

Social Effects of the Industrial Revolution



Life in the new factories

- It was a new type of work!
 - Hours were long and monotonous
 - 14/day, 6/week, 52/year
- No safety regulations
 - Factories were dirty and the machines were extremely dangerous
- Most cottage industry workers resisted the call of the factories in the late 18th century
 - They seemed like poor houses!



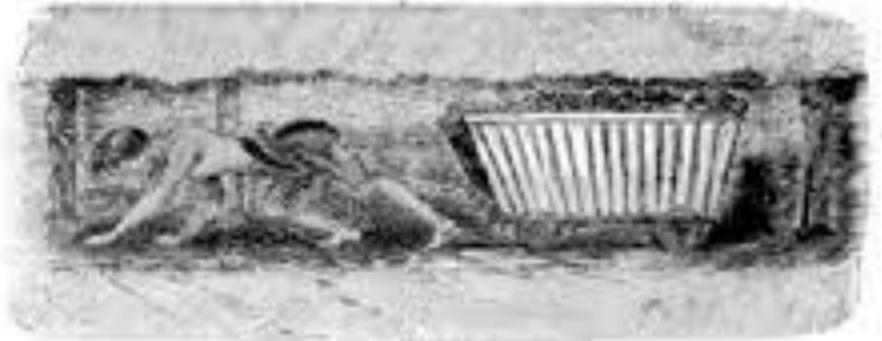
Child Labor in Britain

- Due to the shortage of labor in rural areas, factory owners used orphans
 - Parish apprentices until the age of 21
- 1802 – Parliament will outlaw the use of parish apprentices
 - But child labor is still okay!



Families and Factories

- With the invention of the steam engine, factories were built in urban areas
 - People were more attracted to working in these growing cities
- Families would work together in the factories or the mines
 - In fact, it was parents who desired to have their children work side by side with them in the factories



WOMEN'S LABOR IN COAL MINES.
(Report of Children's Employment Commission, 1892.)

Exploitation of Women and Children

- Children made up the majority of textile labor
 - Abundant supply of labor that was easily broken to the new work routine
 - Received approximately 25% of adult male wages
- After 1833, women became the dominant form of textile labor
 - Received 50% of adult male wages



Factory Act of 1833

- With the help of testimonies from men like Robert Owen, Parliament reduced child labor
 - Children under 9 were mandated to attend elementary school
 - Children from 9-13 were limited to 8 hours per day
 - Children from 14-18 were limited to 12 hours per day



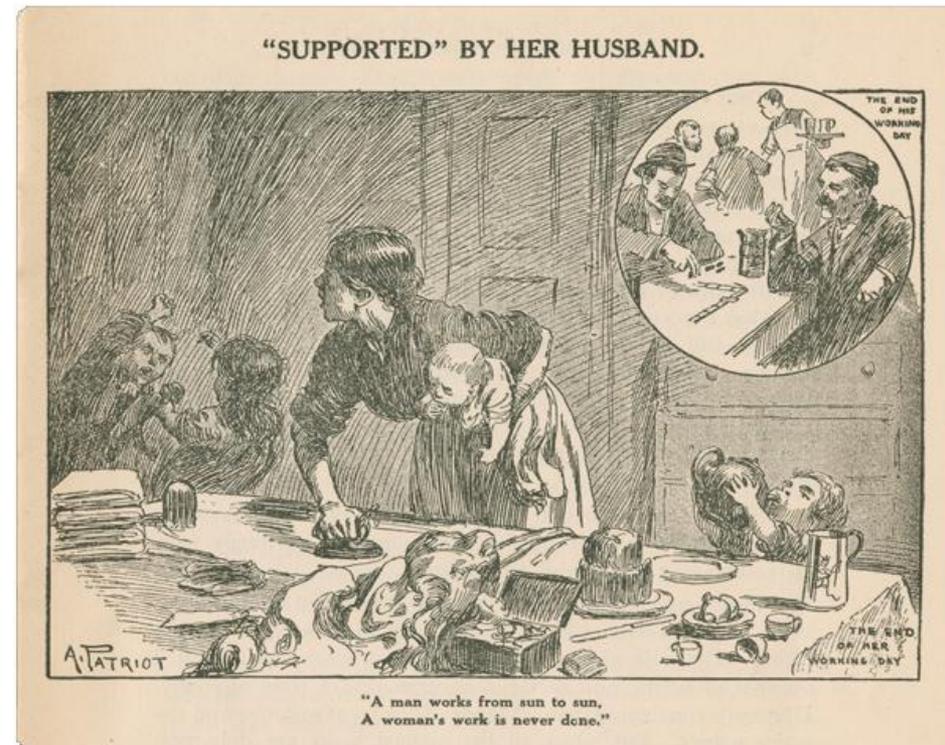
Other Parliamentary Reform Efforts

- Mines Act of 1842
 - Outlawed the employment of women underground
 - Boys under 10 could not work in the mines
- Ten Hours Act of 1847
 - Limited the work day for women and children to 10 hours



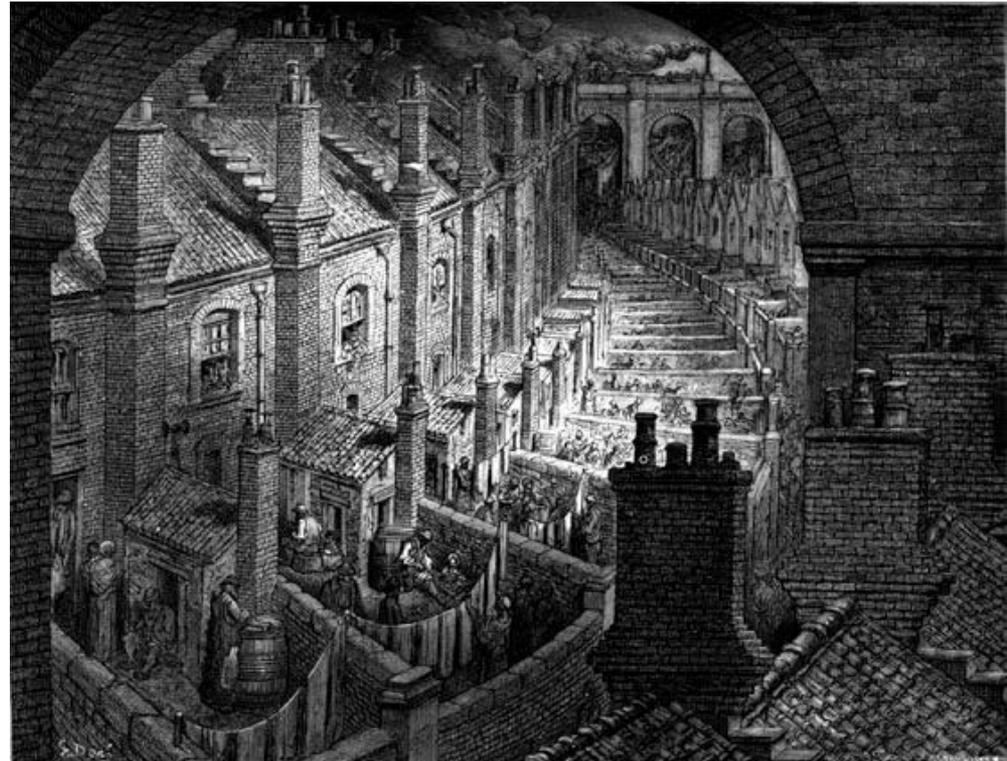
“Separate Spheres”

- New Sexual Division of Labor developed
 - Men were “breadwinners”
 - Women were expected to work part-time at home
- Causes:
 - Reduction in child labor
 - Factory discipline conflicted with married women
 - Running the household was an arduous task
 - Desire among older generations to reduce gender relations in the work place



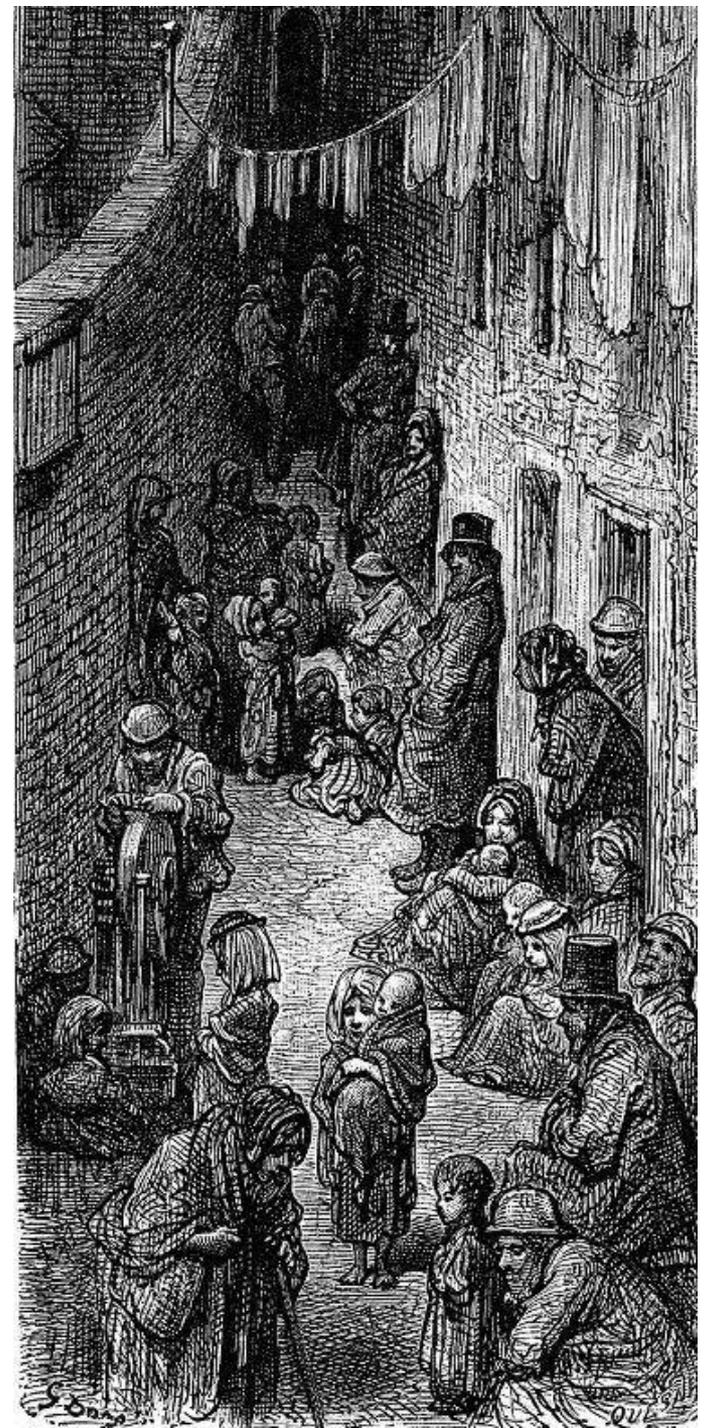
Urbanization

- Cities were where the factories were!
- 1800-1850
 - Cities with more than 100,000 people doubled
 - >50% of the population lived in towns or cities
- Some cities even quadrupled in size!
 - London had 4.5 million by 1901
- 1901 – ratio of urban to rural was 3:1



Living conditions of the working class

- Cities couldn't handle the huge influx of people
 - No sanitary codes, building controls, or police protection
- Families crowded into tiny tenements full of filth and putrid smells
- Overcrowding led to spread of epidemics like cholera
 - Life expectancy in some cities was half that of rural areas



Standards of Living

- 1790-1850
 - The purchasing power of the working class remained minimal until the 1840s
 - Less meat was consumed in 1840 than in 1780
- 1850-1900
 - The working class will experience a higher standard of living, in terms of housing, diet, and clothing
- Real winners: The Middle Class
 - Greatly increased their share of the national income
 - Moved to the suburbs to avoid the ill effects of urbanization

