

## **Definition:**

A term, first popularised by Arnold Toynbee in 1882, to describe the economic and social transformation of Britain during a period conventionally dated from about 1740 to 1850.

## **Factors, encouraging the Industrial Revolution:**

- relative political stability that followed the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89;
- “The Wealth of Nations” by Adam Smith (1776);
- constitution that emphasised individualism;
- no internal tariffs or duties on commerce;
- development of a strong banking and credit system from the 17<sup>th</sup> century:
  - 1694 – foundation of Bank of England;
  - 1773 – foundation of modern Stock Exchange;
- Agrarian Revolution:
  - 1793 – establishment of the Board of Agriculture;
  - systematic stock breeding;
  - Four-course rotation of crops;
- change from domestic production to production in factories under capitalist control;
- no involvement in continental wars;
- new overseas territory;
- monopolisation of overseas trade by English;
- largest merchant marine and navy in the world;
- increase of the population of Europe;
- move from the land to the industrial town and cities.

## **The technological changes:**

1. the use of new basic materials;
2. the use of new energy sources;
3. the invention of new machines:
  - 1705 – steam engine by Thomas Newcomen;
  - 1733 – flying shuttle by John Kay;
  - 1741 – frame for spinning cotton thread with rollers by Lewis Paul and John Wyatt.;
  - 1769 – steam engine by James Watt;
  - 1769 – spinning machine by Arkwright;
  - 1770 – spinning jenny by James Hargreaves;
  - 1779 – mule by Samuel Crompton;
  - 1783 – power loom by Edmund Cartwright;
4. a new organisation of work known as the factory system;
5. important developments in transportation and communication;
6. the increasing application of science to industry;

**The major changes in industrial fields:**

- textile;
- iron and steel;
- mining;
- pottery;
- mechanical engineering.

**New developments in nonindustrial spheres:**

1. agricultural improvements;
2. economic changes;
3. political changes;
4. social changes;
5. cultural transformations;
6. psychological change.

**Negative effects:**

- Woman and children work;  
1601 – Poor Law
- unprecedented housing condition;
- low wages, long working hours, and unpleasant and dangerous working conditions.

**Following Revolutions:**

- Transportation
- Communications
- Information

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