

Revolutions

AP World History: Modern

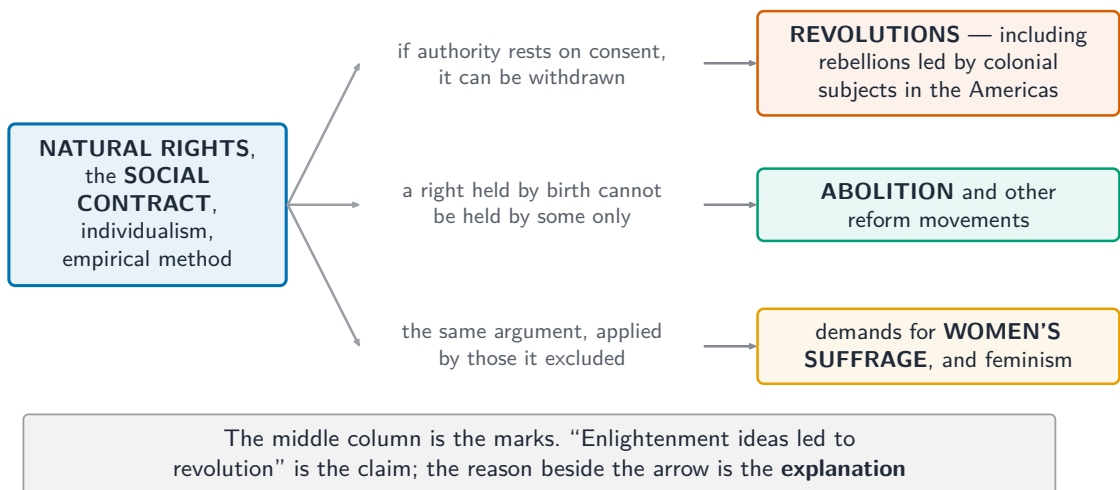
The Enlightenment

Unit 5 covers **1750 to 1900**, and it has two engines running at once: an intellectual revolution that changed how people justified political authority, and an industrial revolution that changed how societies produced and lived. Most questions ask you to connect them.

Enlightenment philosophies applied new ways of understanding and **empirical approaches** to both the natural world and human relationships. From that came ideas that questioned established traditions:

- **Individualism**, **natural rights**, and the **social contract**
- Calls for **religious tolerance** and limits on established authority.

Those ideas influenced **reform movements**: the expansion of suffrage, the abolition of slavery, and **demands for women's suffrage** alongside an emergent **feminism** that challenged political and gender hierarchies.



Nationalism and Revolution

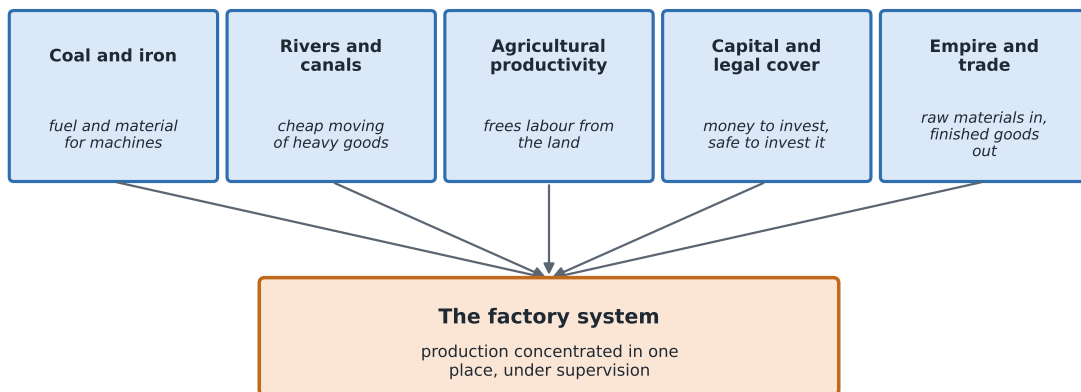
Nationalism became a major force shaping historical developments. People developed a new sense of **commonality** based on language, religion, social customs, and territory, and these newly imagined national communities were often linked to state-building.

Discontent with monarchist and imperial rule encouraged **revolution**. Enlightenment ideas, as reflected in revolutionary documents, justified those movements, and

colonial subjects in the Americas led a series of rebellions inspired by them - the examinable set being the American, French, Haitian, and Latin American revolutions.

The pattern to hold: an **idea** (rights, consent, nation) plus a **grievance** (taxation, exclusion, slavery, colonial rule) produces a movement. Answers that give only the idea, or only the grievance, explain nothing.

The Industrial Revolution Begins



no single factor is sufficient - the answer to 'why here, why then' is the COMBINATION

Industrialisation needed several conditions at once - which is why the question is always “why here, and why then”

A **variety of factors** contributed to the growth of industrial production: access to **coal** and **iron**, navigable rivers and canals, **agricultural productivity** that freed labour, **capital** and legal protection for it, urbanisation, and access to raw materials and markets through overseas empire.

The **factory system** concentrated production in a single location under supervision, replacing dispersed household production. That change - as much organisational as technical - is what made the scale of output possible.



Industrialisation Spreads

The rapid development of **steam-powered** industrial production in Europe spread to other regions, and as new methods became common, states that industrialised gained enormous advantages in wealth and military power over those that did not.

Technology compounded the change: the **steam engine** and later the **internal combustion engine**; the **second industrial revolution** in steel, chemicals, and electricity; and **railroads**, **steamships**, and the **telegraph**, which made exploration, colonisation, and administration at a distance possible.

	THE FIRST	THE SECOND
WHAT DRIVES IT	coal and the steam engine	electricity, oil, the internal combustion engine
WHAT IT BUILDS	the factory system; textiles and iron	steel, chemicals, and the goods made from them
WHAT IT MOVES	railroads and steamships	the telegraph — information, faster than any vehicle

Date your evidence. A telegraph and a spinning machine are not the same revolution, and a **change** question is asking which one you mean

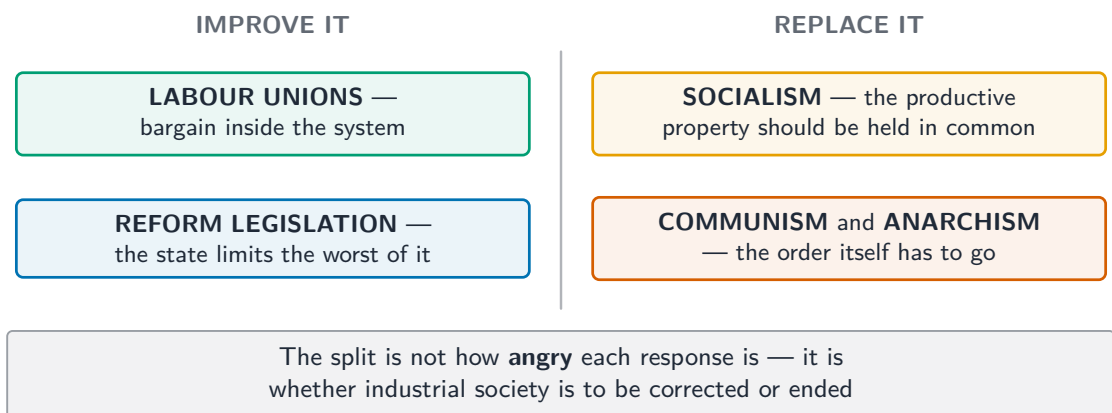
Government, Economy, and Reaction

As industrial influence grew, a small number of **states sponsored industrialisation** directly - the standard examples being Meiji Japan, Russia under state-led programmes, and Egypt under Muhammad Ali.

Western European countries began abandoning **mercantilism** and adopting **free trade** policies, and the global nature of trade and production contributed to the proliferation of **transnational businesses** and new financial instruments.

Reaction came from several directions:

- Workers organised, often in **labour unions**, and pressed for shorter hours, safety, and wages.
- **Alternative visions** of society emerged - **socialism**, **communism**, and **anarchism** - as critiques of industrial capitalism.
- Some governments passed **reform legislation** on working conditions, child labour, and public health.
- The expansion of industrialising states led to **internal reform movements** elsewhere in Asia, as states tried to respond to new pressure.



Society in the Industrial Age

New **social classes** formed, including a **middle class** and an **industrial working class**, each with its own culture and politics.

Other changes are examinable: rapid **urbanisation** with overcrowding and disease; changes in **family structure** and in women's work as production left the home; and rising **standards of living** over the long run, unevenly distributed and reached only after decades of hardship.

Continuity and Change in the Industrial Age

The unit's reasoning skill is **continuity and change**. Production and class structure changed fundamentally, while imperial competition, coerced labour in colonised regions, and inequality persisted in new forms.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions here ask, for example, to “*Explain one way in which industrialisation changed social structures*” between 1750 and 1900. A full-mark answer names the change and traces it: “*Industrialisation created a large industrial working class, because the factory system concentrated production in single locations and drew rural labourers into cities to work for wages, replacing household production and the rural social order that depended on it.*” Notice the shape: **explain** requires the mechanism - factory system, urban migration, wage labour - not just the statement that new classes appeared.

Exam tips

- Answer “why Britain first” with **several factors at once** - coal, capital, agriculture, empire - not one cause.
- The **factory system** is an organisational change; say what it replaced.
- For revolutions, pair an **idea** with a **grievance**. Either alone explains nothing.
- **State-sponsored industrialisation** (Meiji Japan, Russia, Egypt) is the contrast to the British pattern.
- Give the reactions as a set: **unions, socialism and communism, and reform legislation**.
- Living standards rose **eventually and unevenly**. Saying so is what makes an answer an evaluation.

Vocabulary card meanings

empirical approaches: Methods that rely on observation and evidence rather than on authority alone. religious tolerance: Allowing more than one faith to be practised. reform movements: Campaigns to change a state, a church, or a social practice. demands for women's suffrage: Calls for women to have the right to vote. feminism: A movement for women's equal rights. Nationalism: Loyalty to a nation and the demand that it govern itself. commonality: A sense of shared identity among people who see themselves as one nation. revolution: A rapid overthrow of a political and social order. coal: The mineral fuel that powered early steam engines. agricultural productivity: How much food is produced from a given amount of land and labour. steam-powered: Driven by engines that use steam from heated water. steam engine: A machine that turns heat from steam into mechanical work. internal combustion engine: An engine that burns fuel inside its cylinders. second industrial revolution: The later industrial wave of steel, chemicals, electricity, and oil. steamships: Ships driven by steam engines rather than only by sail. telegraph: A device that sent coded electrical messages along a wire. states sponsored industrialisation: Governments that

funded factories, railways, and technical education. transnational businesses: Firms that operated across several countries. anarchism: A politics that rejects the state and organised coercion. reform legislation: Laws passed to limit abuses, such as child labour or unsafe factories. internal reform movements: Efforts inside a society to modernise its own institutions. social classes: Groups distinguished by wealth, work, and status. industrial working class: People who earned wages in factories and mines. urbanisation: The shift of population into cities. family structure: Who lives together and what roles they hold inside a household. standards of living: The level of material comfort people can actually afford.