadly diseases from spreading.
- **Population Growth:** Farming families always had large numbers of children because many of them died from disease. Plus, many hands were needed to work on the farm. With new medicines, children and teenagers lived longer, causing a massive spike in total population - especially amongst the poor.
- **Boom in Production:** New products were being invented every month, and being mass produced cheaply. This made more high quality goods accessible to the common person. It also created an unquenchable desire for natural resources to produce the goods.
- **Enclosure and Urbanization:** Enclosure laws allowed the rich land owners to claim ownership of land that was once “commonly shared” by the poor. With the tractor outworking human labor, Many land owners used the land to build factories. The factories attracted the workers displaced from the farms. Soon, city settlements began to grow around the factory complexes.
- **Abolition of Slavery:** The mechanized farm tools soon made slavery obsolete, or outdated. It was now more expensive and less efficient to own slaves. Slavery was abolished in Europe - helping bring an end to the slave trade in Africa.
- **Birth of Women’s Rights:** In factory settings, the role of women changed. Women began to work in the factories and earn money for their families. This increased the status of women, and helped earn them more rights in their businesses and governments.
- **Capitalism & the Growth of a New Business Class:** The Enlightened Philosopher Adam Smith promoted an economic model of Capitalism - where businesses could operate freely without the government getting involved. Soon, entrepreneurs were starting new businesses, giving rise to a new upper-middle class. Stock markets and banks boomed, overflowing with wealth created by these industrial complexes.



Swiftly, the Industrial Revolution spread across Europe. It transformed lives and societies everywhere it went.

Romanticism... While the Industrial Revolution was causing upheaval in daily life, there was an intellectual revolution taking place: Romanticism. The Enlightenment had been founded on the ideas of truth and logic. The French Revolution had shown the dangers of pure logic, and pushed people to the opposite extreme: emotions. Right and wrong were not about what was “true” but about what people “felt.” The Enlightenment had focused on the role a person was to play in the larger society. Romanticism focused Individualism and the importance of every single person. Finally, Romanticism promoted the pursuit of Utopia: creating the perfect society, free from all problems of defects.

Out of Romanticism was birthed the ideas of ethnicity and nationalism. As people began to have greater interactions with other groups of people globally, they began to create their own ethnic or national identity. Nationalism is pride in one’s own people group, and a belief in their superiority over other nations/nationalities.

ASSIGNMENT

1) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

| Region | Strengths | Weaknesses |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| Europe | | |

2) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.

- Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the at 1800 AD (■) and at 1918 AD (▲).
- Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
- If there is change, ask yourself “What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?” and make note of it on your chart

Example

