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Unit 5 LEQ

The reform movements during the nineteenth century was slightly successful about bringing a social change. The movements were able to convince governments to change the labor laws and restrictions. Furthermore, a political change that was also moderately successful through reform movements were that more people received the right to vote and had a voice in politics.

The spread of technology would further increase the development of the industrial revolution. An example of this would be the invention of the steam engine, which allowed for faster and cheaper transportation for goods and resources. Then, the industrial revolution led to increased urbanization because people moved from their country to these more industrialized states for work. Moreover, the industrial revolution would spread across Europe and America which led to struggles in the political and social structure. A problem with the Industrial Revolution would be the urbanization. The cities were very dense and there was overcrowding. In addition, overpopulation would result in a low food supply. Moreover, the food was contaminated and made many people sick. Furthermore, the work hours were long with low pay and no sick days, with no help for the disabled either. Reforms were required because if there were not any, then people will continue to live in these horrible working conditions. There would have to be different zones for work and to live, then food regulations would have to be made. People would have to have less children to prevent overpopulation. Then, worker unions would have to be made to help with working hours and disabled workers.

In the nineteenth century, the governments of industrialized states avoided acquiring most of the demands of the things that the political and social reforms advocated for. For instance, labor right movements, like unions, would increase wages and limit working hours for workers. But these labor right laws would not be enacted until the 20th century in most industrialized countries. Then, the British government would extend suffrage to all males. In addition, child labor laws would be passed only during the 19th century, due to backlash. The British government would adopt very limited demands of the people. The government would resist economic change and wanted to maintain the pre-industrial forms of economic production. The idea of Laissez-Faire, where the government should not interfere or regulate businesses came into the picture. The British government acted upon this rule and allowed the citizens to do what they wanted to do. Yet, the citizens needed the government to proceed with changes. The people called for reforms to better working conditions and the government only made a move only when the demand got too bad. Otherwise, the government would just mind their own business. Moving on, reforms do bring change. For example, a change would be agencies such as the FDA would help regulate food and prevent food contamination. Now, an actual example of a reform would be women suffragists wanting a change for women to have more political rights due to their part in the industrial revolution. Women would keep advocating for greater political rights, although they would not receive change immediately, a time would come when change occurred. Eventually, women would have the right to vote and have a representation in society and in the political world.

The social and political reforms in the industrial society during the 19th century were only enacted because of the backlash of people and for their own gain. For instance, the government only passed child labor laws, so their country does not plummet in population in the future and so their future generation do not struggle with health problems from industrial machines. Furthermore, the growth of labor unions would lead to labor reform laws being widely accepted in different places. An example of this would be there being widespread labor unions globally due to the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution would lead to major changes in people’s everyday living and working conditions. Labor movements and groups would push for reforms in response to poor working conditions. Reform movements on labor rights, women’s rights, and social welfare, in addition to an end of slavery occurred globally, but started in the United States and in Britain.