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Impact of the Industrial Revolution

A shift in societies all over the world started in the 1800s. Citizens began to find jobs other than farming. The environment was changing and becoming polluted. There were new rules beginning to form and there was a creation of a new social class. All of these statements are true because of the start of the Industrial Revolution. This Revolution was both influential and harmful to people all over the globe. Whether one believes the Industrial Revolution was helpful or hurtful for society, it played a large role in the creation of today’s society.

There are three main reasons why the Industrial Revolution originated in Great Britain. The first reason is due to the resources Great Britain had such as large amounts of coal and iron. They had the key ingredients that many countries needed in order to industrialize. Great Britain was able to transport their goods to other countries using waterways. Their ships and boats, powered by burning coal, were used to carry the resources from Great Britain to another country.

 The second reason is due to Great Britain’s market access. They had a strong tie to foreign markets because of their colonies all over the world. This allowed for their resources to be shipped to different countries and then sold making profit. A strong naval base was helpful because Britain was able to create alliances with other countries. Great Britain had a strong domestic market as well. There were other countries, such as France, who would have tariffs on importing and exporting goods. Britain did not have strict rules and regulations for the commerce sold and bought in their country. The limited regulations led for a successful domestic market.

The third reason why Great Britain started the Industrial Revolution is because of their agricultural efficiency. Great Britain used an open field system for their farmers. This meant that each farmer would have their own section to grow crops, using a new theory of enclosure. This allowed for each farmer to do as they please with their section instead of having to get approval from every farmer to change the crop rotation. Great Britain also followed a new crop rotation that they learned from the Dutch. This new system produced more crops, more fertilizer and more food for their animals. Great Britain was producing 300% more food because of their new systems they were following. Great Britain was able to start the industrial revolution because of their excess amount of resources, their market connections and their advances agricultural system.

Great Britain’s advances also included the spinning jenny and the steam engine. Engineers, such as James Watt, were able to make more efficient and effective steam engines because of the use of coal. The spinning jenny helped women make thread 10 times faster than they could by hand. These new advances gave Britain the leading hand in starting the Industrial Revolution.

 The start of the Industrial Revolution had a large impact on the environment. People normally focus on how the Industrial Revolution created hundreds of jobs for citizens of France and Great Britain, not as many people think of the impact on the environment. With the new factories being built, there was an increase in pollution. The pollution was harming the animals but also harmful to all the people in the area. With all the waste that was produced, the workers would have to put this somewhere. A majority of the time, the most convenient place was a river or landfill. The workers and company owners may not have thought of the long-term consequences for their actions but they created a dangerous life for animals and other species of life. While the Industrial Revolution was helpful by creating jobs, it was extremely harmful to the environment.

The Industrial Revolution had a large impact on the everyday lives of British citizens. It had an impact on terms of gender, social class and patterns of work. The Gender Division of Labor started around 1850. This meant that there were separate spheres of work for men and women. Men would earn the wages for the household and women would stay at home and work. Women were in charge of taking care of the kids and the house. The idea of the Angle of the House was developed because of the middle class women staying home rather than working. Being the angle of the house meant that women had to put the needs of their guests before themselves. If their guest needed something to drink and the wife was about to eat, she would stop what she was doing and go get their guest a drink (Lualdi). In a patriarch society, women were not given equal rights to men. Men were in charge of the family’s money and they were the owners of the house. Women were in charge of taking care of the kids and making sure the house was clean.

The Industrial Revolution also created the middle class. These were individuals who had higher jobs than the working class. They may be managers of factories or part owners of a company. They were not as wealthy as the clergy or nobility but better off than the working class. The middle class was a new group that was trying to adjust to their new living situations.

The patterns of work also shifted because of the revolution. There were now strict rules regarding work. For example, “The normal working day begins at all seasons at 6 a.m. precisely and ends, after the usual break of half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea, at 7 p.m., and it shall be strictly observed (Ludai Ch. 21 Document 1).” These rules were very specific regarding all aspects of work. They felt that they had to make strict rules because adults were used to working in farms all day and they did not have rules to follow, the farmers would make their own rules. These changes had a large impact on the daily lives of French citizens.

The Industrial Revolution was the start of today’s society. The British used ships and trains to carry goods from one place to another. The creation of the middle class, which many people live in today, was created because of the Industrial Revolution. The idea of strict rules for factory workers would not have been made without the creation of factories. Many of the ideas that are used in modern society originated during the Industrial Revolution.