

II. The diffusion of Industrialization

A. The History of the Industrial Revolution

1. The Industrial Revolution began in England in the 1760's when the industrial geography of Great Britain changed significantly and later diffused to other parts of Western Europe.
2. In this period of rapid socio-economic change, machines replaced human labor and new sources of energy were found.
3. Coal became the leading energy source, fueling Great Britain's fertile focused industrial explosion.
4. The beginnings of assembly-line manufacturing was a defining feature of Great Britain's industrial revolution, later adapted by Henry Ford.

5. B/c early factories were powered by coal sources, they tended to clump around coal fields.

a) Northern-central England's coalfields led to the rise of major industrial cities such as Manchester and Liverpool, these cities grew due to large rural-urban migration.

b) The emergence of so many factories led to the development of a clear industrial landscape and working class housing areas.

6. Along with industrial growth, England's transportation infrastructure improved to allow for shipping supplies into urban factories.

7. Farming also became more mechanized with the infusion of greater technology into the agricultural process.

8. While original factory-like labor was conducted in households through cottage industries, the growth of factories first occurred around water sources, such as rivers and lakes.

a) w/ the growth of coal powered manufacturing, factories could move away from water sources.

9. By the 1860's oil became a dominant source of energy.

B. Commodification of Labor

1. One result of industrialization was the commodification of labor.

2. Factory owners began looking at their human labor as commodities (objects for trade) with price tags per hour rather than seeing workers as people.

C. The Spread of the Revolution

1. By 1825 the technology of the industrialization in England had spread to North America and Western European countries.

a) Industrialization thrived in places w/ rich coal deposits.

Ex¹) Ohio in US

Ex²) Ukraine in Russia

Ex³) Ruhr in Germany

2. By the 1920's, the production process in the U.S. automobile factories had broken down into differentiated components, with different groups of people performing different tasks to complete the product.

(Fordist production method)

a) Fordist factories built out rather than up meaning that they were built on only one story so that the product could be transported throughout the assembly line w/o problems.

b) Based on division of labor.