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Film & Response: The Industrial Revolution

How did some basics of daily life change between 1820 and 1920?

To determine the differences in some of the basics of daily life that changed between 1820 and 1920, it is essential to note that living in the early 1800s was nearly like living in the 1500s or 1700s. Living in one of these periods, one would work in agriculture, push their cart, if wealthy enough to have a horse, wash their cloth multiple times with water and place it over a fire since there was no electricity or even running water. One would even understand seasons and timing more by the relationship to solar cycles. Now in opposition to the 1820s in the 1920s, people did not work as much in agriculture as they previously did. More people started working in shops, transportation, mining, workshops, and factories. Additionally, people would be able to determine the time with minutes, cars would come into play, radios would be available for us, people would have refrigerators, and this would even be the time for planes to be around. These are some of the changes that occurred; for the people who lived in 1820, it would be hard for them to believe how life would transform in the future.

What were the "incremental improvements" which were a part of the early Industrial Revolution?

The incremental improvement that was part of the Industrial Revolution was the creation of mechanical technology. Most people associate cars and planes with mechanical technology, but they did not appear in the early Industrial Revolution. During the early times, you would also have other technology, such as the tinker and the spinning Jenny. This multi-spindle spinning frame bloomed into a gateway for mass textile production. In 1764 it was created by Craftsman

James Hargreaves, and the mechanics worked with the assistance of hand labor, and it would spin up to 120. Eventually, Richard Arkwright and his partners invented the water frame, another spinning machine that used waterpower; when rotating machines could be linked to a central power source such as water, many could be placed in a single building, so the world's first factories arose in part from the pressure to increase production. Then you would have Johann Friedrich butcher, who made porcelain around 1708, although less grand than the Chinese or Japanese in terms of looks. Speaking of this, what helped these inventions grow was competition, whether by ordinary observation, collaborations, or even spying. Some examples of this are colorfast dyes or heat resistant dishware or fine weaving and spinning, metallurgy, textiles, steam engines even building that was worked on with one another or copied from one another. All in all, early technology helped form other ideas for technology that would arise later in the Industrial revelation and be improved.

Green uses the term "industrial oppression" to describe industrialization's effect on some people. What groups of people experienced oppression and why?

Ultimately women and children were the groups of oppressed people. Women were able to work. However, the issue is that women were paid less than men. As for children, especially orphaned children, many were forced into forced labor without pay, as factory owners needed a method to maintain the cost of expenses while supporting many factory workers. Children were abused not only by being forced to work forcefully with no pay but also by working long hours and being put on dangerous machinery. Mary Richards is a perfect example; she was caught in a Machine. Sheen and six and seven-year-old orphans working alongside her saw that she was crushed and that her head was snapped off. Enslaved people were also victims of oppression during this time; similarly, the children were forced with no pay to work on unfamiliar machines.

New social groups arose in this era; what were these, and how did they identify with others of their class (groups, clubs)

The new social groups that would arise would be the upper class; they may be seen as the wealthiest group at this time, primarily factory owners or owners of banks, owners of transportation networks, or large tracts of land for raising livestock and crops. The middle class held lawyers, doctors, teachers, pharmacists, etc. Next, you would have the lower class, or the working class, who would mainly work jobs that contained or needed physical labor assistance.

As I said in our small group discussion, while hierarchies became more fluid, gender restrictions became more static - how do we see these restrictions in the Industrial Revolution?

As hierarchies became more fluid, gender restrictions became more static; we see this mainly with women who were also part-takers of the working class. Whether they were hat makers, seamstresses, weavers, spinners, or factory workers, they would not make the same as a man; they would be paid very little in comparison. And on top of little pay, they would also need to work long hours, and age did matter. For instance, Anne Egley, 18, worked with her younger sister on movie carriages full of coal. And Anne has done this since she was 7 with a small wage of £800 for working 12 hours. Speaking of salaries, what the women made would go into the pockets of the husband; women were not entirely in control of the money they worked for. This discouraged many women from being workers in society as they were held in restricted positions.