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# **INDUSTRIALIZATION IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE AND**

**CAPITAL AND LABOR C.E. 1815-  
1900**



# Essential Questions

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- ▶ Why does industrialization come later and more cautiously on the continent than it did in Great Britain?
- ▶ Why are the national variations so wide spread from country to country across the continent?
- ▶ What are the essential differences and similarities to the British model?
- ▶ What are the social consequences of the new industrialization?



# National Variations

- ▶ 1750-1830 Britain industrialized faster than other countries. Twice as fast as France.



 *The Industrial Revolution on the Continent. The major developments took place in Germany and in the coastal areas along the English Channel where there were better natural resources or pools of labor.*

- ▶ Belgium follows Britain, France grows gradually
- ▶ 1913 Germany and US closing in on Britain, rest of Europe and Japan grows, while other Asian states lose ground (India, China)

# Challenge of Industrialization

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- ▶ Revolutions and wars on Continent slow economic growth
- ▶ Tough to compete with GB. Economically and technologically they're too advanced
- ▶ Continental countries have three advantages
  - ▶ Rich traditions of putting-out enterprise, merchant capitalists, and urban artisans
  - ▶ Could simply copy the British ways of doing things
  - ▶ Power of strong, central governments could be used to promote industry

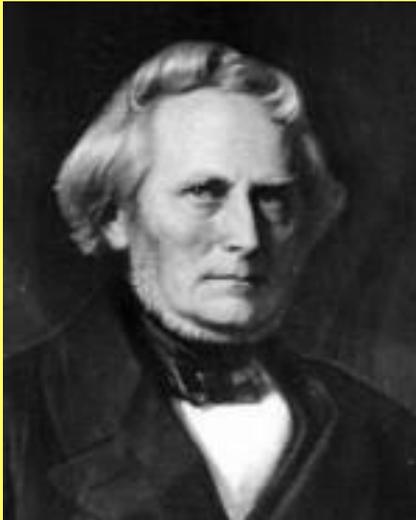


# Agents of Industrialization

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▶ Cockerill, in Belgium, brings British industry secrets to other parts of Europe



▶ Harkort, in Germany, fails at industrializing the country. Shows how difficult duplicating British achievements can be



# Government's Role

- ▶ Governments aided industrialists by erecting tariffs, building roads/canals, and financing railroads
- ▶ Thinkers and writers believed industrialization would advance the nation  
“Economic Nationalism”
  - ▶ List supported tariff-free zone in Germany  
“Zollverein”



# Government' s Role

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- ▶ Banks played a more important role on the continent than in GB.
    - ▶ Industrial banks like Credit Mobilier became important in France and Germany.
    - ▶ These industrial banks mobilized savings of thousands of small investors and invested in railroads and industry.
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# A New Class of Factory Owners

- ▶ As Watt and Harkort illustrate, capitalist owners were locked into a highly competitive system
- ▶ Early industrialists came from varied backgrounds
- ▶ Some from merchant families, some from artisans backgrounds
- ▶ Quakers and Scots were important in Britain, while Protestants and Jews were important in France
- ▶ As factories grew, opportunities declined
- ▶ Wives and daughters of businessmen were shut out of business activity, were expected to concentrate on feminine and domestic activities.

# A New Class of Factory Worker



- ▶ Many observers claimed that the Industrial Revolution brought misery to workers
- ▶ Romantic poets Blake and Wordsworth protested life of workers, pollution of land and water
- ▶ Luddites smashed new machines they thought were putting them out of work.
- ▶ Engels attacked middle classes “*The Condition of the Working Class in England*”

# The Life of a Factory Worker

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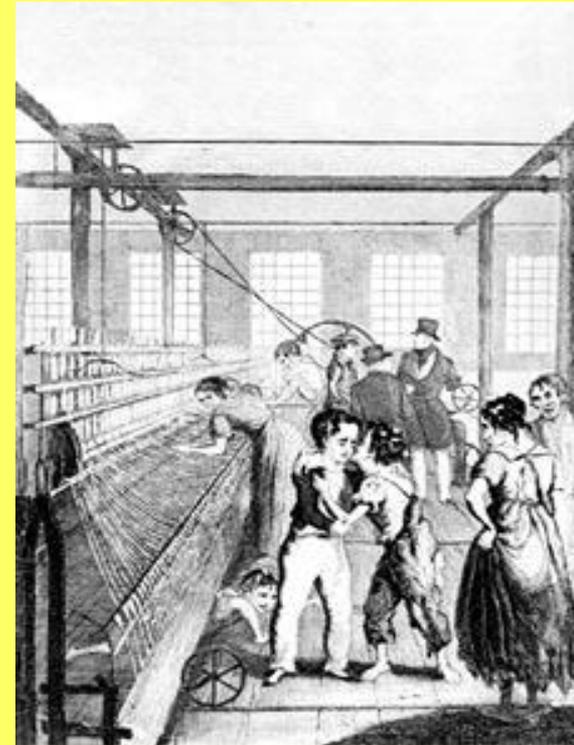
- ▶ Others such as Ure and Chadwick claimed life was improving for workers
- ▶ Statistics of purchasing power of workers show little or no improvement between 1780 and 1820.
  - ▶ 1792-1815 living conditions actually decline while food prices rose faster than wages.
  - ▶ After 1840 some improvement occurs. Even though, hours of labor increased and unemployment also was present
- ▶ Diet and supply of clothing improved, but housing did not.



# The Working Conditions

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- ▶ Working in factory meant more discipline and less personal freedom. Factory whistle replaced more relaxed pace of cottage work
- ▶ Refusal of cottage workers to work in factory led to child labor
  - ▶ Use of pauper children forbidden in 1802.
  - ▶ Urban factories and coal mines attracted whole families and preserved kinship ties.
  - ▶ Children and parents work long hours



# Parliament and Child Labor

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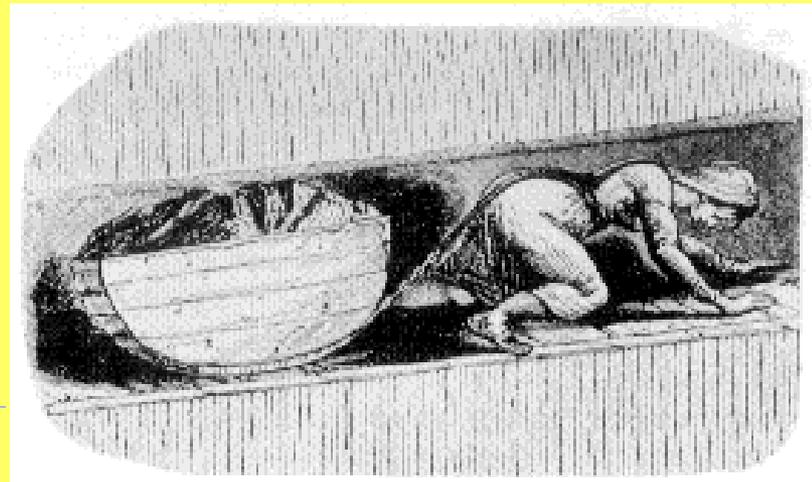


- ▶ Robert Owen proposes limiting hours of labor and child labor
  - ▶ Factory Act of 1833 limits child labor and number of hours children can work in textile factories.
  - ▶ Factory owners required to establish elementary schools for children of employees
  - ▶ Subcontracting led to close relationship between subcontractor and work crew.
    - ▶ Subcontracting helped maintain kinship ties
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# Sexual Division of Labor

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- ▶ New pattern of “separate spheres” emerged.
  - ▶ Men were primary wage earner, women had limited opportunities
  - ▶ Married women were less likely to work outside the home after 1<sup>st</sup> child born
  - ▶ Women confined to low-paying, dead-end jobs



# Sexual Division of Labor

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- ▶ Reasons for reorganization along gender lines is debated
  - ▶ Deeply ingrained “patriarchal tradition” from pre-industrial craft guilds.
  - ▶ Factory discipline conflicted with women’s priority with children
  - ▶ Sexual division was to control the sexuality of working-class youth
  - ▶ Conditions in coal mines illustrate this.



# Early Labor Movement

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- ▶ Many jobs changed slowly. Farm and domestic labor was still most common. Small-scale handicraft production unchanged in many crafts.
- ▶ Working class solidarity and class consciousness developed, many employers saw unions as a restriction on industrial growth.
  - ▶ Combination Act of 1799, outlawed unions and strikes
  - ▶ 1813-1814 law ended wage regulations, allowed labor market to flood with women and children

# Early Labor Movement

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- ▶ Workers continued to strike, Combination Acts repealed in 1824.
  - ▶ Owen and others tried to create a national union of workers. After 1851 “New Model Unions” won benefits for their members.
  - ▶ **Chartism** was workers’ political movement. Sought universal male suffrage, shorter work hours, cheap bread.
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