World History Notes

3/5/2024

* In the cottage industries that existed before industrialization, women and children performed vital tasks in the home workshop.
* At the start of the Industrial Revolution, they continued to take part in the manufacture of goods because employers simply paid them less than men, making them desirable workers.
* By the early 1900s, only 20 percent of women continued to work in manufacturing, but many of them were relegated to sweatshops.
* Children worked in industry as well, often for two main reasons.
* First, even with both parents employed, a family could barely survive, and a child’s wages, though small, made a crucial difference.
* Second, because children earned less than adults, factory owners were happy to employ them and exploit cheaper labor.
* [Cruel Life of Children During the Industrial Revolution](https://youtu.be/cloO-2d1xJg)
* Despite making a lesser wage, children were expected to do the same amount of work as adults.
* Child workers were exposed to some of the most dangerous working conditions.
* Because they were small, they could squeeze inside running machinery to make repairs.
* The mines were often worse. In January 1876, a Pennsylvania newspaper noted, “During the past week nearly one boy a day has been killed” in the mines.
* Since most children began working in factories as early as six years old, this meant many received no form of education at all.
* **Urbanization and Its Effects**
* [When Cities Were Cesspools of Disease](https://youtu.be/hKKzUcqZgMY)
* With industrialization, the town became the main location of manufacturing.
* Factories attracted a steady stream of workers from the countryside, where the agricultural revolution had reduced the need for farm labor.
* These migrants settled near the factories, greatly expanding the population of existing towns and cities.