**Effects of the Industrial Revolution**

***The Industrial Revolution was a major turning point in world history as it resulted in a complete change in society on all levels. Effects of the Industrial Revolutions were long reaching, and influenced many other cultures both positively and negatively.***

**Mass Production**:  The use of the Factory System allowed for mass production of textiles and other goods.  This shifted people from production at home to production in large factories in cities.  Mass production also allowed for lower prices on the good produced.

**Big Business**: As the Industrial Revolution grew, so did business.  To meet the needs of this growth, business owners sold shares of their companies to stockholders who would share the profits and losses.  The influx of capital allowed business to grow into corporations that had dealing in many different areas.

**Laissez-Faire Economics**: This was an economic philosophy begun by Adam Smith in his book, *Wealth of Nations*, that stated that business and the economy would run best with no interference from the government.  This economic system dominated most of the Industrial Revolution.

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| **New Social Class Structure** |
| **Upper Class:** | Very rich industrial & business families.  Old Noble class. |
| **Upper Middle Class:** | Business people & professionals such as, lawyers & doctors. |
| **Lower Middle Class:** | Other professionals such as, teachers, shop owners, and office workers. |
| **Working Class:** | Factory workers and small farmers. |

**Urbanization**: People moved to towns and cities to be closer to the factories.  Conditions were very poor during the early part of the Industrial Revolution, as factoryworkers lived in over crowded buildings, with no sewage or sanitation services.  This resulted in widespread disease.

**Working Conditions**: Factory workers worked very long hours, for little pay, under harsh conditions.  Workers included children as young as 8, both male and female.  Many people were injured or killed due to unsafe working conditions.

**Societal Changes**: New roles were defined for Middle Class men and women.  MC men went to work in business, while MC women worked from home and cared for the family.  The higher standard of living for the middle class meant that their children received some form of formal education. Working Class families faced many hardships due to poor living and working conditions, and most WC children never received an education.

**Imperialism**: **Africa**, **China**, **India**, **South East Asia**, and others were controlled by Europe to provide raw materials and new markets for industrialized goods.  Imperialism had a negative effect on most of these cultures, and did not completely end until after World War II.  Imperialism usually only benefited the European nations.

Source: <http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/themes/change/ind.cfm>