

The Industrial Revolution, which began in the late 18th century, marked a turning point in human history. It transformed largely agrarian and rural societies into industrialized and urban ones. Innovations such as the steam engine, mechanized textile production, and advancements in metallurgy led to massive increases in productivity. Cities grew rapidly as people moved from the countryside to work in factories. However, this period also saw harsh working conditions, child labor, and environmental degradation. Governments and reformers eventually responded with labor laws, education initiatives, and early environmental regulations. The Industrial Revolution laid the groundwork for the modern economy, influencing technological progress, social structures, and global trade for centuries to come.