

In the period between 1750 and 1900 (called the “long 19th century”) two happenings changed human history:

1. The breakthrough of modern societies
2. The spread of European and North American economical political and cultural power

THE BREAKTHROUGH OF MODERN SOCIETIES

The breakthrough of modern societies occurred in Western Europe thanks to:
Industrial Revolution (in GB) + political revolutions (in FR, GB, North AM)

This led to a big change in every aspect of life. Virtually nothing and no one remained unchanged.
|_ this was a unique but process, but not an unprecedented one.

In fact many other civility had a big influence in the whole world... :

- Mesopotamia and Egypt —> pioneered advanced agriculture
- Greeks —> new ways of thinking + political organization
- India —> buddhism + innovations in agriculture + mathematics
- Arabs —> Islam
- Chinese —> technological innovation

So it's spontaneous to ask... why did such big process occur in Europe and not anywhere else?
Some reasons can be:

- **The favorable environment**

In Europe winter is not too cold and summer is not too hot. This provides a great environment to grow food + supplies of fuel were located near cities (≠ from China for example)

- **Europe** was a “**new**” country compared to others like China or India and this lead europeans to be willing to learn from other cultures; differently from other countries.
- The **absence of unity** present in the states the formed Europe led to a competition between states which led to the research to improve.
“Failure” in uniformity regarding religious + political life —> more dynamism
- The culture of **inventiveness** present in Europe was fundamental. Specially in England the *engineering culture* help explain the invention of the steam engine
- The kind of **society** and **religion** present in Europe, based on late marriages and celibate clergy, have helped giving people better life conditions.
- European **colonies** in other countries gave Europe the possibility to have way more resources and labour
|_ this gave Europe the possibility to solve the problem of a bigger demand for goods from a growing population

That given we must notice that European lead over the rest of the world started before the Industrial Revolution thanks to inventions such as:

- Water windmill;
- Eyeglasses,
- Movable type printing;
- The development of capitalist institutions (like banks offering credits);

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Its importance can be compared to the one of agriculture revolution;
both:

- Gave to humans a new degree of control over nature
- Created vast new wealth
- Transformed the daily economic activities of most people
- Opened up unimagined possibilities for social + cultural life

BUT

There is one big difference between these two Revolutions:

- >> The **agricultural** one developed in many parts of the world in many thousands of years
- >> The **industrial** one had one single point of origin (GB) and then spread too quickly to allow independent inventions in other countries
- + it is an unfinished process

Which were the innovations that Industrial Revolution brought?

- Machines and factories

The Industrial Revolution was a matter of technology: machines did what men, women and animals did up to that point. The industrialization began in the textile industry

Innovations: steam engine, electricity, internal combustion motors, changes in the organization of work

- New wealth

The changes that this revolution brought were not immediate or uniform but deeply changed people's conditions of life. Living standard began to rise (unequally) thanks to the new way of production

- Urbanization

The industrial production became concentrated in urban center and that pulled millions of people into city life. By the end of 20th century half of the world population lived in urban centers (= blending of different people and cultures → new flavor to modern societies)

- Capitalism

The Industrial Revolution extended the principle of the market-buying and selling based on supply and demand. Now people's needs depended on the market and not on their production and societies were now commercialized.

- Death rates and birthrates

The industrialization contributed to an unprecedented growth of population with the production of more food and with a better quality. After this incredible population growth occurred a stabilization of the population due to the fact that now families gave birth to less children because now children are an economical burden rather than useful arm to work

- Humanity and nature

This new way of production had consequences on nature that have been recognized only in the second half of the 20th century. The landscape was alternated and some people raised their voice to stop it but governments and many people didn't believe it.

Since the beginning of time humans were victims of the nature but now they started to transform nature itself in order to control it

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Started in 1789 and aimed at the monarchy and the class of aristocrat that supported it.

— The country was bankrupt and the king Louis XVI and his wife were living in a luxurious way while peasants were poor and dying from hunger

The American example of Revolution was contagious and what triggered revolution was the will of rising taxes of the Estates General.

The aim of the Revolution was to create a new society based on

liberty, equality and fraternity

- ↳ they wanted to cancel the hierarchical and unequal structure of society
- + wanted popular sovereignty = power from the people, not God

Most radical actions of the revolution:

- Execution of king and queen
- Abolition of the privileges of the Catholic clergy
- Confiscation of much of the Church's lands
- Unleashed a regime of terror against those who were not in favor of the Revolution

— there was a particular “part” of the revolutionaries, such as Robespierre, who wanted to replace Christianity with the *cult of reason*
We can call them the Enlightenment Revolutionaries

This particular kind of revolutionaries was present both in French and American Revolution and they shared this idea that came from the 18-century European thinkers:

That it was possible to construct a new society in a self-conscious way.

This led to the birth of *Liberalism*

Core value → individual + individual liberation in every aspect of life

Liberals wanted to create a new society free from all the ancient superstitions and religions because they believed that human reason was sufficient to lead the society.

Political view	Intellectual view	Economical view
<p><u>Against</u></p> <p>Society dominated by aristocrats</p>	<p><u>Against</u></p> <p>Ancient superstitions + religions</p> <p><u>For</u></p> <p>Human rationality</p>	<p><u>Against</u></p> <p>Private property</p>

At first the ones who benefited from this type of government were white men of the professional and business classes

- = the political revolution helped the creations of capitalistic societies

Other ideas that spread therein this period:

- Expansion to the right to vote to all men (but not of color)
- Careers open to talent = establish the principle of merit rather than birth at the base of social mobility

The revolutionary and liberalist ideas spread quickly...

The challenge to old hierarchies of power and privilege spread to other countries:

- Slaves on the French island of Haiti rebelled to obtain political independence
- Latin America pursued independence from Spain

- Aristocratic army officers in Russia attempted to install a constitutional monarchy (unsuccessfully)

In Europe and US:

- Abolitionist were fighting for the end of slavery
- Democrats demanding an extension of the franchise (= right to vote?)
- Women wanted more freedom and equality

These ideas were revolutionary because suggested that people could get rid of the oppressions and inequalities that have characterized the world for so long. The change was possible.

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

	The process	Main industries	Innovations
GREAT BRITAIN	First center, fast	Textile Small family-owned firms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended democratic rights to larger groups of men
FRANCE	Slow, from 1890	Small family-owned firms	
GERMANY	Faster than France, from 1850	Heavy industry (metals, chemicals, electricity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader in newer high technology fields of chemicals + electricity <u>BUT the society didn't change</u>
USA	From 1850	Large-scale business organizations = no family pressure = more free to innovate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Techniques of assembling-line mass production Industrial technology was applied to agriculture extensively The country became a major exporter of agriculture goods
RUSSIA	From 1880	Railroads and heavy industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very little / no variations happened in Russia because it was a very backward country

SOCIALISM, NATIONALISM AND FEMINISM

The industrial and the political revolution caused big changes and people aimed to explain things in scientific rather than in a religious way.

|_ Charles Darwin and Freud's theories

+ helped the growth of three movements: socialism, nationalism and feminism which appeared in Europe in the 19th century and spread over the world in the 20th

Socialism

Socialism was a protest against the inequality of capitalist societies.

|_ it has its roots in the biblical idea of a peaceful future when

"the lion would lie down with the lamb"

Marxism was born from this idea. Marx thought that the capitalist system had to be fought in order to cancel its contradictions and arrive to what he calls "scientific socialism".

The socialist revolutions had no happy endings,

BUT

- Socialist parties were created
- Some countries recognized the need to integrate worker classes into the political societies:
 - Initiated mass education
 - Encouraged national identity over class id
 - In Germany were posed the basis for the creation of the welfare state

Nationalism

Western socialist movement were undermined by the cultivation of appeals to the nation.

The outbreak of WWI made workers take two different positions:

- Some refused to participate because didn't want to kill fellow workers from other countries
- Some rallied to their flag enthusiastically and were not afraid to kill in order to protect their country

The national idea (= that the world is divided into separate people, each with a different culture and deserving political independence) was born in Europe and it can be considered a modern movement.

Its origins...

The birth of nationalism can be reconnected to:

- Europe's modern transformation, which eroded older entities and royalties
- Science and rationalism weakened religious royalties
- The emergence for separate states undermined dynastic imperial systems
- Capitalism + industrialization + migration

|_ all of this created the need for new forms of community.

Nationalism emerged first in France and in England because of their highly developed modern transformations.

The spread of this idea led governments to base their authority on the will to represent the nation rather than on divine rights. Nationalism was encouraged at schools, on newspapers, public rituals, all of that was useful to create these national identities which became fundamental in the making of the modern world.

Feminism

The feminist movement was born in the 19th century in Europe and America.

This can be considered a whole new phenomenon because the patriarchal rule that allowed men to rule women had been challenged for the first time in history

How did it happen?

Many elements of Europe's modern transformation paved the way for a feminist movement.

Enlightenment thinkers were the first to challenge Europe's old traditions, including the one regarding women's inferiority

+ French and American revolution posed the question whether women should be or not included in pronouncements of equality.

The main feature that made possible the birth of this movement was the growth of an educated middle class, this meant that more women went to school and had enough information to organize themselves and rebel against the patriarchy.

Its origins...

In 1830s small groups of educated middle-class women in some state of Europe + America had come to an awareness that rejected male's superiority.

These women established feminist newspapers and journals, founded schools and held numerous meetings.

All of this to question all traditions and gain equality

Its achievements...

- Greater access to education
- Legal reforms that permit women more control over their properties
- Liberalization of divorce law
- Right to vote (after WWI)
- To have forced the "women question" onto the public agenda

This movement obviously provoked opposition: some stated that women had smaller brains, others that women were selfish because they were pursuing their own interests.

WORLD TIMELINE 1750-1914, MAJOR EVENTS AND WESTERN DOMINATION

The Industrial Revolution changes not only the faces of places in which originated, but also set dramatic changes throughout the entire world.

People not from western Europe were facing the intrusion of Europeans into their affairs of any kind.

___ the most dramatic was the Western military power, which brought many societies under the European political control, some in formal colonies and other in semi independent countries

Afro-Asian people:

- Adapted some European ideas such as:
 - socialism, nationalism, mechanized mining operations, factory production
- Were exposed to European christianity, language and literature:
 - This generated new identities (racial, class, gender, ethnic, national, religious)

Imperialism of the Industrial Age

The most visible expression of Europe's global reach are the wars of conquest thanks to which europeans extended their military and political power throughout the world.

Difference from earlier imperialism (15-16th century):

	BEFORE	AFTER
Primary focus	African, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific societies	America
European players	Spanish and Portuguese	British and French

Imperial motives

European motives for imperialism now included the desire to export their surplus industrial production to:

- find more profitable investments for their capital
- Secure raw materials for their factories

Wealthy Europeans knew that foreign outlets were important for their goods and profits.

___ without them:

- fall of prices
- increase of unemployment
- socialism would gain popularity

Causes for European imperial expansion:

- Rivalries between European countries
___ fueled by a growing nationalism
- European sense of superiority due to their scientifically progress
___ they thought that "inferior" societies were destined to be controlled/destroyed by their power
___ social Darwinism
- Steam-driven ships facilitated the penetration of Africa and Asia
___ the fact that machine guns were available caused many colonial conflicts

Confronting Imperialism

European imperialism took different form in each place depending on:

- historical circumstances
- intentions of the colonizers

___ = it was a 2 way process, unequally in terms of power

Relations of colonized people were different:

- some collaborated because took advantage from European's presence
- some saw it as a bloody endless war useful only to Europeans to establish their control

INDIA

India was one of the first countries to experience this new European imperial expansion. First Portugal and then British and French traders have been active in India with the permission of the *Mughal Empire*.

BUT

In the 18th century this empire started to disintegrate and this led regional ruler to become more powerful

___ many found an advantage in some connections with French or British trading companies + many men joined European army to enrich

Without the control of the Mughal Empire trade companies from France and Britain found it useful to train and arm some Indian state —> to be more involved in Indian affairs

___ To bested French rivals British companies allied with some Indian rulers, opposed to others
___ found themselves to rule the Indian subcontinent

The conquer of India was possible thanks to many Indian allies.

Rebellion:

- Indian rebellion of 1857-58 —> Indian troops refused to use cartridges greased in animal fat
The revolt finished in horrendous acts of violence by British army
- 1858 —> A widow who was deprived of her inheritance led her own troop against the British army

CHINA

Similarities and differences with Imperialism in the Mughal Empire

SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES
Both controlled and contained European activity for over 300 years	Western traders that wanted to access to China's riches were subject to strict monitoring
The main power (Mughal empire and Qing dynasty) weakened	Western trade was limited to one city
	The outcome of European Imperialism was a set on unequal treaties that limited Chinese sovereignty while preserving its independence.

China faced a new problem related to European influence: drug addiction

British traders had difficulties in finding out what Chinese merchants wanted to buy, until they found out opium in India.

___ there it was used for medical purposes but when the British East India Company started to import it in China it was used as a drug.

Drug assumption was against Chinese rigid idea of law-and-order.

China tried to stop opium arrivals but people could easily be corrupted with the drug itself so this became a very big problem

>> The **British** gained money and precious metals that Chinese used to buy drugs

>> The **Chinese** lost precious metal and their order to buy drugs

___ in the 1830s there was a debate between who wanted laws to stop the arrive of opium and who wanted to keep buying it
___ abolitionists won

The opium Wars (1839-42)

This was the first of a series of humiliating defeats on the Chinese state by European states (and later Japan as well).

British claimed the right of free trade and free private property in order to continue selling opium and gaining riches

___ British achievements thanks to its power:

- numerous Chinese ports were opened to European country
- limit Chinese tariffs on their goods
- allow foreigners to be judged by their own court
- continued opium trade
- Chinese could use the term *barbarians* referring to British

Rebellion:

Between 1850-60s there were many Chinese rebellions

- Taiping rebellion —> it took aim at the Quing dynasty+the landlord class that supported it, not at the British.

This rebellion was led by a man who ppl thought was the brother of Jesus Christ and came on earth to expel the demons. They aimed at: the elimination of private property, equality of men and women, modern industrialization.

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The Empire was reducing its territories due to European invasions and Europeans got to control Ottoman economy. Like China the Ottoman Empire was becoming an “informal colony” of the European powers.

AFRICA

The 19th century was a dynamic period of revolution in Africa.

___ As Africa changed so did European interests.

- The slave trade diminished
- The process of “blessing of Christianity and civilization” started

As in India, societies were incorporated into formal colonies, but conquest was:

- extraordinary violent
- rapid
- Extremely competitive

___ this reflected the growing intensity of national rivalries

Resistance and cooperation

The conquer of Africa was fast, but not easy.

At first African were not hostile to western people but they became hostile when understood their intentions.