
19th century

The Industrial Revolution

The capital of Britain *became the richest city in the world*

Introduction

London became a centre and pivotal point of international trade and industry. Whatever job - from the work of trappers to workers on massive docks and in department stores - Londoners made money from everything.

The following report deals with London in the 19th century during the Industrial Revolution. Previous to the Industrial Revolution London made most of its money through trade for example sugar from the Caribbean, tea and spices from India and timber from Norway, what were possible on account of the London docks.

The overflowing of country people...

...for what reason did move the people to London?

During the economic boom a lot of people began to change their home to have a high standard of living and a better perspective to find a job.

Particularly farm workers had a bad standard of living on account of the wages which were very low and furthermore the security of employment decreased because of the new inventions and use of new machines such as threshers and tractors. Besides that, the city needed more workers to work with machines in mills and foundries and furthermore, the factory direction built houses for the new workers. Because of the causes mentioned London filled to overflowing. Though all new workers from the countryside has enough place to sleep, London's high level of living decreased. A proof for the overflowing is the statistic that 1/5 of Britain's population lived in London on the beginning of the 19th century and 1851 half of the population of the country had set up home in London. There was no doubt that London had a great economy, but the city was not prepared for such great increase in people and that's why people lived in crowded houses. Besides earning money, they rented their Rooms to other families to earn more and more money.

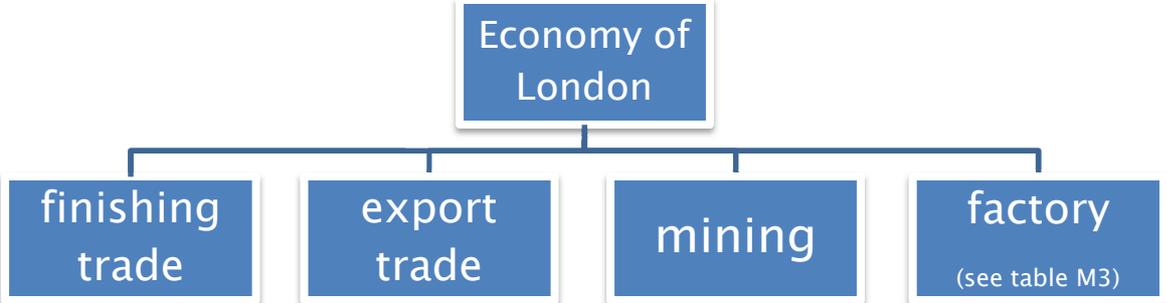
Is there a reason for the success of the largest industrial city in the world during the Industrial Revolution?

Northern Britain regarded the London factories with envy, because they were absolutely organized and furthermore the factories were well-known for their well established high quality. That's why London was the largest industrial city in the world during this period. A good and typical example of the economic



success was the factory “The Truman Brewery” in Brick Lane, which was so huge that it became a tourist attraction

3.1 How was the economy in London were divided?



The majority of Londoners worked in “finishing trades” (they finishing making clothes and household items). The London docks were important for the export trade, because London supplied Britain and the world with paint, varnish, glue, beer, ships, carriages, furniture and guns.

London was not a typical industrial city like Manchester, which concentrated on cotton or near Manchester the economy of the city of Sheffield only concentrated on steel. But London was different and that’s why the capital of Britain was successful on account of the diversity.

The most dangerous place to work during the Industrial Revolution was the coal mine because of the explosions which happened and that the workers got industrial injuries in spite of safety rules. During this period it was not possible to cut and move coal with machines that’s why it was done by men, women and furthermore by children. (see child labour - theme 3.2). Because of the bad conditions the Government in 1842 had forbidden the employment of women and children down mines.

Examples of London factories:	M3
Watchmaking: Clerkenwell	
Textiles and silk: Spitalfields	
Furniture and coach-building: Covent Garden	
Shipbuilding and woodworking: Blackwall, Poplar, Woolwich, Deptford	
Clock-making: Clerkenwell, Islington	
Hat-making: Southwark	
Leather: Bermondsey	
Breweries: South and East London	

3.2 Child labour

Unfortunately a large part of the workers were children, who had long hours and days and furthermore they were treated badly by overseers. It was nothing in particular that the children started to work when they were four or five years old. The work was really hard for children; the children worked for a few pence to buy and eat enough food.

The street children, who were entitled "Hordes of dirty" didn't have any regular money and furthermore no home. In the majority of cases the children were orphans with no guardian. They had to steal to have enough money to buy food and slept almost their whole lives in outhouses or on the Street. But there were street children who did jobs to earn money. They work as crossing-sweepers, or they sold lace, flowers, matches or muffins etc on squares.

The country children were born in poor families who lived in the countryside. As bird scarers they 7 and 8 years old children had to work to earn a bit money for their poor families (they had a long work day because they began out in the fields from four in the morning until seven at night). Older children worked in the city as casual labourers.

Child Employment between 1851-1881 Industry

Mining	1851	1865	1880	1881
Males under 15	37,300	45,100	43,100	30,400
Females under 15	1,400	500	900	500
Males 15- 20	50,100	65,300	74,900	87,300
Females over 15	5,400	4,900	5,300	5,700
Females over 15	780,900	739,300	729,700	699,900

M5- statistic of the increase of child labour

The statistics represent the increase in child labour between 1851 and 1880. After the year 1800 child labour decreased (in particular the employment of males under 15) on account of the law, which had forbidden the work of children under 15.

4.1 Housing and pollution

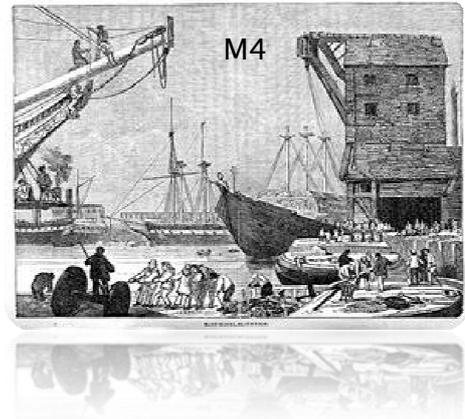
London was overflowed like I already mentioned in the previous theme (see theme 2) and that's why it was normal that 2 or 3 families were living in one house. Furthermore, the people decided to live near the factories so that people could walk to work. Victorian parents had in the majority of cases 4 or 5 children, so that they had between 2 and 5 rooms, because the houses were built quickly and cheaply. However, the houses did not have any mains water and as a result toilets. The suboptimal solution was that a whole street shared an outdoor pump and outside toilets. During this period the typical houses for London "back-to-backs" were built. On account of the shortage of space even the cellars were rented.

Because of the air pollution London was dirty and unhealthy for the population, which were besides the factories guilty too based on the household rubbish, which they threw out of the

window. These bad housing conditions were a reason for diseases like the outbreak of cholera in 1832 (more than 31,000 people died due to cholera in 1832 or were killed by typhus, smallpox and dysentery).

4.2 Transport – Railway and the London docks

Because of the bad transport network trade was hard to organize and that's why the London docks (see image M4) were the only possibility to export commodities. Therefore more canals were built. When the steam engine was developed, there was an expansion of the railway network and the first connection was between Stockton and Darlington. On the 3rd July 1870 the first tube in the world was opened and the first stations were to the north of the Tower of London. Since that time the underground has mushroomed.



5 Conclusion

At the end of the 19th century, Britain was known as 'the workshop of the world' and British commodities were shipped across the globe from London.

Because of the expansion and the success of the economy, the higher social class had a high standard of living, but unfortunately the lower class had a lot of problems like poverty, epidemics caused by pollution and lack of education. Furthermore in my opinion child labour is not humanitarian, because it is not possible for a child to earn enough money for his family. The destiny and the lives of the Street Children were not easier because they did not have any guardian. In spite of everything the conditions during the Industrial Revolution were better than before. The period had influenced the future because of the inventions, the improvements and the better transport network.

Sources:

<http://www.schoolshistory.org.uk/IndustrialRevolution/>

Wikipedia.org

museumoflondon.org.uk

www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk

Text – Big cities

Report by Tim–Justin Grebe, 12A