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Assignment 3: Part II, Complete Research Paper

***The Conflict Between the Working Class and Businessmen in
Industrialized England from 1830 to 1850***

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Introduction

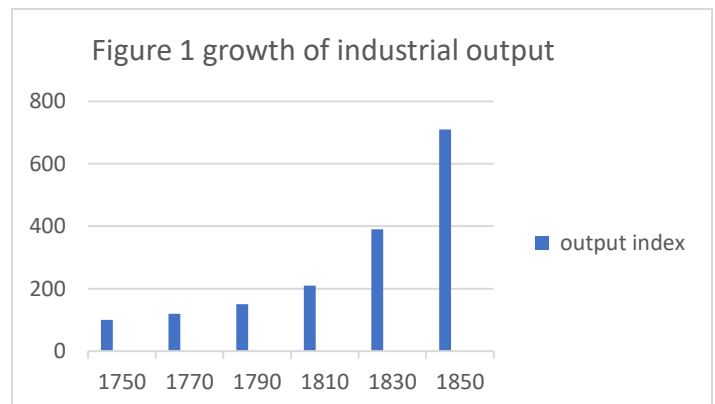
The British industrial revolution is a phenomenon that had impacted the work force of England massively. This research is mainly to understand these affects and how they were dealt with. Furthermore, it gives I briefer look on the social status of the Kingdome in the period of industrialization, and how the relationship between the business men and the workers was one of the main factors in this development.

The main sources were used in this paper are books, journals, and online articles. Using these sources, I will try to analyze the effects of the industrial revolution on the working class and the kind of conflict it created with the businessmen.

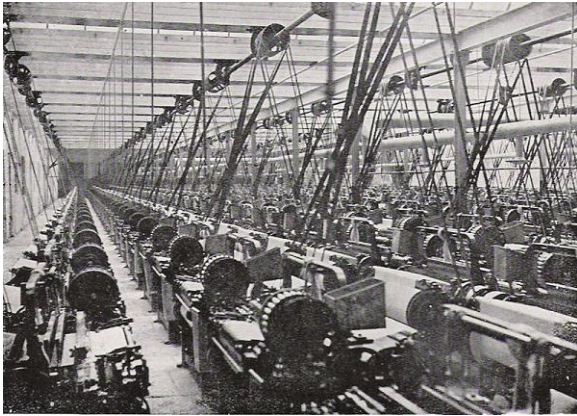
This paper discusses the after math of the industrial revolution on the working class. The conditions in which they were working, the changes in working hours and wages, and how they reacted to these changes.

Narrative

Historians have debated the exact date of the start of the industrial revolution, however the impact of it became wildy spread in the nineteenth century (More,2000).1830 was an important date mainly because the use of steam railways had wildy spread around that time (More,2000). In the early 18th century industries were generally small scale and unsophisticated; such as textile, metal production in the Midlands, and coal mining in the North-East (White,2009). What made the industrialization a revolution is the absolute growth and expansion of industry in comparison with other sectors of economy (see figure1) (More,2000). So, industrialization meant a change from economy based on agriculture to



one based on industry and commerce (Hopkins,2000). The intensity of steam-powered production resulted in putting a rapidly increasing number of handloom weavers in the cotton industry, for example, out of work (Hpkins,2000). Their numbers fell from 250,000



Lancashire cotton mill, steam powered weaving shed, photo published in More Pictures of British History

in 1820 to 40,000 in 1850 (More,2000). This increase of industry led to a massive number of workers from the countryside to move to the fast-growing cities and towns of the Midlands, and the North (Hpkins,2000). Furthermore, the growth in towns population led to a growing middle-class concern for the working conditions in the new factories. The wages were down because of the unlimited supplies of labuor, which allowed capitalists large profits (More, 2000). Also, the

hours of work increased substantially to reduce leisure time and increase production. In addition, there was an increasing demand for mail labour to the extent that the extra hours were worked by women and children, who were the most affected (More,2000). People were working as much as 14 to 16 hours a day, six days a week, and were paid approximately 10 cents an hour, given that these wages defer as to how much skilled the person was. Children and women were payed even less. Furthermore, industrialization had negative effects on the living situation for the workers, such as the ill-health and poor housing (More, 2000). As a response to these challenges, people started campaign for shorter ten-hour a day of work, and it lasted until the Ten Hour Act in 1847 (Hopkins, 2000). Many people however, turned to unionization to influence their environments (Bischoff). The base of the worker organization and power was formed by trade unions. Despite the fear of unions to inspire radicalism, they helped the workers to gain more power (Bischoff). Through organizations and cooperation, they were able to



Match workers' Strike Committee. Annie Besant and Herbert Burrows, supporters of the strikers, are top center.

Credit: TUC Collections, London Metropolitan University



Group of Breaker boys by Lewis Hine

negotiate with the employers for better wages, working hours, and working conditions and their most powerful bargain was strike, which was the ultimate fear for employers. Never the less, the main task of trade unions leaders was to bring the workers and the businessmen to the negotiating table and use strike as a last resort. British unionism received its legal foundation in the Trade-Union Act of 1871. However, increasing demands for improved social welfare, education, labour rights, political rights and equality, as well as for the abolition of the slave trade and changes in the electoral system, the British movement favored political activism, which led to the formation of the Labour Party in 1906 (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2018). To sum up, Britain after the invention of the steam powered factories, faced an increase of population in the industrial cities due to the massive numbers of workers moving to these cities and towns. These unlimited supply of labour were an easy target to the businessmen who took advantage and reduced the wages, increased the hours of work, and did not provide good conditions in their work places. In top of that, they had women and children working for them for less wages. In reaction to that people started campaigning and then turned to unionization to negotiate their way to better work environment.

Analysis

The major event that accrued in the nineteenth century England was the industrial revolution which lead to the rising conflict between the work force and the employers. To understand the reason why it all started we have to go back to the time before industrialization. Looking at England before the revolution we find out that it was mainly dependent on agriculture. Moreover, the main source of power was wood and after that coal. Coal was more powerful, but hard to transfer. Also, coal needed mining which meant more problems. Interestingly, steam engine was itinally discovered because of the constant flooding in the mains. In addition, the advances of since in that period helped push the industrialization forward, in addition to financial innovations such as central banks,



Steam engine

stock markets, and joint stock companies, encouraged people to take risks with investments, trade, and new technologies. Therefore, a lot of the new envisions of the industrial enlightenment dependent on steam engines, that helped it to be more developed. As a consequence, the first steam engine manufacturer in the world was in England. It is also worth mentioning that the government had played a big role in

enhancing the industrialization by encouraging innovation and the spread of global trade. The encouragement of the global trade resampled in expanding the Navy to protect trade and granting monopolies or other financial incentives to companies so they would explore the world to find resources (The Industrial Revolution Begins in England (1760-1850)). As we saw earlier, people started losing their jobs as industries started to expand and grow rapidly. Here we start to understand how the conflict started to develop. As more and more people started to move to the industrialized cities, the population increased massively. That meant more people were looking for jobs, which made them an easy target to the capitalists. Which initiate the first conflict between the businessmen and workers that was low wages and more working hours, in addition to the unfair women and children labour.



Living conditions

Businessmen wanted maximum profit, and in their hand, they had unlimited subtly of working force so, they took advantage of that situation. When workers started to feel tired of the working conditions, they started to unionize and campaign. What is learned from that is peoples need to provide a prober living can blind their eyes to the possibilities, however once they start to realize that wither by a third party or by just being over exhausted, like in this case, by gathering and working as a union, they will obtain what they stand for and perhaps more.

Meaning & Implications

The significant part of how the industrial revolution affected the working class is how they reacted towards it by campaigning and unionizing. This event matters because it shows how people can gain powers and influence if they worked as one and organized themselves. The statistics that reflect the effects of industrialization are staggering as, Cynthia Stokes Brown explains, “In 1700, before the widespread use of fossil fuels, the world had a population of 670 million people. By 2011 the world’s population had reached 6.7 billion, a 10-fold increase in a mere 300 years. In the 20th century alone, the world’s economy grew 14-fold, the per capita income grew almost fourfold, and the use of energy expanded at least 13-fold. This kind of growth has never before occurred in human history”. In the same token, people before us had fought for decant living and struggled to gain their right, but we take that for granted. The lessons should be learned, that is always fight for what’s rightfully yours. Moreover, the negative aspect of industrialization is that the rate of change since the beginning of the revolution has become so fast that it is hard to keep up with it. In some sense it has made us consumers first and human second.

Reflection & Conclusion

In conclusion, as any revolution the industrialization had a long-lasting changes to the social status in Britain in the nineteenth century. These changes were mainly affecting the work class, as the population increased the wages went down, the working hours increased, and the work conditions were horrible. People fought back by unionizing to negotiate better conditions, having the strike bargain as their strongest resort. This brief history opened my eyes to believe more on people and their power to change as long as they stick together. It also taught me not take the easier life we have these days for granted and appreciate what people had to go through to gain their rights back.

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