KEY FACTORS IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

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The First Industrial Revolution, specifically in America, was fueled by three key factors. Innovation, Population Migration, and a larger workforce than ever before. With the advances in industrial technologies, the creation of larger more advanced machines became easier leading to an increased demand for workers and employees. This led to a migration of populations from more rural areas into bigger city centers to keep up with the increased demand for labor. As well as the introduction of women into the workforce, despite the limited role they were permitted to have at the time. Each of these factors led to the economic and societal boom that was the First Industrial Revolution.

The industrial revolution was pioneered by new technologies and innovations in the way we produced the machines that produce varying goods. Factories were constantly popping up in cities around the world. From London to New York, a massive production boom was taking place. However, it wasn’t just goods like textiles or paper that were being mass produced. It was also tools and machines. Creating the opportunity for wealthy businessmen to create monopolies on a wide range of goods and markets. For example, in the early 1880’s, the flour mill industry changed forever. With the introduction of larger, more efficient flour mills, smaller older mills struggled to keep up with the staggering difference.[[1]](#footnote-1) This is just one example of bigger higher-tech machinery replacing the older outdated production methods.

Having more advanced machines was great, but you needed someone who could work those machines. The second key factor to the significance of the industrial revolution was the flow of populations from smaller rural communities to bigger urban centers. With factories becoming more common, opportunities in became as common as pennies. Rural people looking to make their way in life moved away from their homes to the cities in droves.[[2]](#footnote-2) This massive shift in population densities further led to the demand for goods and services that were able to be produced at the time.

Focusing on America, while women were not given the same opportunities as men, they were still given a place in the workforce. Women were starting to carve out a piece of the world for themselves. These early pioneers were able to set a precedent that snowballed for the greater good. Leading to further representation and societal changes that further opened doors for more women to pursue a career. With this influx of female workers into the labor force, the population of eligible workers soared. Boosting the economy and helping fuel the industrial revolution.

However, other countries had a more postponed or slower start to their industrial revolution due to an unwillingness to allow women into the workforce. Specifically in China, around the same time, women were forced to maintain a much more traditional role. While China had the production and means to produce different products, they stalled in their move to factory production. One of the reasons for this was the lack of opportunity for women.[[3]](#footnote-3) During this time frame, young women in Europe were able to work in a limited capacity between the time they were an early teen and up until they were eligible for marriage.

Some might say that the role of women in the work force was not an important part of the First Industrial Revolution. However, it was because of them that America and other European countries like England were able to achieve the change to a factory-based production economy. These roles were in fact limited, compared to countries like China, those small opportunities were a major factor in the success of the American Industrial Revolution.  
 There were indeed thousands of different factors that led to the explosion of industry in the First Industrial Revolution However, three main components stand out above the rest. Those being innovation in production, a migration of internal populations to urban centers, and the influx of women joining the workforce. These factors were crucial to the success of the industrial revolution .

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