

World Civilization II (OA)

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Industrial Revolution Film Response

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Some of the basic life changes between 1820 and 1920 pointed out in the film were most people worked in shops, mining, transportation, and factories instead of working in agriculture. Some now owned radios and refrigerators, cars existed, planes could be seen flying in the sky and time was now measured in minutes. The country had just fought a deadly war with a lethal weapon called gas. Many people would begin working together and collaborate on making improvements in increments to maximize the manufacturing of products. Cotton was very popular and a great money maker. Manufacturers became successful in copying the cotton, however, due to the industrial revolution the production of cotton was very risky. Business failure during the revolution had rates of over 50%. Manufacturers decided they could solve this issue by keeping costs down. The industrial oppression began. They took orphans from government, religious, and charitable organizations to work without pay. Without being taught how to properly operate the machines and knowing the dangers that could occur, there were many accidents, with the children being the main victims. Body parts were lost, and many died, but the main priority was production and profits. As a result, there was high demand for slaves to produce food for the workers and oils to keep machines running. Slave and child labor caused production to thrive, but women who were paid less than men.

New social groups and clubs were formed. The social groups of the Bourgeoisie were people who lived in towns and cities, owned factories, banks, transportation networks, or large portions of land for raising livestock and crops. The social group of the Proletariats was known as the working class, consisting of workers who could not support themselves and worked for the factory owners. In between them was the middle class, which were professional workers such as doctors, lawyers, etc. The industrial workers became aware of their identities and with the French outlawing guilds, they formed clubs to protect their interests. These groups would serve society together but over time due to more transformations, tensions would rise among the groups. In addition, gender restrictions would discourage women from working outside due to them being told they were to "be angels in the household". They should not have to experience the horrors of industrial work.