

NCERT Solutions for Class 10

History

Chapter 5 – The Age of Industrialisation

Write in Brief

1. Explain the following:

- (a) **Women workers in Britain attacked the Spinning Jenny.**
- (b) **In the seventeenth-century merchants from towns in Europe began employing peasants and artisans within the villages.**
- (c) **The port of Surat declined by the end of the eighteenth century.**
- (d) **The East India Company appointed gomasthas to supervise weavers in India.**

Ans:

(a) The Spinning Jenny was opposed by British women workers because it sped up the spinning process and, as a result, reduced labour demand. Women in the woollen sector had a legitimate concern of losing their jobs as a result of this. They had been surviving on hand spinning up until now, but the new machine put that in jeopardy.

(b) The guild of trade and commerce was in charge of the market, raw materials, personnel, and the manufacturing of commodities in the towns. Merchants that wished to enhance production by hiring more men faced difficulties as a result of this. As a result, they resorted to country peasants and artisans for help.

(c) Surat's port fell by the end of the eighteenth century, owing to the increasing prominence of European firms in India's trade. They were granted several concessions by local courts, as well as exclusive trading privileges. As a result, the traditional ports of Surat and Hooghly, from which local merchants had operated, began to dwindle.

Exports stalled, and local banks went out of business.

(d) Gomasthas were recruited by the English East India Company to:

- Abolish the existence of traders and brokers and create direct control over the weavers and
- To prevent weavers from interacting with other customers through advances and control. Weavers who obtained loans and fees in advance were beholden to the British in this way.

2. Write True or False against each statement:

(a) At the end of the nineteenth century, 80 percent of the total workforce in Europe was employed in the technologically advanced industrial sector.

Ans: False

(b) The international market for fine textiles was dominated by India till the eighteenth century.

Ans: True

(c) The American Civil War resulted in the reduction of cotton exports from India.

Ans: False

3. Explain what is meant by proto-industrialisation.

Ans: The phase of industrialization prior to the factory system is known as proto-industrialization. There was large-scale industrial manufacturing for a worldwide market prior to the arrival of factories. Proto-industrialisation is the term for this period of industrial history.

Discuss

1. Why did some industrialists in nineteenth-century Europe prefer hand labour over

machines?

Ans: Hand labour was preferred by certain industrialists in nineteenth-century Europe over machinery because:

- Machine-made clothing could not meet market expectations for a wide range of styles, colours, and types. Only human skills could create intricate designs and colours.
- During the Victorian era, nobles and other upper-class individuals favoured solely handcrafted items.
- Machines were expensive, ineffectual, difficult to repair, and required large capital investments.
- At the time, labour was readily accessible at modest salaries.
- Only seasonal labour was necessary in seasonal businesses.

2. How did the East India Company procure regular supplies of cotton and silk textiles from Indian weavers?

Ans: The English East India Company employed a variety of methods to obtain silk and cotton from weavers, including:

- The appointment of paid supervisors known as Gomasthas. They also gathered supplies and evaluated the weavers' cloth quality.
- Through a system of advances and loans, Company weavers are prevented from dealing with other purchasers.

3. Imagine that you have been asked to write an article for an encyclopedia on Britain and the history of cotton. Write your piece using information from the entire chapter.

Ans: Britain and the cotton history:

Merchants traded with rural people in the textile industry during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A clothier would purchase wool from a stapler, transport it to

the spinners, and then deliver the yarn to the weavers, fullers, and dyers for further processing. For these items, London served as the final destination. Proto-industrialization is the term for this period in British manufacturing history. Factories were not a necessary part of the industry at this time. Instead, a network of commercial exchanges was present.

Cotton was the original industrial symbol. In the late nineteenth century, its output grew at a tremendous pace. Raw cotton imports increased dramatically, from 2.5 million pounds in 1760 to 22 million pounds in 1787. Because of the advent of the cotton mill and new machines, as well as better management under one roof, this happened. In the early stages of the industry, cotton was the most important sector until 1840.

The employees reacted with disdain and contempt to most inventions in the textile industry since machines meant less manual labour and fewer jobs. One such creation was the Spinning Jenny. Woolen industry women were opposed to it and attempted to destroy it since it was displacing them in the labour market.

Britain used to import a lot of silk and cotton from India before technical improvements.

In England, fine Indian textiles were quite popular. When the East India Company gained political control, they used coercion to fully exploit India's weavers and textile industry for Britain's benefit. Manchester thereafter became the centre of cotton production.

As a result, India became a significant customer of British cotton products.

British factories were too preoccupied with meeting the demands of the First World War to produce anything else. As a result, there was a surge in demand for Indian textiles.

Cotton's history in the United Kingdom is littered with demand and supply changes.

4. Why did industrial production in India increase during the First World War?

Ans: During the first world war, India's industrial output grew for the following reasons:

- The rising demand for a wider range of products led to the establishment of new factories and the expansion of existing ones.
- A large number of new employees were hired, and everyone was required to work greater hours.
- It was an excellent opportunity for Indian businesses to fill in the gaps in the Indian market with their goods. This was accomplished. As a result, India's industrial production grew.
- Britain's industry became preoccupied with making and supplying war supplies.

As a result, they ceased exporting British goods or clothing to colonial markets such as India.

- Jute bags, fabric or army uniforms, tents and leather boots, horse and mule saddles, and other combat necessities were also requested by the British colonial authorities.