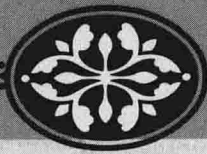




# TWENTIETH-CENTURY WORLD HISTORY

WILLIAM J. DUIKER



# Twentieth-Century WORLD HISTORY

WILLIAM J. DUIKER

*The Pennsylvania State University*



WEST/WADSWORTH

I(T)P® An International Thomson Publishing Company

Belmont, CA • Albany, NY • Boston • Cincinnati • Detroit • Johannesburg • London • Madrid • Melbourne  
Mexico City • New York • Pacific Grove, CA • Scottsdale, AZ • Singapore • Tokyo • Toronto

History Editor: *Clark Baxter*  
Senior Development Editor: *Sharon Adams Poore*  
Editorial Assistant: *Melissa Gleason*  
Marketing Manager: *Jay Hu*  
Print Buyer: *Barbara Britton*  
Permissions Manager: *Robert Kauser*  
Production: *Anne Draus, Scratchgravel Publishing Services*

Text and Cover Designer: *Diane Beasley*  
Copy Editor: *Margaret C. Tropp*  
Photo Researcher: *Sarah Evertson/Image Quest*  
Compositor: *Scratchgravel Publishing Services*  
Cover Image: *People's Republic of China calendar illustration, circa 1960.*  
*Artist unknown.*  
Printer: *R.R. Donnelley & Sons, Crawfordsville*

COPYRIGHT © 1999 by Wadsworth Publishing Company  
A Division of International Thomson Publishing Inc.  
ITP The ITP logo is a registered trademark under license.

Printed in the United States of America  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information, contact Wadsworth Publishing Company, 10 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002,  
or electronically at <http://www.wadsworth.com>

International Thomson Publishing Europe  
Berkshire House  
168-173 High Holborn  
London WC1V 7AA, United Kingdom

Nelson ITP, Australia  
102 Dodds Street  
South Melbourne  
Victoria 3205 Australia

Nelson Canada  
1120 Birchmount Road  
Scarborough, Ontario  
Canada M1K 5G4

International Thomson Publishing Southern Africa  
Building 18, Constantia Square  
138 Sixteenth Road, P.O. Box 2459  
Halfway House, 1685 South Africa

International Thomson Editores  
Seneca 53  
Colonia Polanco  
11560 México D. F. México

International Thomson Publishing Asia  
60 Albert Street  
#15-01 Albert Complex  
Singapore 189969

International Thomson Publishing Japan  
Hirakawa-cho Kyowa Building, 3F  
2-2-1 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102 Japan

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without the written permission of the publisher.

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Duiker, William J.

Twentieth-century world history / William J. Duiker  
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-534-54873-3 (alk. paper)

1. History, Modern—20th century. I. Title.

D421.D86 1999

909.82—dc21

98-39244



This book is printed on  
acid-free recycled paper.

## **www.wadsworth.com**

*wadsworth.com* is the World Wide Web site for Wadsworth Publishing Company and is your direct source to dozens of online resources.

At *wadsworth.com* you can find out about supplements, demonstration software, and student resources. You can also send e-mail to many of our authors and preview new publications and exciting new technologies.

**wadsworth.com.**

Changing the way the world learns®

*To Kirsten and Zachary,  
as you face the challenges of the next century*







# Preface

The twentieth century has been an era of paradox. When it began, Western civilization was a region of squabbling states that bestrode the world like a colossus. As the century comes to an end, the West is prosperous and increasingly united, yet there are signs that—despite the recent financial crisis—global economic and political hegemony are beginning to shift to the East. The era of Western dominance is over. It has been an era marked by war and revolution but also by rapid industrial growth and widespread economic prosperity, a time of growing interdependence but also of burgeoning ethnic and national consciousness, a period that witnessed the rising power of science but also fervent religiosity and growing doubts about the impact of technology on the human experience.

*Twentieth-Century World History* attempts to chronicle the key events in our revolutionary century while seeking to throw light on some of the underlying issues that have shaped the times. Does the beginning of a new millennium mark the end of an extended period of Western dominance? If so, will recent decades of European and American superiority be followed by a “Pacific Century” with economic and political power shifting to the nations of eastern Asia? Will the end of the Cold War lead to what has been called a “new world order” marked by global cooperation, or are we on the verge of an unstable era of ethnic and national conflict? Why has a time of unparalleled prosperity and technological advancement been accompanied by deep pockets of poverty and widespread doubts about the role of government and the capabilities of human reason? Although this book does not promise final answers to such questions, it can provide a framework for analysis and a better understanding of some of the salient issues of our time.

A number of decisions must be made by any author sufficiently foolhardy to seek to encompass in a single volume the history of a turbulent century. First in importance is whether to present the topic as an integrated whole or with a focus on individual cultures and societies. The world that we live in today is in many respects an interdependent one in terms of economics as well as culture and communications, a reality that is often ex-

pressed by the familiar phrase “global village.” At the same time, the process of globalization is by no means complete, as ethnic, religious, and regional differences continue to exist and to shape the course of our times. The tenacity of these differences is reflected not only in the rise of internecine conflicts in such divergent areas as Africa, South Asia, and Eastern Europe, but also in the emergence in recent years of such regional organizations as the Organization of African Unity, the Association for the Southeast Asian Nations, and the European Economic Community. Political leaders in various parts of the world speak routinely (if sometimes wistfully) of “Arab unity,” the “African road to socialism,” and the “Confucian path to economic development.”

A second problem is a practical one. College students today are all too often not well informed about the distinctive character of civilizations such as China, India, and sub-Saharan Africa. Without sufficient exposure to the historical evolution of such societies, students will assume all too readily that the peoples in these countries have had historical experiences similar to their own and respond to various stimuli in a similar fashion to those living in Western Europe or the United States. If it is a mistake to ignore those forces that link us together, it is equally erroneous to underestimate those factors that continue to divide us and to differentiate us into a world of diverse peoples.

My response to this challenge has been to adopt an overall global approach to the history of the twentieth century, while at the same time attempting to do justice to the distinctive character and recent development of individual civilizations and regions in the world. The opening chapters focus on issues that have a global impact, such as the Industrial Revolution, the era of imperialism, and the two world wars. Later chapters center on individual regions of the world, although two separate chapters are devoted to the international implications of the Cold War and its aftermath. The book is divided into five parts. The first four parts are each followed by a short section labeled “Reflections,” which attempts to link events together in a broad comparative and global framework. The final chapter examines some

of the common problems of our time—including environmental pollution, the population explosion, and spiritual malaise—and takes a cautious look into the future to explore how such issues will evolve in the next century.

Another issue that requires attention is the balance of the treatment of Western civilization and its counterparts in Asia and Africa. The modern world is often viewed essentially as the history of Europe and the Western hemisphere, with other regions treated as appendages of the industrial countries. It is certainly true that much of this century has been dominated by events in Europe and North America, and in recognition of this fact, the opening chapters focus primarily on issues related to the rise of the West, including the Industrial Revolution and the age of imperialism. In recent decades, however, other parts of the world have assumed greater importance, thus restoring a global balance that had existed prior to the scientific and technological revolution that transformed the West in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Later chapters examine this phenomenon, according to regions such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America the importance that they merit as the world prepares to enter a new millennium.

This book seeks balance in another area as well. Many textbooks tend to simplify the content of history courses by emphasizing an intellectual or political perspective or, most recently, a social perspective, often at the expense of providing sufficient details in a chronological framework. This approach is confusing to students whose high school social studies programs have often neglected a systematic study of world history. I have attempted to write a well-balanced work in which political, economic, social, and cultural history have been integrated into a chronologically ordered synthesis. A strong narrative, linking together key issues in a broad interpretative framework, is still the most effective way to present the story of the past to young minds.

To enliven the text, I have included a number of boxed essays that explore key issues within each chapter, citing important works in the field. Extensive maps and illustrations—each placed at the appropriate place in the chapter—serve to deepen the reader's understanding of the text. An annotated bibliography at the end of the book reviews the most recent literature on each period while referring also to some of the older, "classical" works in the field.

The following supplements are available for instructors' use:

- **Instructor's Manual and Test Bank**—prepared by Dmitry Shlapentokh, Indiana University, South Bend—includes chapter outlines, chapter summaries, identifications, true/false, multiple choice, and essay questions.
- **Computerized Test Bank**—available in Macintosh and Windows formats. Call-in testing is also available.
- **Four-color acetate package**—includes all the maps from the text along with a full-page commentary for each image, prepared by James Harrison, Siena College.
- Also, visit our **Web site** at [www.thomson.com/Wadsworth.html](http://www.thomson.com/Wadsworth.html).

I would like to express my appreciation to those reviewers who have read individual chapters and provided me with useful suggestions for improvement: Dmitry Shlapentokh, Indiana University, South Bend; John W. Cell, Duke University; Larry D. Wilcox, The University of Toledo; William J. Brazill, Wayne State University; Constance McGovern, Frostburg State University; and Alexander Rudhart, Villanova University. Jackson Spielvogel, who is co-author of our textbook, *World History* (now in its second edition), has been kind enough to permit me to use some of his sections in that book for the purposes of writing this one. Several of my other colleagues at Penn State—including Kumkum Chatterjee, On-cho Ng, and Arthur F. Goldschmidt—have provided me with invaluable assistance in understanding parts of the world that are beyond my own area of concentration. To Clark Baxter, whose unfailing good humor, patience, and sage advice has so often eased the trauma of textbook publishing, I offer my heartfelt thanks. I am also grateful to Sharon Adams Poore and Hal Humphrey of Wadsworth Publishing, and to Amy Guastello, for their assistance in bringing this project to fruition, and to Anne Draus of Scratchgravel Publishing for editorial advice. As always, Sarah Evertson has been helpful in obtaining illustrations for the book.

Finally, I am eternally grateful to my wife, Yvonne V. Duiker, Ph.D. Her research and her written contributions on art, architecture, literature, and music have added sparkle to this book. Her presence at my side has immeasurably added sparkle to my life.

William J. Duiker  
The Pennsylvania State University

# Contents

## PART I

### *New World in the Making* 1

## CHAPTER 1

### *The Rise of Industrial Society in the West* 2

The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain	2
The Spread of Industrialization	3
The Second Industrial Revolution	4
<i>New Products and New Patterns</i>	5
<i>Toward a World Economy</i>	7
The Structure of Mass Society	8
<i>The Social Structure of Mass Society</i>	8
<i>The "Woman Question": Female Experiences</i>	10
Reaction and Revolution: The Decline of the Old Order	10
<i>Liberalism and Nationalism</i>	10
<i>The Unification of Germany and Italy</i>	12
<i>Roots of Revolution in Russia</i>	13
<i>The Ottoman Empire and Nationalism in the Balkans</i>	14
Liberalism Triumphant	15
<i>The United States and Canada</i>	15
<i>Change and Tradition in Latin America</i>	16
The Rise of the Socialist Movement	17
Toward the Modern Consciousness: Intellectual and Cultural Developments	20
<i>Developments in the Sciences: The Emergence of a New Physics</i>	20
<i>Sigmund Freud and the Emergence of Psychoanalysis</i>	21
<i>Literature and the Arts: The Culture of Modernity</i>	22
Conclusion	23
Notes	25

## CHAPTER 2

### *The High Tide of Imperialism: Africa and Asia in an Era of Western Dominance* 26

The Myth of European Superiority	26
The Spread of Colonial Rule	27
<i>The British Conquest of India</i>	28
<i>The Colonial Takeover of Southeast Asia</i>	29
<i>Empire Building in Africa</i>	31
The Colonial System	36
<i>The Philosophy of Colonialism</i>	36
<i>The Dilemmas of Colonial Responsibility</i>	38
<i>Colonialism in Action</i>	41
Conclusion	47
Notes	48

## CHAPTER 3

### *Shadows over the Pacific: East Asia under Challenge* 50

China at Its Apex	50
Traditional China in Decline	53
<i>Opium and Rebellion</i>	53
<i>The Climax of Imperialism in China</i>	54
<i>The Open Door</i>	58
<i>The Collapse of the Old Order</i>	59
<i>Chinese Society in Transition</i>	61
Traditional Japan and the End of Isolation	62
Rich Country and Strong State	64
<i>The Transformation of Japanese Politics</i>	64
<i>Meiji Economics</i>	65
<i>Building a Modern Social Structure</i>	66
<i>Joining the Imperialist Club</i>	66
<i>The Meiji Restoration: A Revolution from Above</i>	68
Notes	69

## Part I Reflections 71



## PART II



### Cultures in Collision 73

## CHAPTER 4



### War and Revolution: World War I and Its Aftermath 74

#### International Rivalry and the Coming of War 74

Crises in the Balkans, 1908–1913 75

The Road to World War I 75

#### The War 77

1914–1915: Illusions and Stalemate 77

1916–1917: The Great Slaughter 77

The Yanks Are Comin' 80

The Home Front: The Impact of Total War 80

The Last Year of the War 82

The Peace Settlement 82

#### The Russian Revolution 85

The Bolshevik Revolution 86

The Civil War 88

#### The Search for Stability in Europe 88

An Uncertain Peace: The Search for Security 88

The Great Depression 90

The Democratic States 90

Socialism in One Country 92

#### The Search for a New Reality

in the Arts 93

#### Conclusion 95

#### Notes 96

## CHAPTER 5



### Nationalism, Revolution, and Dictatorship: Africa, Asia, and Latin America from 1919 to 1939 97

#### The Rise of Nationalism 97

Traditional Resistance: A Precursor to Nationalism 98

Modern Nationalism 99

The Nationalist Revolt in the Middle East 104

Nationalism and Revolution in Asia and Africa 107

#### Revolution in China 110

Mr. Science and Mr. Democracy:

The New Culture Movement 110

The Nanjing Republic 111

Down with Confucius and Sons: Economic and Social Change  
in Republican China 114

China's Changing Culture 115

#### Japan between the Wars 116

Experiment in Democracy 116

A Zaibatsu Economy 116

Shidehara Diplomacy 117

#### Nationalism and Dictatorship in Latin America 118

The Economy and the United States 118

The Move to Authoritarianism 119

Latin American Culture 121

#### Conclusion 121

#### Notes 122

## CHAPTER 6



### The Crisis Deepens: The Coming of World War II 123

#### The Retreat from Democracy:

The Rise of Dictatorial Regimes 124

The Birth of Fascism 124

Hitler and Nazi Germany 125

Authoritarian States in Europe 129

The Soviet Union 129

The Rise of Militarism in Japan 132

#### The Path to War 133

The Path to War in Europe 133

The Path to War in Asia 135

#### The Course of World War II 137

Europe at War 137

Asia at War 139

The Turning Point of the War, 1942–1943 139

The Last Years of the War 140

#### The New Order 142

The New Order in Europe 142

The Holocaust 143

The New Order in Asia 144

#### The Home Front: Two Examples 145

#### The Aftermath of the War 146

#### Conclusion 147

#### Notes 148

### Part II Reflections 149

## PART III



### *Across the Ideological Divide* 153

## CHAPTER 7



### *In the Grip of the Cold War: The Breakdown of the Yalta System* 154

- The Collapse of the Grand Alliance 154
  - The Truman Doctrine and the Beginnings of Containment* 156
  - Europe Divided* 157
- Cold War in Asia 160
  - The Chinese Civil War* 161
  - The Korean War* 163
  - Conflict in Indochina* 164
- From Confrontation to Coexistence 165
  - Khrushchev and the Era of Peaceful Coexistence* 165
  - The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Move toward Détente* 166
  - The Sino-Soviet Dispute* 166
  - The Second Indochina War* 167
- An Era of Equivalence 170
  - An End to Détente?* 171
  - Countering the Evil Empire* 171
- Conclusion 172
- Notes 172

## CHAPTER 8



### *Brave New World: Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe* 173

- The Postwar Soviet Union 173
  - From Stalin to Khrushchev* 173
  - The Brezhnev Years (1964–1982)* 176
- Ferment in Eastern Europe 180
- Culture and Society in the Soviet Bloc 183
  - Cultural Expression* 183
  - Social Changes in the USSR and Eastern Europe* 185
- Conclusion 186
- Notes 186

## CHAPTER 9



### *The East Is Red: China under Communism* 187

- China under Mao Zedong 187
  - New Democracy* 188
  - The Transition to Socialism* 189
  - The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution* 191
  - From Mao to Deng* 192
- Serve the People: Chinese Society  
under Communism 194
  - The Politics of the Mass Line* 194
  - Economics in Command* 195
- The Legacy of the Past: Continuity  
and Change in Modern China 198
- China's Changing Culture 201
- Conclusion 203
- Notes 203

## CHAPTER 10



### *Europe and the Western Hemisphere* 204

- Western Europe: Recovery and Renewal 204
  - The Triumph of Democracy in Postwar Europe* 205
  - Western Europe: The Search for Unity* 210
  - Postwar Europe: An Age of Affluence* 211
- The Emergence of the United States 212
  - The Welfare State, American Style* 213
  - The United States Moves Right* 215
- Canada: In the Shadow of Goliath 217
- Democracy, Dictatorship, and Development  
in Latin America since 1945 217
  - The Threat of Marxist Revolutions* 220
  - Nationalism and the Military: The Examples  
of Argentina and Brazil* 222
  - The Mexican Way* 223
- Aspects of Society and Culture in  
the Western World 223
  - Expanding Roles for Women* 223
  - The Environment and the Green Movements* 225
  - Recent Trends in Art and Literature* 225

Popular Culture	227
Science and Technology	229
Conclusion	229
Notes	230

## Part III Reflections 231

## PART IV



## Third World Rising 233

## CHAPTER 11



### *A House Divided: The Emergence of Independent States in South Asia 234*

The End of the British Raj	234
Independent India	235
An Experiment in Democratic Socialism	235
The Post-Nehru Era	236
The Land of the Pure: Pakistan	
since Independence	239
Problems of Poverty and Pluralism in South Asia	241
The Politics of Communalism	241
The Economy	242
Caste, Class, and Gender	245
Indian Art and Literature since Independence	250
Conclusion: The Vision of Mahatma Gandhi	251
Notes	251

## CHAPTER 12



### *Nationalism Triumphant: The Emergence of Independent States in Southeast Asia 253*

The Dismantling of Colonialism	
in Southeast Asia	253
The Era of Independent States	255
The Search for Native Political Traditions:	
Guided Democracy	255
The Maoist Model: New Democracy in North Vietnam	256
Problems of National Development	256

Daily Life: Town and Country	
in Contemporary Southeast Asia	262
Cultural Trends	265
Regional Conflict and Cooperation:	
The Rise of ASEAN	267
Conclusion	268
Notes	269

## CHAPTER 13



### *Emerging Africa 270*

Uhuru: The Struggle for Independence	270
The Colonial Legacy	271
The Rise of Nationalism	271
The Era of Independence	273
Pan-Africanism and Nationalism: The Destiny of Africa	274
Dream and Reality: Political and Economic Conditions	
in Contemporary Africa	275
Continuity and Change in Modern	
African Societies	281
African Women	283
African Culture	284
Conclusion: Gathered at the Beach	286
Notes	287

## CHAPTER 14



### *Ferment in the Middle East 288*

Crescent of Conflict	288
The Question of Palestine	288
Nasser and Pan-Arabism	289
The Arab-Israeli Dispute	291
Revolution in Iran	293
Crisis in the Gulf	295
Politics in the Contemporary Middle East	297
The Economics of Oil	298
The Islamic Revival	299
The Role of Women	300
Contemporary Literature and Art in	
the Middle East	301
Conclusion	303
Notes	304

## CHAPTER 15

### *Toward the Pacific Century?* 305

Japan: Asian Giant 305

The Japanese Miracle: The Transformation of  
Society in Modern Japan 307

Politics and Government 308

The Economy 309

A Society in Transition 312

Religion and Culture 315

South Korea: A Peninsula Divided 317

Taiwan: The Other China 319

Singapore and Hong Kong: The Littlest Tigers 321

On the Margins of Asia: Postwar Australia  
and New Zealand 323

Conclusion 324

Notes 325

### *Part IV Reflections* 327

## PART V

### *On the Eve of a New Millennium* 331

## CHAPTER 16

### *The End of Bipolarity: The Collapse of the Soviet Empire and the Demise of the Cold War* 332

The Disintegration of the Soviet Empire 332

The Gorbachev Era 332

The New Russia: From Empire to Nation 335

Eastern Europe: From Soviet Satellites  
to Sovereign Nations 337

The End of the Cold War 338

Yugoslavia: A Tragedy in the Making 340

The Shifting Power Balance in Asia 341

Incident at Tiananmen Square 341

Confucius Revived? 342

Europe Reunited 343

Germany: The Party's Over 344

France: A Season of Discontent 345

Great Britain: Move to the Left 345

The Move toward European Unity: Staying the Course? 346

The United States: Return to Hegemony 346

The Other Americas 347

After the Cold War: The "End of History"? 348

Conclusion 349

Notes 350

## CHAPTER 17

### *Toward a New World Order?* 351

End of a Dream 352

Problems of Capitalism 353

Europe: Unity or Disunity? 353

The United States: Capitalism Ascendant 354

Asian Miracle, or Asian Myth? 354

From the Industrial to the  
Technological Revolution 355

A Transvaluation of Values 356

The Family 356

Religion 357

Technology 358

Capitalism 358

One World, One Environment 359

The Population Debate 360

A Global Village, or a Clash of Civilizations? 361

The Arts: Mirror of the Age 363

Notes 366

Suggested Readings 367

Photo Credits 373

Index 375



# Maps

- |                |   |     |                 |  |     |
|----------------|---|-----|-----------------|--|-----|
| <i>Map 1.1</i> | The Industrial Regions of Europe by 1914                            | 6   | <i>Map 7.2</i>  | The New European Alliance Systems in the 1950s and 1960s | 160 |
| <i>Map 1.2</i> | Europe in 1871  | 13  | <i>Map 7.3</i>  | The Global Cold War in the 1950s and 1960s               | 167 |
| <i>Map 2.1</i> | Colonial Southeast Asia   | 30  | <i>Map 8.1</i>  | The States of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union        | 181 |
| <i>Map 2.2</i> | Africa in 1914  | 35  | <i>Map 9.1</i>  | The People's Republic of China                           | 190 |
| <i>Map 2.3</i> | India under British Rule, 1805–1931                                 | 42  | <i>Map 10.1</i> | Europe after World War II                                | 206 |
| <i>Map 3.1</i> | The Qing Empire in the Early Twentieth Century                      | 52  | <i>Map 10.2</i> | The Economic Division of Europe during the Cold War      | 210 |
| <i>Map 3.2</i> | Foreign Possessions and Spheres of Influence about 1900             | 56  | <i>Map 10.3</i> | Political Trends in South America in the 1960s and 1970s | 218 |
| <i>Map 3.3</i> | Japanese Overseas Expansion during the Meiji Era                    | 67  | <i>Map 11.1</i> | Modern South Asia  | 238 |
| <i>Map 4.1</i> | Europe in 1914  | 76  | <i>Map 12.1</i> | Modern Southeast Asia                                    | 254 |
| <i>Map 4.2</i> | World War I, 1914–1918  | 79  | <i>Map 13.1</i> | Modern Africa  | 273 |
| <i>Map 4.3</i> | Territorial Changes in Europe and the Middle East after World War I | 84  | <i>Map 14.1</i> | Israel and Its Neighbors                                 | 289 |
| <i>Map 5.1</i> | The Northern Expedition   | 112 | <i>Map 14.2</i> | The Modern Middle East                                   | 296 |
| <i>Map 5.2</i> | Latin America in the First Half of the Twentieth Century            | 119 | <i>Map 15.1</i> | Modern Japan   | 306 |
| <i>Map 6.1</i> | World War II in Europe and North Africa                             | 138 | <i>Map 15.2</i> | Modern Korea   | 317 |
| <i>Map 6.2</i> | World War II in Asia and the Pacific                                | 141 | <i>Map 15.3</i> | Modern Taiwan  | 319 |
| <i>Map 7.1</i> | Territorial Changes in Europe after World War II                    | 155 | <i>Map 16.1</i> | The States of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union | 335 |
|                |   |     | <i>Map 16.2</i> | The New Europe   | 344 |



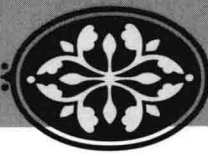


PART

I

# *New World in the Making*





## CHAPTER

# 1

## *The Rise of Industrial Society in the West*

*As the twentieth century began, the world appeared to be falling increasingly under the domination of Europe. During the previous century, much of the Asian and African continents had come under European colonial rule. Those areas that had so far escaped European conquest—notably China and Japan—remained under heavy European pressure. The world appeared to be entering a phase of Western global dominance.*

*The rise of Europe, and the Western world in general, to a position of global hegemony was a product, above all, of the Industrial Revolution. The rise of modern industry began in England in the eighteenth century and spread to the Continent a few decades later. By the beginning of the twentieth century, it had transformed the economic and social structure of Europe and led to a degree of economic and technological achievement that was unprecedented in the history of the world.*

### *The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain*

Why the Industrial Revolution broke out in Great Britain rather than in another part of the world has been a subject for debate among historians for many decades. A number of factors certainly contributed to the rapid transformation of eighteenth-century British society from a predominantly agricultural to an industrial and commercial economy. First, improvements in agriculture during the eighteenth century had led to a significant increase in food production. British agriculture could now feed more people at lower prices with less labor; even ordinary British families no longer had to use most of their income to buy food, giving them the potential to purchase manufactured goods. At the same time, a rapid growth of population in the second half of the eighteenth century provided a pool of surplus labor for the new factories of the emerging British industrial sector.

A second factor was the rapid increase in national wealth. Two centuries of expanding trade had provided

Britain with a ready supply of capital for investment in the new industrial machines and the factories that were required to house them. In addition to profits from trade, Britain possessed an effective central bank and well-developed, flexible credit facilities. Many early factory owners were merchants and entrepreneurs who had profited from the eighteenth-century cottage industry. The country also possessed what might today be described as a “modernization elite”—individuals who were interested in making profits if the opportunity presented itself. In that objective they were generally supported by the government.

Third, Britain was richly supplied with important mineral resources, such as coal and iron ore, needed in the manufacturing process. Britain was also a small country, and the relatively short distances made transportation facilities readily accessible. In addition to nature’s provision of abundant rivers, from the mid-seventeenth century onward, both private and public investment poured into the construction of new roads, bridges, and canals. By 1780, roads, rivers, and canals

linked the major industrial centers of the north, the Midlands, London, and the Atlantic coast.

Finally, foreign markets gave British industrialists a ready outlet for their manufactured goods. British exports quadrupled between 1660 and 1760. In the course of its eighteenth-century wars and conquests (see Chapter 2), Great Britain had developed a vast colonial empire at the expense of its leading continental rivals, the Dutch Republic and France. Britain also possessed a well-developed merchant marine that was able to transport goods to any place in the world. A crucial factor in Britain's successful industrialization was the ability to produce cheaply those articles most in demand abroad. And the best markets abroad were not in Europe, where countries protected their own incipient industries, but in the Americas, Africa, and Asia, where people wanted sturdy, inexpensive clothes rather than costly, highly finished, luxury items. Britain's machine-produced textiles fulfilled that demand. Nor should we overlook the British domestic market. Britain had the highest standard of living in Europe and a rapidly growing population. It was the demand from both domestic and foreign markets and the inability of the old system to meet it that led entrepreneurs to seek and accept the new methods of manufacturing that a series of inventions provided. In so doing, these individuals produced the Industrial Revolution.

During the last decades of the century, technological innovations, including the flying shuttle, the spinning jenny, and the power loom, led to a significant increase in production (see box on p. 4). The cotton textile industry achieved even greater heights of productivity with the invention of the steam engine, which proved invaluable to Britain's Industrial Revolution. The steam engine was a tireless source of power and depended for fuel on a substance—namely, coal—that seemed then to be available in unlimited quantities. The success of the steam engine increased the demand for coal and led to an expansion in coal production. In turn, new processes using coal furthered the development of an iron industry, the production of machinery, and the invention of the railroad.

By the mid-nineteenth century, Great Britain had become the world's first and richest industrial nation. Britain was the "workshop, banker, and trader of the world." It produced half of the world's coal and manufactured goods; in 1850, its cotton industry alone was equal in size to the industries of all other European countries combined. No doubt, Britain's certainty about its mission in the world in the nineteenth century was grounded in its incredible material success story.

## The Spread of Industrialization

Beginning first in Great Britain, industrialization spread to the continental countries of Europe and the United States at different times and speeds during the nineteenth century. First to be industrialized on the Continent were Belgium, France, and the German states and in North America, the new nation of the United States. Not until after 1850 did the Industrial Revolution spread to the rest of Europe and other parts of the world.

Industrialization on the Continent faced numerous hurdles, and as it proceeded in earnest after 1815, it did so along lines that were somewhat different from Britain's. Lack of technical knowledge was a first major obstacle to industrialization. But the continental countries possessed an advantage here; they could simply borrow British techniques and practices. By the 1840s, a new generation of skilled mechanics from Belgium and France was spreading their knowledge east and south. More important, however, continental countries, especially France and the German states, began to establish a wide range of technical schools to train engineers and mechanics.

That government played an important role in this regard brings us to a second difference between British and continental industrialization. Governments on much of the Continent were accustomed to playing a significant role in economic affairs. Furthering the development of industrialization was a logical extension of that attitude. Hence governments provided for the costs of technical education, awarded grants to inventors and foreign entrepreneurs, exempted foreign industrial equipment from import duties, and in some places even financed factories. Of equal if not greater importance in the long run, governments actively bore much of the cost of building roads and canals, deepening and widening river channels, and constructing railroads. By 1850, a network of iron rails had spread across Europe, although only Germany and Belgium had completed major parts of their systems by that time.

Like Belgium, France, and the German states, the United States experienced the first stages of an industrial revolution and the urbanization that accompanied it during the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1800, society in the United States was agrarian. The new nation had no cities over 100,000, and six out of every seven American workers were farmers. By 1860, however, the population had grown from 5 to 30 million people, larger than Great Britain, and nine American cities had populations over 100,000. Only 50 percent of American workers were farmers.



## » Discipline in the New Factories «

The Industrial Revolution led to changes not only in the economic structure of Western society, but also in work habits. The most visible symbol of the Industrial Revolution was the factory, which became the chief means of organizing labor for the new machines. From its beginning, the factory system demanded a new type of discipline from its employees. Once factory owners purchased machinery, it had to be used as much as possible to enable them to profit from their investment. Workers were forced to work regular hours, often in shifts, to keep the machines producing at a steady pace for maximum output.

The new system thus represented a massive adjustment for the first generation of factory workers. In the cottage industry that had preceded it, workers spun thread and wove cloth in their own rhythm and time. Now factory workers were forced to adhere to a new and rigorous discipline geared to the requirements of their machines. Typical of the disciplinary regulations enforced in such factories were those that were established for a factory in Berlin, Germany, in the 1840s. Employees at the factory were required to report for work at 6 A.M. precisely. With short breaks for meals, they remained on the job until 7 in the evening.

Regulations for employees at the factory were strictly enforced. All conversation with fellow

workers was prohibited, as was smoking or leaving the premises without permission before the end of the working day. Drunkenness, disobedience, dishonesty, or "repeated irregular arrival at work" were all grounds for immediate dismissal.

During the early stages of the Industrial Revolution, child labor was common, and working conditions for underage workers were often abysmal. According to a report commissioned in 1832 to inquire into the conditions for child factory workers in Great Britain, children as young as six years of age began work before dawn. Those who were drowsy or fell asleep were tapped on the head, doused with cold water, or even strapped to a chair or flogged with a stick. In one case, according to the report,

provided a child should be drowsy, the overlooker walks round the room with a stick in his hand, and he touches that child on the shoulder, and says, "Come here." In a corner of the room there is an iron cistern; it is filled with water; he takes this boy, and takes him up by the legs, and dips him over head in the cistern, and sends him to work for the remainder of the day.

Sources: Sidney Pollard and Colin Holmes, eds., *Documents of European Economic History* (New York and London: St. Martin's Press, 1968); E. Royston Pike, ed., *Human Documents of the Industrial Revolution* (London: Unwin Hyman, 1966).



The initial application of machinery to production was accomplished—as it had been in continental Europe—by borrowing from Great Britain. Soon, however, Americans began to equal or surpass British technical inventions. The Harpers Ferry arsenal, for example, built muskets with interchangeable parts. Because all the individual parts of a musket were identical (for example, all triggers were the same), the final product could be put together quickly and easily; this innovation enabled Americans to avoid the more costly system in which skilled craftsmen fitted together individual parts made separately. The so-called American system reduced costs and revolutionized production by saving labor, an important consideration in a society that had few skilled artisans.

Unlike Britain, the United States was a large country. The lack of a good system of internal transportation seemed to limit American economic development by making the transport of goods prohibitively expensive. This difficulty was gradually

remedied, however. Thousands of miles of roads and canals were built linking east and west. The steamboat facilitated transportation on the Great Lakes, Atlantic coastal waters, and rivers. Most important of all in the development of an American transportation system was the railroad. Beginning with 100 miles in 1830, by 1860 more than 27,000 miles of railroad track covered the United States. This transportation revolution turned the United States into a single massive market for the manufactured goods of the Northeast, the early center of American industrialization, and by 1860, the United States was well on its way to being an industrial nation.

## The Second Industrial Revolution

During the fifty years before the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the Western world witnessed a dynamic age of material prosperity. With new indus-