World History Notes

2/14/2024

* Germany began industrializing fairly late, in part because it consisted of several independent states for most of the 1800s.
* Once the independent states began to work together through trading charters, Germany soon established itself as a leader in heavy industry, especially metalwork.
* By 1914, Germany was second only to the United States as an industrial power.
* **Japan**
* Industrialized Western states used their wealth to build up a strong merchant fleet and navy.
* Until the mid-1800s, Japan had kept itself isolated from outsiders.
* Increased contact with Westerners helped push the Japanese into a political revolution.
* The Japanese ousted the shogun, or strongest warlord, from power and restored their emperor to the throne, in what is known as the Meiji Restoration.
* [Meiji Restoration](https://youtu.be/Y_b58Rpg2YY)
* The new government followed a course of modernization, including industrialization, using the West as a model.
* After modernizing, Japan quickly gained economic dominance in Asia.
* **Economic Transformation**
* The wave of industrialization that began in Great Britain was a slow revolution and took decades to blossom.
* Wherever it spread, the Industrial Revolution transformed the economy.
* Ways of crafting goods changed. Ways of growing crops changed. Different financial and business structures developed.
* **The Domestic System**
* One sign of a shift toward a new form of production was the growth of cottage industry, also known as the domestic system.
* In the domestic system, cottage workers produced goods in home workshops.
* They made goods not for local use, but for national and international markets.
* Typical cottage workers lived in the countryside, farmed for most of the year, and made cloth in the off-season.