

AP European History: Chapter 23 – Mass Society Overview & Schedule

The transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy began in Britain in the 18th century, spread to France and Germany between 1850 and 1870, and finally to Russia in the 1890s. The governments of those countries actively supported industrialization. In southern and eastern Europe, some pockets of industry developed, surrounded by traditional agrarian economies. Although continental nations sought to borrow from and in some instances imitate the British model — the success of which was represented by the Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1851 — each nation’s experience of industrialization was shaped by its own matrix of geographic, social, and political factors. The legacy of the revolution in France, for example, led to a more gradual adoption of mechanization in production, ensuring a more incremental industrialization than was the case in Britain. Despite the creation of a customs union in the 1830s, Germany’s lack of political unity hindered its industrial development. However, following unification in 1871, the German Empire quickly came to challenge British dominance in key industries, such as steel, coal, and chemicals.

Key economic stakeholders, such as corporations and industrialists, expected governments to promote economic development by subsidizing ports, transportation, and new inventions; registering patents and sponsoring education; encouraging investments and enforcing contracts; and maintaining order and preventing labor strikes. Industrialization promoted development of new socioeconomic classes between 1815 and 1914. In highly industrialized areas, such as western and northern Europe, the new economy created new social divisions which led to class division and class tensions. As a mass society and mass politics emerged, people began living lives with more leisure time and activities and consumer culture. Governments sought to alleviate problematic issues caused by overcrowded cities due to rapid urbanization through infrastructure and societal reforms. Overall, although inequality and poverty remained significant social problems, the quality of material life improved.

CONTENT TOPICS & Focus Questions

- The Growth of Industrial Prosperity
 - What was the Second Industrial Revolution, and what effects did it have on European economic and social life?
 - What roles did socialist parties and trade unions play in improving conditions for the working classes?
- The Emergence of a Mass Society
 - What is a mass society, and what were its main characteristics?
 - What role were women expected to play in society and family life in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and how closely did patterns of family life correspond to this ideal?
- The National State
 - What general political trends were evident in the nations of Western Europe in the last decades of the nineteenth century, and how did these trends differ from the policies pursued in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia?

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ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, January 26

- The 2nd Industrial Revolution & emergence of a world economy
- **HOMEWORK: Text 697-707**

Friday, January 27

- Organizing of working classes & socialism
- Mass society
- **HOMEWORK: 707-713**

Monday, January 30

- Socratic Seminar #4 – Political Liberalism
- **HOMEWORK: Prepare for Socratic Seminar**

Tuesday, January 31

- Mass society: family, education, leisure
- **HOMEWORK: Text 713-721**

Wednesday, February 1

- The National State lecture
- **HOMEWORK: Text 723-729**

***** Chapter 23 Exam Monday, February 6; study guide and terms due**

Socratic Seminar #4 Essay due Tuesday February 7