

CHAPTER 4: THE MAKING OF A MODERN NATION

1. Overtures from the West The Shogunate in Crisis

43 Industrial and Social Revolution

What events led to the birth of Europe's modern nations?

The Industrial Revolution in Europe

The dawn of the 18th century brought changes to the daily lives of Europeans. They began to prefer clothing woven from cotton over the wool garments they had previously been wearing. The new garments, made from raw cotton imported from India, were popular because they were lighter, sturdier, more sanitary and cheaper than wool garments. In those days, clothing was made by hand, with the aid of simple tools. Cotton clothing became so desirable that factories couldn't keep up with the demand.

By the second half of the 18th century, machines were invented to satisfy the demand for cotton clothing. They were used by the spinning industry to make thread, and by the weaving industry to weave cloth from that thread. These new machines could manufacture large amounts of products in a short period of time. Better coal-burning steam engines, which supplied power to machines used in the spinning and weaving industries, were developed. People began to cluster in large factories, where they worked in groups near machinery. Productivity increased with amazing speed, both meeting the needs of the community and creating new demands. All these changes, taken together, are referred to as the **Industrial Revolution**.

At one time, agriculture was the focus of English communities, with their rolling fields and horse-drawn carriages traveling at a leisurely pace. But the Industrial Revolution brought cities filled with factories belching black smoke, and railroads. Industry had replaced agriculture as the focus of the community. By the middle of the 19th century, the Industrial Revolution had spread to France, Germany and the U.S.

American Independence and the French Revolution

During the 100 years between 1750 and 1850, new political movements arose. For instance, the **Glorious Revolution** occurred in England in 1688. The ruling king of England was accused of having violated the rights of members of other social classes, dethroned, and replaced by a new king. This chain of events, known as the **Glorious Revolution**, led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary system.

In 1776, Great Britain's North American colonies issued a **Declaration of Independence** in protest against high taxes and other forms of oppression imposed on them. After winning the War of Independence, the newly formed United States drew up a Constitution based on the separation of the three powers (the legislative, executive and judicial processes of government).