Chapter 7: The industrial revolution

Further reading

**The British industrial revolution**

There is a huge literature on the British industrial revolution. Here are three standard works: P. Mathias, *The First Industrial Nation: an Economic History of Britain, 1700–1914* (London, Methuen, 1969) is the best summary; E.J. Hobsbawm, *Industry and Empire* (London, Penguin, 1990) is written from a Marxist perspective, but is lively and soundly based; M.W. Flinn, *Origins of the Industrial Revolution* (London, Longman, 1966) examines various explanations of why the industrial revolution began when it did. A significant contribution to the debate in the impact of the industrial revolution on ordinary people’s lives has been provided by Emma Griffin, *Liberty's Dawn: People's History of the Industrial Revolution* (New Haven, CT, Yale University Press, 2013). It is based the experiences of 350 individuals recounted by them. They bring out the new opportunities provided by the industrial revolution as well as the hardships they encountered. Nicholas Phillipson’s biography *Adam Smith: An Enlightened Life* (London, Allen Lane, 2010) sheds new light on Adam Smith, who was not primarily an economist but a moral philosopher, and on *The Wealth of Nations* which is not an uncritical defence of the free market as it is sometimes portrayed.

**The industrial revolution in Europe**


**Science and the industrial revolution**


Richard Holmes, *The Age of Wonder* (London, HarperCollins, 2008) has the subtitle *How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science*, which gives a clear indication of the book’s theme. It ranges widely, covering the geographical discoveries of Captain Cook in the Pacific Ocean and Mungo Park’s explorations in West Africa. There is an account of the first balloonists. The astronomical discoveries of William Herschel, ably assisted by his sister and the patronage of George III, are fully explored, as is the work of Sir Humphrey Davy. Linking them all is the patronage provided by the Royal Society and Sir Joseph Banks, its president for 41 years (1778–1819).

**The effects of industrialisation**

1991) is a vivid if quirky panorama of the world between 1815 and 1830, with much fascinating source material. J. Droz, Europe between Revolutions (London, Fontana, 1967) has useful chapters on liberalism and socialism.

Websites

Inventions
Richard Guest, A Compendious History of the Cotton Manufacture Manchester (1823),
Internet Modern History Sourcebook, www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1823cotton.html
John Lord, Capital and Steam Power (1923), www.history.rochester.edu/steam/lord/8.html

Science
Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, Elements of Chemistry in a new systematic order, translated by R. Ker, 1802, Google Books
John Dalton, A New System of Chemical Philosophy, vol. 1, Manchester, 1803, Google Books
Michael Faraday, Experimental Researches in Electricity, 1859, Google Books

Social consequences
The physical deterioration of textile workers, 1833
A cotton manufacturer in the Hours of Labour, 1836
Evidence given before the Sadler Committee on the Textile Industry, 1842
Testimony given before Lord Ashley’s Mines Commission, 1842
The Benefit of the Factory Legislation, 1879
Edwin Chadwick, Report on Sanitary Conditions, 1842
All the above can be found at www.victorianweb.org/history/workers2.html