

## Topic 5.10 — Continuity and Change in the Industrial Age

### Standards Alignment

AP Theme	Learning Objective	Key Concept
Multiple Themes (ENV, TEC, ECN, GOV, SIO) Industrialization affected economic systems, governance, social hierarchies, technology, and the environment.	<b>Unit 5: Learning Objective K</b> – Explain the extent to which industrialization brought change from 1750 to 1900.	<b>KC-5.1</b> The development of industrial capitalism led to increased standards of living for some, and to continued improvement in manufacturing methods that increased the availability, affordability, and variety of consumer goods.
		<b>KC-5.1.IV</b> Railroads, steamships, and the telegraph made exploration, development, and communication possible in interior regions globally, which led to increased trade and migration.
		<b>KC-5.3</b> The 18th century marked the beginning of an intense period of revolution and rebellion against existing governments, leading to the establishment of new nation-states around the world.
		<b>KC-5.3.I.A</b> Enlightenment philosophies applied new ways of understanding and empiricist approaches to both the natural world and human relationships; they also emphasized the importance of reason and natural rights.
		<b>KC-5.3.I</b> The rise and diffusion of Enlightenment thought that questioned established traditions often preceded revolutions and rebellions against governments.
		<b>KC-5.3.II.i</b> Nationalism also became a major force shaping the historical development of states and empires.

### Learning Objectives for Students

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

- Evaluate the extent to which industrialization transformed societies.
- Identify key areas of change and continuity between 1750 and 1900.
- Use historical evidence to construct arguments about industrialization’s impact.
- Practice the historical reasoning skill of argumentation.

## Lesson Overview

The period from 1750 to 1900 saw dramatic global transformations due to industrialization. New technologies, economic systems, and political ideas reshaped societies across the world. Industrial capitalism increased production, expanded global trade, and improved living standards for some groups.

At the same time, many aspects of society remained unchanged. Economic inequality continued, social hierarchies persisted, and many regions did not industrialize as quickly as Europe and the United States.

Understanding the Industrial Age requires examining both **change and continuity**. Historians analyze how industrialization transformed economic production, political movements, and social structures while recognizing that some patterns remained consistent.

## Essential Vocabulary

- **Industrialization**  
The process of developing industries that use machines to produce goods.
- **Continuity**  
Elements of society that remain the same over time.
- **Change**  
Developments that significantly transform societies or institutions.
- **Argumentation**  
The historical skill of making a claim supported by evidence.
- **Nationalism**  
The belief that people sharing culture or language should form their own nation.

## Background Reading

Industrialization reshaped economies around the world. Factories using machines powered by fossil fuels dramatically increased production. Railroads and steamships connected distant regions and helped create global trade networks. These developments transformed economic systems and expanded the availability of manufactured goods.

Industrialization also influenced political and ideological developments. Enlightenment ideas about natural rights and government authority inspired revolutions in the Americas and Europe. Nationalism encouraged the creation of new nation-states and reshaped political boundaries.

Despite these major changes, many social and economic inequalities persisted. Industrial capitalism created wealth for some groups while leaving many workers in difficult conditions. Additionally, some regions remained primarily agricultural and did not industrialize at the same pace as Western Europe and the United States.

## Primary Sources

### Primary Source 1

#### Adam Smith — *The Wealth of Nations* (1776)

Fordham University Internet History Sourcebook

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1776smith-wealth.asp>

The division of labor, by increasing the productive powers of labor, allows societies to produce a far greater quantity of goods than before. Through specialization and the use of machinery, workers can produce goods more efficiently.

This expansion of productivity increases the wealth of nations and improves the availability of goods for consumers. Markets therefore encourage innovation and the development of industry.

When individuals pursue economic opportunity within competitive markets, they often contribute to the broader prosperity of society.

### Source Analysis Questions

1. Identify ONE economic change described in the passage.
2. Explain ONE way industrial production increased economic output.
3. Explain ONE historical development influenced by these economic ideas.

### Primary Source 2

#### Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels — *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)

Fordham University Internet History Sourcebook

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

Modern industry has established the world market and created connections between distant regions through production and trade. The bourgeoisie has drawn nations into a global economic system.

At the same time, industrial capitalism has created a working class whose labor supports this system. Workers produce the wealth of industrial societies but often live in difficult conditions.

This system has therefore transformed society while also creating new conflicts between social classes.

### Source Analysis Questions

1. Identify ONE global change caused by industrialization mentioned in the passage.
2. Explain ONE social tension described in the passage.
3. Explain ONE historical development that contributed to this tension.

### Major Changes and Continuities of the Industrial Age

Category	Major Changes	Continuities
Economy	Growth of industrial capitalism	Continued economic inequality
Technology	Railroads, steamships, telegraph	Continued reliance on natural resources
Society	New middle and working classes	Persistent class divisions
Politics	Rise of nationalism and revolutions	Some monarchies remained in power

## Change, Continuity, and Comparison

### Change

- Industrial technologies transformed production and transportation.
- Global trade expanded rapidly through industrial economies.
- Nationalist and revolutionary movements reshaped political systems.

### Continuity

- Social and economic inequalities continued.
- Many societies remained agricultural.
- Political power often remained concentrated among elites.

### Comparison

Industrialized regions experienced rapid economic and technological transformation, while many non-industrial regions experienced slower changes.

### Key Takeaways

- Industrialization dramatically increased economic production.
- Transportation and communication technologies expanded global trade.
- Enlightenment ideas influenced revolutions and political reforms.
- Nationalism reshaped political boundaries.
- Despite major changes, social and economic inequalities persisted.

### Practice Activity (Argumentation Practice)

#### Short Historical Argument (6–8 sentences)

Prompt: *Evaluate the extent to which industrialization transformed societies between 1750 and 1900.*

Instructions:

1. Write a clear claim (thesis).
2. Provide at least **two pieces of historical evidence** from Unit 5.
3. Explain how the evidence supports your argument.
4. Identify at least **one example of continuity** during the period.

### Primary Source Citations

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