

THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

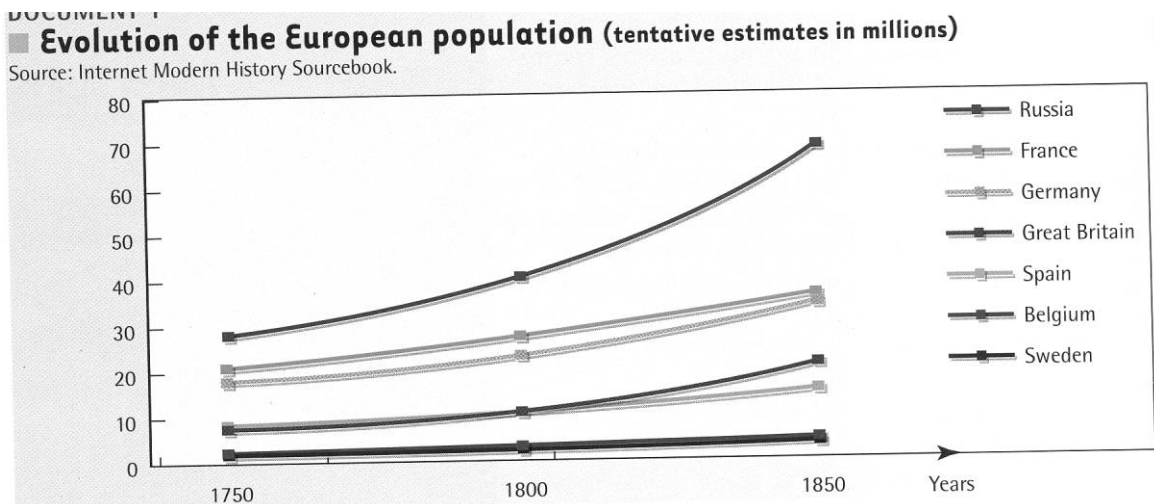
SOURCE 1

“A revolution is a complete change in something. The war of independence in 1776 is called the American Revolution because it was a complete change in government. At about the same time as the American Revolution, another revolution was starting: this was the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution was a complete change in the way things were made. Before, things were made by hand in small shops or in people’s homes. After the revolution most things were made by machines in factories: machines could make things faster and cheaper. Four important industries were concerned: the textile industry, railroads, the steel industry and the oil industry.”

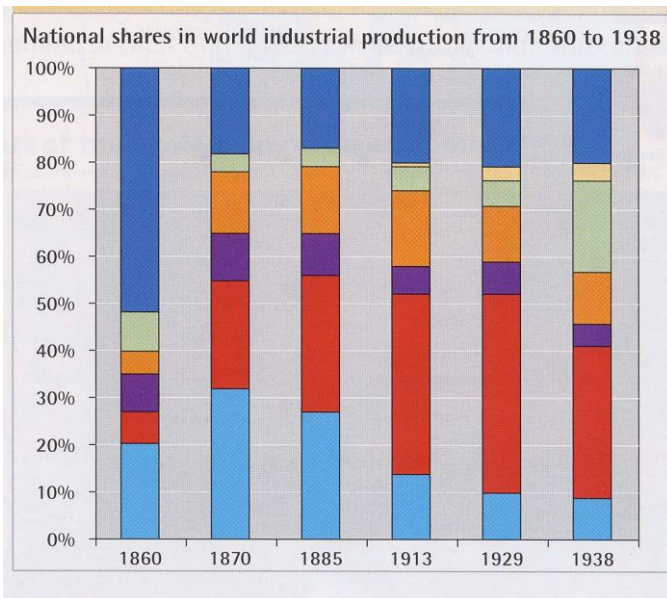
Extracted from an American history textbook. 1985.

SOURCE 2

Date	Inventor	Invention	Explanation
1846	Elias Howe	Sewing machine	Sews faster than by hand. Textile factories were created.
1867	Christopher Sholes	Typewriter	Writes faster than by hand and changed the way people worked in offices and women could work as typists
1876	Graham Bell	Telephone	Sends spoken messages through wires. Improves communication
1877	Thomas Edison	Phonograph	People could hear music and speech that had been recorded, as often as they wished to.
1879	Thomas Edison	Bulb	Makes light from electricity and candles were no longer needed
1888	George Eastman	Kodak Camera	Takes a photograph.
1903	Wright brothers	Airplane	Transport people and things by air. First successful flight in 1903.
1911	Frederick Taylor	Taylorism	Frederick Taylor wrote The Principles of Scientific Management in 1911, these principles became known as Taylorism: it was work on assembly lines. It increased yield and productivity



Source 3

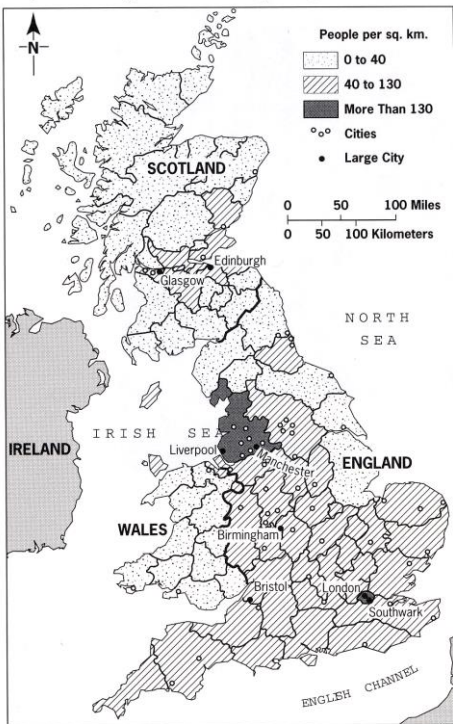


From bottom to top :The UK, The US, France, Germany, Russia, Japan and other countries.

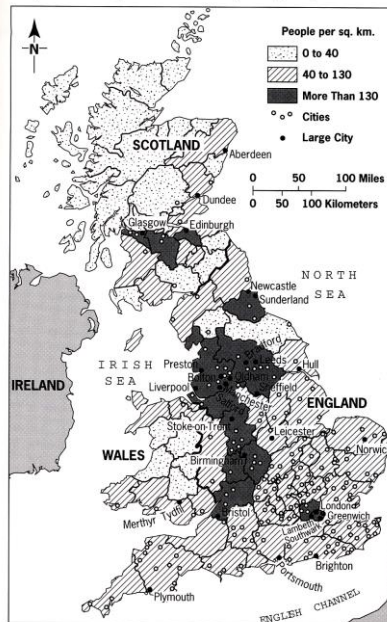
Source 4 Paul Bairoch "Globalization myth ", Discussion Paper N° 113. March 1996

SOURCE 5

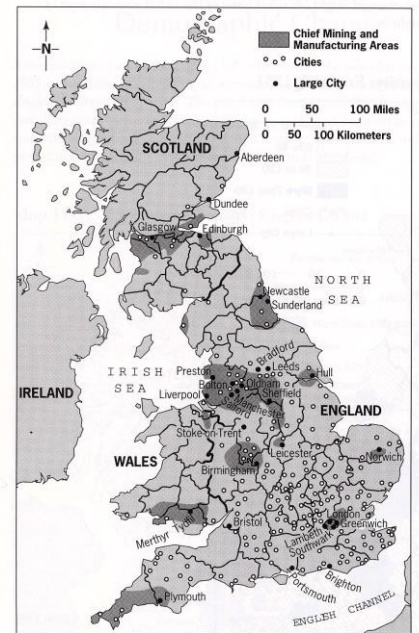
Map 11-1 Population Density: England, 1801



Map 11-2 Population Density: England, 1851



Map 11-3 Concentration of Industry in England, 1851



Maps from : « Western civilisation » Dennis Sherman. Mac Graw Hill Higher education.

Source 6

Two characteristics of the way of life of the poor majority of town-dwellers were constant and directly related to the urban environment: overcrowding and proximity to work.

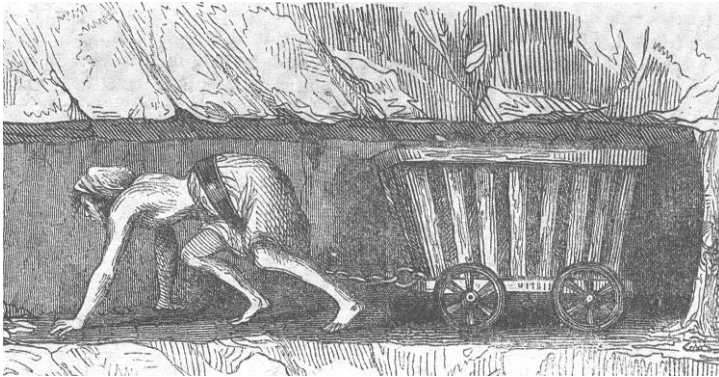
Whatever other common conditions of life and work may have got better during Victoria's reign, overcrowding did not, and even in many places it got worse. Cheap housing almost always lagged behind the demand for it; and that demand itself was less buoyant than it might have been, inasmuch as many people whose good wages, when they were in work, were adequate to pay the rent for something better than the cheapest, nevertheless stuck to the cheapest they could bear to live in because of prudent suspicion that those good wages were too good to last.

So, better-class blocks of flats and houses sometimes stood half-empty, while lower-class ones nearby stood over-full.

Quite often, people had no choice but to accept overcrowding whether they liked it or not: they had to stay near enough their place(s) of work to be able to get to them on foot.

From : Geoffrey Best: *Victorian England*, Penguin press, 1990.

SOURCE 7



From: "Le magazine pittoresque" 1843

Source 8

■ Extracts from the Chartist petition drawn up in 1838

"We, your petitioners, dwell in a land whose merchants are noted for their enterprise, whose manufacturers are very skilful and whose workmen are proverbial for their industry... Yet we find ourselves overwhelmed with public and private suffering. We are bowed down under a load of taxes, and our workmen are starving. Capital brings no profit, labour no reward; the workhouse¹ is full and the factory deserted. We have looked on every side to find out the causes of distress, and we can discover none in nature or in Providence. [...] We perform the duties, therefore we must have

the privileges of free men. Therefore we demand universal suffrage. To be exempt from the corruption of the wealthy and the violence of the powerful, the suffrage must be secret. We demand annual parliaments and [...] for every representative chosen, a fair payment for the time which he is called upon to devote to the public service."

R.G. Gammage, *History of the Chartist Movement*, Browne & Browne, 1854.

1. A house for the poor who were required to work, usually without being paid, in return for their board and lodging.

■ **Social reforms in three European countries**

	Germany	Britain	France
Child labour forbidden	1878 (under 12)	1878 (under 10)	1841 (under 8, not enforced) 1874 (under 12)
Health insurance	1883	1911	1893 (not enforced) 1946
Accident insurance	1884	1897	1898
Old age pensions	1889	1909	1910
Disability insurance	1889		
Unemployment insurance		1911	1946
10-hour working day	1890 (11-hour day)	1847	1900
A day off	1891	1890 (2 days)	1906 (Sunday)
8-hour day for miners		1908	1910
8-hour day for workers	1918	-	1919

Source 9 From : "History and Geography Classes européennes". Hâtier 2005.



VOCABULARY

A cab- a coach
 A fur-lined coat
 A wet pavement
 A street peddler
 A newsies- A newspaper seller
 A flower girl

Source 9

St Martin in the fields, oil on canvas by William Logsdail 1859-1944, Tate, Britain, London.

From William Booth (1829-1912), *In Darkest England and the way out*, 1890.

Category	Description	East London	Rest of London	Total
Paupers	inmates of workhouses, asylums, etc.	17,000	34,000	51,000
Homeless	loafers, casuals, etc.	11,000	22,000	33,000
Starving	casual earnings between 18 s. and below	100,000	200,000	300,000
Very Poor	intermittently earning 18 s. to 21 s. per week	74,000	148,000	222,000

Source 10

At this time: half a pound (Lbs) of butter cost 1 shilling and 6 pence
 Half a pound of tea cost 2 shillings
 Half a pound of meat could cost up to 5 shillings
 Rent was on average for a slum 2 shillings per week.
 One British Pound £ is 20 shilling or 240 pence

Describe the document to present working conditions of low class workers.

CHILD LABOUR

Source 1

Advert that appeared in *The Derby Mercury* on 20th September, 1801.

Wanted at Cromford. Forging & Filing Smiths, Joiners and Carpenters, Framework-Knitters and Weavers with large families. Likewise children of all ages may have constant employment. Boys and young men may have trades taught them, which will enable them to maintain a family in a short time.

Source 2

About harsh working conditions and their consequences (Interview of a young worker in 1865 in the UK)

John Reed is a sadly deformed young man living in Cromford. He tells his pitiful tale as follows: "I went to work at the Arkwright cotton factory of Messers at the age of nine. I was then a fine strong, healthy lad, and straight in every limb. I had at first instance 2 shillings per week, for seventy-two hours' work. I continued to work in this factory for ten years, getting gradually advanced in wages, till I had 6shillings per week; which is the highest wages I ever had. I gradually became a cripple, till at the age of nineteen I was unable to stand at the machine, and I was obliged to give it up. The total amount of my earnings was about 130 shillings, and for this sum I have been made a miserable cripple, as you see, and cast off by those who reaped the benefit of my labour, without a single penny."

Here is a young man, who was evidently intended by nature for a stout-made man, crippled in the prime of life, and all his earthly prospects blasted for ever! Such a cripple I have seldom met with. He cannot stand without a stick in one hand, and leaning on a chair with the other; his legs are twisted in all manner of forms. His body, from the forehead to the knees, forms a curve, similar to the letter C. He dares not go from home, if he could; people stare at him so. He is now learning to make children's first shoes, and hopes ultimately to be able to get a living in this manner.

Source 3

When interviewed by a Parliamentary Committee in 1834, Samuel Courtauld explained how his company controlled its young workers.

We use a regular system of forfeits and rewards, the stimulus of piece-work, and dismissal in the last resort. Formerly, something like a system of slight chastisement, connected with a system of task-work was adopted.

Source 4: Edward Baines, *The History of the Cotton Manufacture* (1835)

It is alleged that the children who labour in factories are often cruelly beaten by the spinners or overlookers that their feeble limbs become distorted by continual standing and stooping, and they grow up cripples, that they are compelled to work thirteen, fourteen or fifteen hours per day. Views such as these have been repeatedly given of factory labours which have persuaded many to think they must be true. But this is the exception not the rule

Source 5: Lord Ashley, speech in the House of Commons, 9th May, 1836 Of the thirty-one medical men who were examined, sixteen gave it as their most decided opinion that ten hours is the utmost quantity of labour which can be endured by the children under 10, with the slightest chance of preserving their health. Dr. Loudon reports, "I am of the opinion no child under fourteen years of age should work in a factory of any

description more than eight hours a day, that no individual, under the age of eighteen, should be engaged in it longer than ten hours daily."

Source 6: Elizabeth Bentley was interviewed by Michael Sadler and his House of Commons Committee on 4th June, 1832.

I must introduce myself. I am Elizabeth Bentley and I am sixteen years old. I worked in a factory for 7 years; from the age of 6 to 13. It made me weak. But I got money. And I got food. But I also got punished when I was ill, and when I was tired. But I desperately needed the money. People told me, they still tell me, I should be able to go to school but not my mother nor my father went to school and although my father died very young, my mother was as good as could be expected of her. I cannot go to school. I would like child labour to continue because if there was no child labour then we would be starving and penniless. But the punishments are too harsh. Conditions for children should improve in the factories, but I am so grateful for the money, even though it is not very much. It is all very well to say children should go to school. But school does not pay money. It takes money from you. I think that work in factories should continue. But more care should be taken. About the welfare of children. That is all I have to say. I do not know what I want. I have never known any difference. But we are children. Not slaves.

Source 7: *Frances Trollope, the daughter of a clergyman, was born in Hampshire in 1780. When her husband's business failed, Trollope, who was now fifty-two, began writing books. Her novels were very popular and it was not long before she was able to pay off her husband's debts. Trollope believed that novels should deal with important social issues.*

In 1839 Trollope became involved in the campaign against the employment of children in factories.

Through the years, I have managed to find out the real truth about child labour. Children, from a very young age, worked in the mills. The youngest had an extremely dangerous job as a scavenger and a piecer. Piecers had to lean over the spinning-machine to repair the broken threads. Research by John Fielden suggested that a piecer walked about twenty miles a day. As the scavengers job, they had to pick up loose cotton from under the machinery. The machines, of course, were not switched off and so the children had to dangerously work underneath it. If the child made a small mistake, he or she could end up with missing limbs, no hair or it could even cost them their lives. All a big risk when some of these children would have only been six years old or so. The children worked in terrible conditions, only allowed to go to the toilet 3 times a day; some wet themselves because of this and ruined their clothes. I have heard of children dying because of having to suppress their urine. The children were forced to look at their work at all times and were not allowed to talk. If such a rule was broken, they were beaten. I have met people who are 40 or so now and they are deformed, have missing limbs and are deaf. These people all worked as scavengers and piecers when they were young children. Would any of you let your 6-year-old child work at such a perilous job where the pay was below 2 shillings? I personally think that such treatment is unacceptable and that child labour should be abolished.

Work by groups of 4 maximum on one theme:

Theme 1: What were kids's working conditions like?

Theme2: What were the "good sides" for kids to work even at a young age?

Theme 3: What were the drawbacks of such terrible jobs?

