

Topic 5.4 — Industrialization Spreads in the Period from 1750 to 1900

Standards Alignment

AP Theme	Learning Objective	Key Concept
Technology and Innovation (TEC) Human adaptation and innovation have resulted in increased efficiency, comfort, and security, and technological advances have shaped human development and interactions with both intended and unintended consequences.	Unit 5: Learning Objective E – Explain how different modes and locations of production have developed and changed over time.	KC-5.1.II.B The rapid development of steam-powered industrial production in European countries and the U.S. contributed to the increase in these regions' share of global manufacturing during the first Industrial Revolution. While Middle Eastern and Asian countries continued to produce manufactured goods, these regions' share in global manufacturing declined.
		KC-5.1.I.D As new methods of industrial production became more common in parts of northwestern Europe, they spread to other parts of Europe and the United States, Russia, and Japan.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson students should be able to:

- Explain how industrialization spread from Britain to other regions.
- Describe how new technologies such as steam power increased industrial production.
- Compare industrial development in Europe, the United States, Russia, and Japan.
- Analyze how industrialization changed global patterns of manufacturing.

Lesson Overview

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the late eighteenth century but soon spread to other parts of the world. New technologies, especially steam-powered machinery, allowed factories to produce goods faster and in larger quantities than ever before.

Countries such as the United States and nations in western Europe adopted industrial methods relatively quickly. Other regions, including Russia and Japan, industrialized later but often did so through government-sponsored reforms.

As industrialization spread, global manufacturing patterns changed dramatically. European countries and the United States produced increasing amounts of manufactured goods, while many regions in Asia and the Middle East experienced a decline in their share of global manufacturing.

Essential Vocabulary

- **Industrial Diffusion**
The spread of industrial technologies and factory production from one region to another.
- **Steam Power**
Energy produced by steam engines that powered machines, trains, and factory equipment.
- **Mechanization**
The use of machines to replace manual labor in production.
- **Manufacturing**
The process of producing goods on a large scale, usually in factories.
- **Industrial Economy**
An economy based on machine production and factory work rather than agriculture.

Background Reading

During the early stages of the Industrial Revolution, Britain led the world in industrial production. British factories used steam-powered machines to manufacture textiles, iron products, and other goods. Britain's technological innovations gradually spread to other regions through trade, migration, and the sharing of knowledge.

Industrialization spread first to nearby European countries such as Belgium, France, and Germany. The United States also developed large-scale industrial production during the nineteenth century, particularly in industries such as steel manufacturing and railroad construction.

In the late nineteenth century, governments in countries such as Russia and Japan took active roles in promoting industrialization. These states built railroads, encouraged factory development, and adopted Western technologies in order to strengthen their economies and compete with industrialized powers.

Primary Sources

Primary Source 1

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels – The Communist Manifesto (1848)

Source: Fordham University Internet History Sourcebook

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1848communistmanifesto.asp>

The modern bourgeois society that has developed from the ruins of feudal society has established new classes and new conditions of oppression. Modern industry has converted the small workshop of the patriarchal master into the great factory of the industrial capitalist.

The increasing use of machinery and the division of labor have stripped work of much of its individual character. Workers are organized into large industrial groups and operate machines that determine the pace of production.

As industry expands across nations, economic relationships between societies are transformed. Modern industry has established a world market that connects distant regions through the exchange of manufactured goods.

Source Analysis Questions

1. Identify ONE technological development referenced in the passage.
2. Explain ONE way industrialization changed modes of production.
3. Explain ONE global economic effect of expanding industrial production.

Primary Source 2

Fukuzawa Yukichi – “Leaving Asia” (1885)

Source: Columbia University Asia for Educators

https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/japan/fukuzawa_meiji.htm

The nations of the West have advanced rapidly through the development of industry, science, and education. Their strength lies in the ability to adopt new technologies and organize production in efficient ways.

If Japan hopes to remain independent and respected among nations, it must adopt these same industrial methods. By developing factories, railroads, and modern industry, Japan can strengthen its economy and secure its position in the modern world.

Industrial development therefore becomes essential not only for economic growth but also for national survival. Nations that fail to industrialize risk falling behind those that adopt modern technology.

Source Analysis Questions

1. Identify ONE reason Fukuzawa believed Japan should industrialize.
2. Explain ONE example of industrial technology mentioned in the passage.
3. Explain ONE historical development that led Japanese leaders to support industrialization.

Spread of Industrialization

Region	Key Developments	Industrial Characteristics
Britain	First industrial nation	Textile factories, steam engines
Western Europe	Rapid adoption of industrial technologies	Coal mining, steel production
United States	Industrial expansion during the 1800s	Railroads, mass production
Russia	State-led industrialization	Railroad construction, heavy industry
Japan	Meiji industrial reforms	Government-supported factories

Change, Continuity, and Comparison

Change

- Industrial production expanded from Britain to other regions.
- Steam-powered technology increased manufacturing output.
- Global manufacturing shifted toward Europe and the United States.

Continuity

- Many regions continued traditional manufacturing methods.
- Industrialization often maintained social and economic inequality.

Comparison

Industrialization in Britain and the United States developed largely through private investment, while Russia and Japan relied more heavily on government-led industrial reforms.

Key Takeaways

- Industrialization spread from Britain to Europe, the United States, Russia, and Japan.
- Steam-powered machinery increased industrial productivity.
- Industrial economies expanded their share of global manufacturing.
- Governments sometimes played key roles in promoting industrial development.
- Industrialization reshaped global economic power.

Practice Activity

Answer each question in **2–3 sentences**.

- A. Identify ONE region outside Britain where industrialization spread during the nineteenth century.
- B. Explain ONE technological innovation that helped industrialization expand.
- C. Explain ONE effect of industrialization on global manufacturing patterns.

Primary Source Citations

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