

**SUMMARY****The Industrial Revolution**

The term refers to a vast transformation of the economy and society that began in Britain in the 18th c. and spread throughout Europe and other areas during the following centuries.

Economy: agricultural societies become industrial societies;  
growth of production based on new technologies.

Society: growing population;  
urbanization;  
expanded European political power.

**a) Factors of the industrial revolution**

1. **Population growth** made possible by increasing agricultural production, and necessary for the creation of an industrial market.
2. **Agricultural revolution:** technological innovations and better integrated Markets.
3. **Trade and communications development**, so goods and services could circulate freely.

**b) New industries, sources of energy and organizational methods**

- **The steam engine** in 1765 by James Watt was the most important technological innovation; used extensively it meant greater productivity and faster means of transport.
- **Cotton textile industry:** the flying shuttle and the power loom increased productivity and production and made manufacture cheaper.
- **Cheaper iron and steel** became the main component of the new structures of buildings and means of transport, Thanks to new blast furnaces, Coke, and "puddling".
- **The first steam-powered locomotive** invented in 1815.
- The capacity of trains and steamships to carry rapidly bigger and heavier cargoes lowered the costs of transportation.
- **European railroad networks expanded** during the 19th c., connecting distant regions and favouring market integration.
- **The factory was the key** method of production in the industrial revolution
- **Workers become mere wage earners** that sell their work.
- **Capital** accumulation is needed to create factories because machinery is expensive.

**c) The second industrial revolution. Industrial capitalism**

- After 1870 new sources of energy appeared: electricity and oil.
- Diesel created the new internal combustion engine.
- New industries appeared: Chemical industry (explosives, fertilizers, artificial fibres, etc.), electric industry (General Electric, AEG, Siemens, Philips), food industry (canning), car industry.
- The factory system developed a high division of labour (the assembly line); the result was Mass production.
- The corporation became the most common form of business organization.
- The capital of a corporation is divided into shares or stocks to attract capital from different sources, enough to make business possible.
- Monopoles or associations of enterprises or cartels control competition and fix prices.

**d) Social transformations**

- Industrialization created new social classes and gave the economic power to a new group of bourgeois (entrepreneurs, businessmen, bankers, etc.).
- The bourgeois morality and expectations, based on the accumulation of wealth, substituted those of the old aristocracy, based on honour and the acquired rights of birth.
- The multiplication of production made a certain wealth accessible for an increasing middle class.
- Middle classes became very influential since they constituted most of the market, and a large part of the electorate, and were considered a social reference.
- A new working class emerged there were no limits for child work or labour exploitation.
- The first associations of workers, created in Great Britain, sought limited working hours and the improvement of salaries and labour conditions.
- The recognition of the right of association allowed workers to create the first trade unions.
- The first worker movement asking for political rights was *Chartism* (*People's Charter*, written in 1838). They asked the British House of Commons for universal suffrage and a more flexible electoral system.
- Utopian Socialists wanted to found a new society on the basis of the eradication of all inequalities.
- The failure of the first attempts to transform capitalist society led to new approaches.

**1. Marxism.**

- A political and economic doctrine assessed by Karl Marx in his work *Capital*: Capitalism as way of production created two antagonistic classes, the capitalists, who owned all means of production (industries, capital), and the workers or proletariat, who only had work to sell and were exploited by the first were exploited because the product of their work was sold at a higher price than its work value. The profit from that was kept by the capitalist and part was accumulated into capital to create more factories and part went to luxury consumption.
- In the *Communist Manifesto* (1848) Marx and Engels predicted that the structure of capitalism led inevitably to its own destruction.
- The socialist revolution would take place spontaneously, and then the proletariat would control the State and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat as a first step for a communist society without classes, State or inequalities.

**2. Anarchism.**

- Anarchism itself implies different views: Mikhail Bakunin, its main thinker, considers that individual freedom is only possible in the context of a complete lack of coercion or authority.
- Anarchism rejects the State as a repressive instrument, and industrialization and private property as agents of inequality.
- Bakunin considers a society without State or classes, based on a system of independent communities where the property will be collective.
- Anarchism does not accept the participation in politics through the creation of a political party
- Some anarchist currents defend direct action through terrorism, others rejected violence.

**Vocabulary. Explain/define the following concepts/ persons/ institutions.  
Use your own words**

- J. Watt
- Puddling
- Factory
- Corporation
- Chartism
- Communist society
- Cartwright
- G. Stevenson
- Fordism
- Cartel
- Dictatorship of the proletariat
- M. Bakunin