

Trevor Callow

HST101- I course

Throughout History many advances in society and technology have occurred.

One of these was the Industrial Revolution changed the world in many ways and marked a new era in History globally. Without the Industrial Revolution our world would have not been the way it is today or could be centuries away from its current state. Overall the Industrial Revolution marked a turning point in history and was one of the most important parts of history.

The industrial revolution can mark a turning point in history because of pieces of the time period. One of these pieces was one The Biological Old Regime. The Biological Old Regime was a period of time where the population could not increase due to a mass death because of wars, the spreading of germs, parasites, and the poor being prayed on by the wealthy. “As a result, the human population did not increase so much or so fast as to threaten the environmental basis of society”(Marks 40) which furthermore made the need for food an essential part of this period's people. With food being needed in this time period the majority of the technological advances were in agriculture to allow for the societies to be able to produce their own food rather than relying on the natural resources. In this period of time, Classical Economists claimed that the most important foundations or requirements for the period were land, capital, and labor. These foundations met all the wants of production and a decrease in one aspect would have led to a mass lack in the required foundations and necessity to continue throughout the period.

An extremely important element of this period was the classification of elements in agriculture. A primary example of this is Fungibles and Consumptables.

Fungibles and Consumptables were identified by medieval philosophers. “A field was fungible because us in any one year did not prevent it from the same purpose the next year” (Wrigley 4). A Fungible was classified as something that could be reused, such as a field that continues to produce a product. However a consumable was a one time use and after it was gone it was gone. For example, “A loaf of bread was consumable, because after it had been consumed its use was ended” (Wrigley 4). When digging into this space in an energy sense, fossil fuels were viewed as a consumable while plants who renewed were viewed as fungibles. These new properties helped aid in the Industrial Revolution. An example of this was in England who used consumables but switched to wood which was fungible and it helped increase their productivity when they left the Biological Old Regime due to an increasing population. This is shown in a quote by Wrigley “...coal could be substituted as a source of heat energy for all purposes where wood had once been used” (Wrigley 8). When the British left the Old Regime they needed to create more coal in order to keep their subjects in order and while doing this it shows the foundations of the classical economist by the British opening a new fuel source due to demands of a growing population.

In the British Industrial Revolution, their colonies helped further their progress, especially the colonies in India. During British industrialization, they became an economic powerhouse by using cotton textiles into the World’s market. The British did this by “...applying steam power to the production process, greatly increasing output, lowering costs, and outcompeting Indian cottons in the world market.” (Marks 119). The use of steam was the majority of the Industrial Revolution however coal also played an enormous role in it as well. These major two lead to production becoming so much

quicker and also lead to many new inventions and many quality of life changes. An example of this is the use of coal to heat places and homes which is outlined by Marks in the quote, "...coal was used for industrial purposes" (Marks 119). An invention that I believe was an immediate significance of the Industrial Revolution was the invention of the Steam engine. The steam engine immediately made travel and the movement of resources more vast and faster. This furthermore increased production and helped move people and ideas around the world. This is explained by, "The steam engine and the use of coal in manufacturing were the two key elements in the new energy complex" (Marks 119). Overall the use of coal and the steam engine were the two most significant impacts of the industrial revolution. I do agree that the Industrial Revolution is as important as the domestication of fire or many other major events in history because without all these advancements in technology the world would have advanced a lot slower and we would not be where we are in today's society or today's society might be completely different from its current state.

The Industrial Revolution was one of the most significant turning points in history and without it the world would have not advanced. It is a perfect example of how we as people have continued to develop and advance to tackle any problem that is thrown at us, such as increasing population and limiting resources. Overall without the Industrial Revolution we would have not made it to where we are today and that is why it is a turning point in history.