

Industrial Revolution

Causes, Consequences, and Historical Evidence

Essential Question

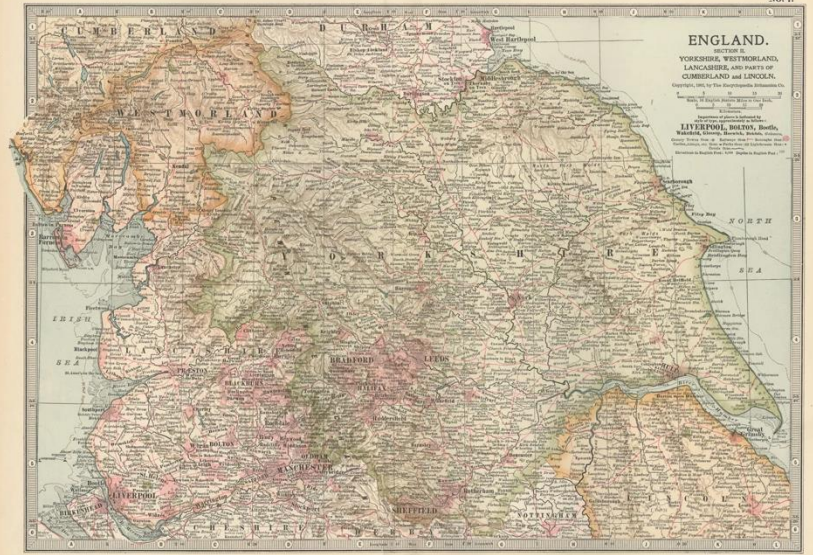
How did **industrialization** create new opportunities while also producing serious social and environmental **consequences**?

Defining an Economic Transformation

- The **Industrial Revolution** shifted economies from farming and handcraft production toward machine manufacturing and industry.
- Beginning in eighteenth-century Britain, **mechanization** used machines to increase manufacturing speed and scale.
- This transformation reorganized work, settlement, and the production and distribution of wealth.
- Historians apply the term both to Britain's early period and to a broader process that spread unevenly.

In one sentence, predict one change machines might bring to an economy based on farming and handcrafts.

Why Britain Industrialized First



Historical map of northern England

Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

- Accessible **coal** and **iron ore** supplied fuel and materials for machinery.
- Ports, coastal shipping, canals, and later railways moved raw materials and finished goods.
- Colonies supplied raw cotton and provided overseas markets for British exports.
- **Population growth** increased demand and pushed many people toward paid work.
- Merchants, banks, and entrepreneurs invested accumulated **capital** in costly machinery.

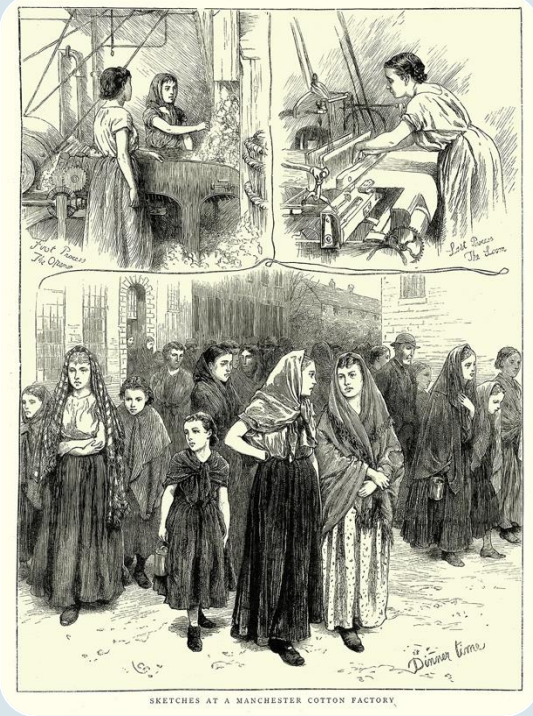
Machines Changed Production



James Watt and the steam engine

ZDF Studios GmbH (Contunico)

Work and Cities Transformed



Manchester cotton factory, 1870s

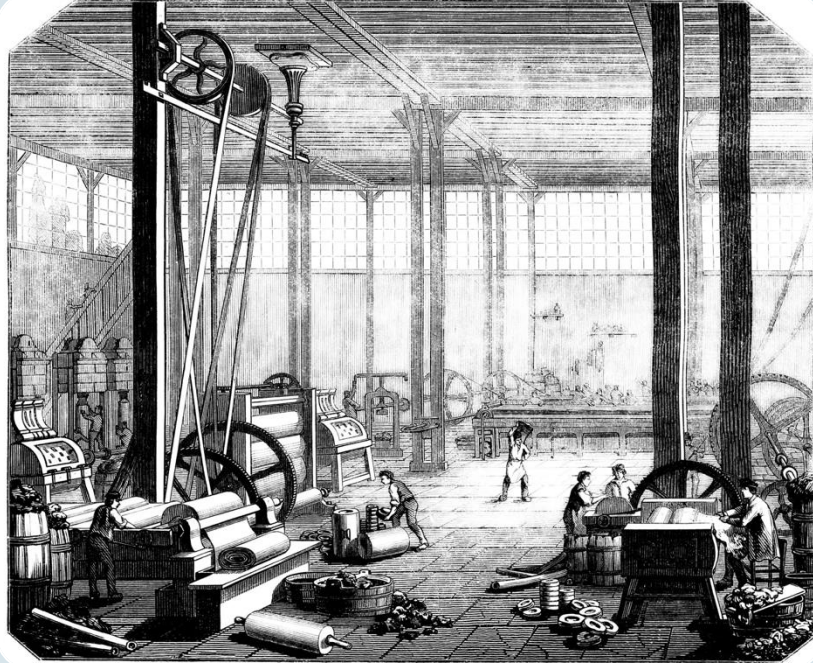
Getty Images

- **Mass production** made clothing, tools, and household goods more affordable for many consumers.
- Industrial jobs and supporting businesses helped expand the **middle class**.
- Railroads, steamships, and telegraphs linked markets and accelerated communication.
- Factory workers often faced 14–16-hour days, dangerous machinery, and unequal wages.
- Rapid **urbanization** overwhelmed housing, sanitation, and clean-water systems, encouraging disease outbreaks.

Reading a Factory Image

- A **primary source** was created during or near the period historians study.
- Identify observable details: machinery, worker positions, clothing, workspace, and signs of supervision.
- Evaluate **perspective**, or the viewpoint shaping a source's representation of events.
- An illustration may reveal labor processes while omitting noise, injuries, wages, and workers' opinions.
- A defensible claim separates what the source shows from what historians reasonably infer.

Examine the factory image. Write one claim about industrial labor, then cite two visible details as evidence.



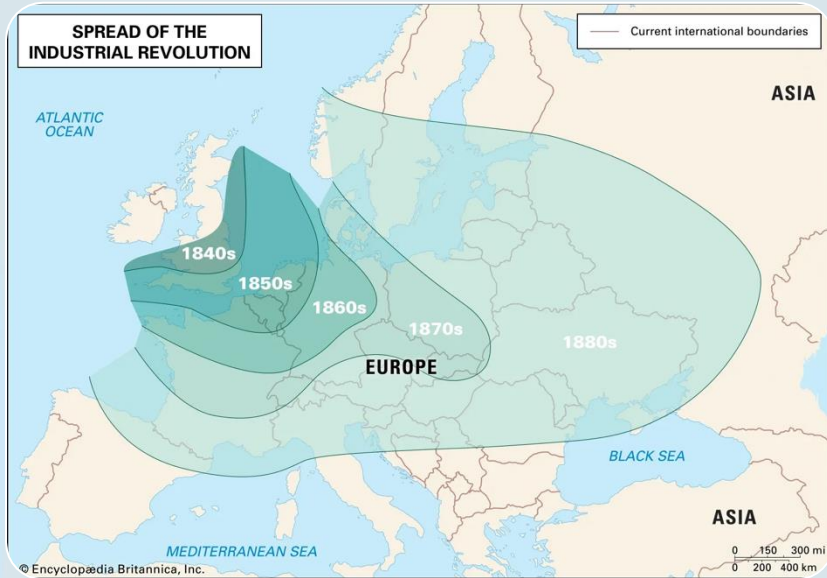
Nineteenth-century factory interior

Adobe Stock Photo

Industrial Growth Produced Contradictions

- **Division of labor** separated production into repeated, specialized tasks, raising speed and consistency.
- Adam Smith used pinmaking to show how organized tasks could greatly increase output.
- Cheaper manufactured goods expanded consumer access and commercial activity.
- Repetition limited many workers' control over the product and the pace of work.
- Women and children often received lower wages, while large labor pools weakened job security.

Reform, Diffusion, and Legacy



Industrialization in Europe

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- Worker exploitation encouraged **labor unions**, social movements, and demands for government protection.
- Over time, child labor declined, workdays shortened, and safety standards expanded.
- Industrialization spread from Britain into Belgium, France, Germany, the United States, Japan, and beyond.
- Coal-powered factories intensified **air pollution** and **water pollution** while resource extraction transformed habitats.
- Long-term fossil-fuel industrial economies are connected to modern climate challenges.

Industrialization was neither simply progress nor decline: it expanded productive capacity while redistributing power, risk, wealth, and environmental costs across societies.

Essential Question Exit Ticket

- State a qualified claim about **industrialization** and its mixed **consequences**.
- Include one cause, such as access to **coal**, **capital**, markets, or population growth.
- Explain one opportunity and one cost using specific historical evidence.
- Evaluate why a factory image is useful but limited evidence, using **perspective**.
- Use **mechanization** or **urbanization** accurately in your response.

Write a 5–6 sentence response independently and submit it before leaving.



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