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Chapter 19: Film Response- Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain, and from its start, it changed some basic daily lifestyles between 1820 and 1920. These changes included the typical working structure, where many people stopped working in the agricultural scene and moved on to working in shops, mining, transportation, and local factories. With the introduction of cars, measuring time by minutes and not the sun was adapted, and refrigeration became popular and helpful because it decreased food spoilage, making people sick from food-borne illnesses. Keeping food refrigerated aided in extending the lives of people in England, which allowed people to spend more time and years learning and experimenting in their environment. Some incremental improvements that were a part of the early Industrial Revolution were the improvement of machines. With some significant touches on existing mechanical devices, the production of goods was on the rise, allowing cheaper purchases and production for factory owners. Machines that aided in the improvements were the Flying Machine and Spinning Jenny, which were for weaving, charging machines that helped to straighten cotton and wool, and the Water Frame, which used water to power the mills/factories.

While the change was being made for the good, industrial oppression affected some specific groups of people. Workers within the factories suffered a great deal for a while. Orphans from the government were unpaid workers, and others through charitable organizations and religious institutions were also used as laborers. Physical accidents happened in the workplace all the time, in which children were the main victims. Children lost eyes, arms, and fingers and became disfigured from the various injuries. Besides children in the factories, slaved people were

also among those oppressed. The demand for enslaved people increased even more because they could produce food for workers who had left the farms to work in factories. Slaves produced tropical crops such as sugar and also coffee which helped to boost the energy of the workers in the factories. In addition, slaves produced oils that were keeping the machines running. New social groups arose in this era which were classified as the Bourgeoisie who were those who lived in burghs and owned factories, land, banks, etc. and then the Proletariats who worked in the factories and lacked tools or land to support themselves. Middle Class rose and they consisted of the lawyers, doctors, and any professional group that serviced society. As hierarchies became more fluid, gender restrictions in the Industrial Revolution showed women leaving the home to work in factories, later becoming “angels of the household”. This allowed women to provide comfort in the homes from the horrors of industrial life.