

HIS114: World Civilization II: OA

Film – Week 7

Describe some of the "worst jobs." What do you think made them qualify as "worst?"

Who held these jobs?

Some of the worst jobs of the Victorian Age were, engine cleaners, chimney sweeps, navigators, stone pickers, scavenging, tanners and stone breaking at the workhouse. These were the worst jobs because they were hard physical labor, dirty and possibly deadly. The poorest people held the worst jobs and that oftentimes included women and children. Children were often used because they were small and could fit into small, dangerous spaces.

What can you determine about social hierarchy and class from these films?

The social hierarchy is based on wealth. The poorest people had the worst jobs. Women who were widowed and children were often a large population of the poor. Being poor was a crime. They would send the poor to the workhouse to earn a meal.

What would you say are some of the "worst jobs" in today's world? How do they compare to these jobs over 100 years ago?

It is hard to identify "the worst" jobs in today's world. There are jobs that are hard because they are dangerous and require physical labor, such as coal miners and oil rig workers and even being in the military. Then there are jobs that are considered bad because they have high stress, low pay and lack of job security, such as taxi driving, food service or retail salesperson. These jobs

although they are essential the people in the fields are oftentimes not valued and treated with respect.

All the “worst jobs” from the Victorian Age were bad because they all included hard physical labor. Some of the “worst jobs” today, don’t require the same physical labor but can be still taxing on the body due to the level of stress that goes with the job.