World History Notes

2/12/2024

* **Great Britain Leads the Way**
* By the mid-1800s, British manufactures far exceeded those of any other country.
* Great Britain became the first nation to industrialize because it had all the necessary factors:
* [Great Britain – Industrial Revolution](https://youtu.be/xLhNP0qp38Q)
* **Political Stability:** Britain had a stable government that supported individual political freedom, property rights, and equality of opportunity.
* **Labor:** Britain had plenty of people available for work. British farmers produced so much food that many of its people were freed to do different kinds of work.
* **Raw Materials:** Britain had plentiful supplies of the raw materials needed in industry, such as coal for fuel or wool for textiles.
* **Banking System:** Britain’s banks provided loans to entrepreneurs to finance large projects, such as factories, railroads, and coal mines.
* **Transportation System:** Britain had a network of navigable rivers and seaside ports. This mad transporting goods fast and cheap.
* **Innovation in Textiles**
* The first industry to be transformed in Great Britain was textile production.
* [How Inventions Change History](https://youtu.be/0SMNYivhGsc)
* Before industrialization, every step of cloth making had to be done by hand. Each step was laborious and time-consuming.
* In the mid-1700s, English inventors created machines to speed up the cloth-making process.
* In 1733, John Kay invented the flying shuttle to automate the weaving process. Now weaving was faster, but spinners could not spin thread fast enough to keep up.
* James Hargreaves invented the spinning jenny in 1764 to allow one person to spin dozens of threads at the same time.
* But threads produced on a spinning jenny often broke. Solving this would lead to another invention.
* Richard Arkwright solved this problem in 1769 with his water frame, an invention capable of producing stronger thread.
* Owners of textile businesses began building factories where they could install multiple machines to make textiles faster than ever before.
* This started the idea of going to work, rather than working at home.
* **Resources**
* Great Britain had plenty of rivers, and its earliest factories took advantage of the waterpower they provided.
* Eventually steam engines replaced water wheels. These engines were fueled by coal, of which Britain had an abundant supply.
* The later discovery of natural gas and fossil fuels replaced steam and coal as fuel for factories.
* Great Britain also had a steady supply of fiber. Britain had a long tradition of raising sheep for wool, and wool production more than doubled between 1700 and 1850.
* **Transportation**
* In addition to Britain having many navigable rivers and seaports, by the 1770s, it had built a system of well-maintained toll roads. Britain also created a nationwide network of canals.