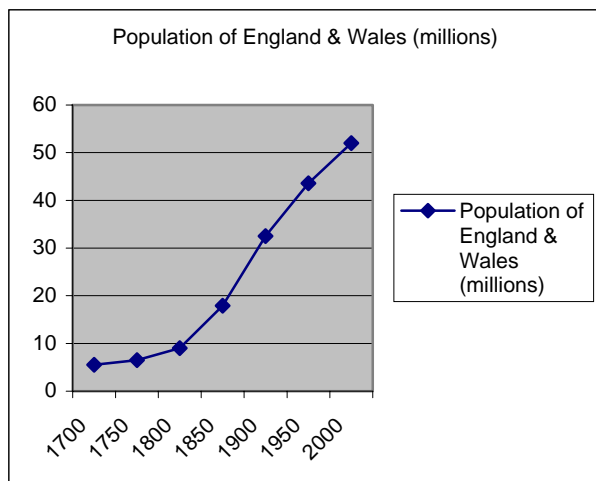


The Industrial Revolution and Population Growth in England and Wales

INTRODUCTION

In 1700 the population of England and Wales was 5.5 million, but within two hundred years it had increased almost six fold to 32.5 million. In 1700 the majority of the English and Welsh people lived in rural surroundings and worked on the land: two hundred years later the vast majority lived in towns and did not rely upon agriculture for a living. What brought about this phenomenal increase in population growth?

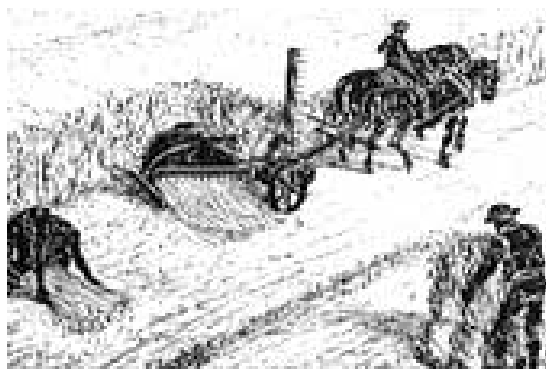
POPULATION OF ENGLAND AND WALES 1700-2000 (millions)	
1700	5.5
1750	6.5
1800	9.0
1850	17.9
1900	32.5
1950	43.6
2000	52.0



THE AGRARIAN REVOLUTION

During the eighteenth century changes took place in agriculture which are usually termed 'the agrarian revolution'. This involved:

- The use of more land for farming
- Greater productivity
- The increase in the size of farms
- The investment of capital in farming
- New techniques of farming
- The invention of new, labour-saving tools

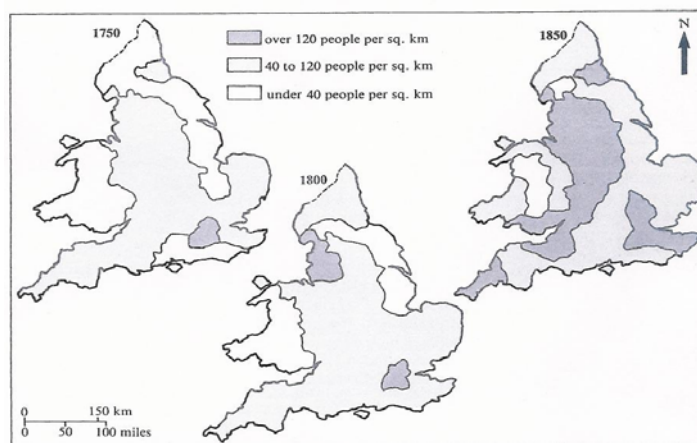


Harvesting using new machinery

As each agricultural worker produced more food, so the proportion of the workforce in agriculture fell. This falling proportion of workers in agriculture enabled the proportion working in industry to rise: in other words improved agricultural production made the industrial revolution possible, and many would regard the industrial revolution as the beginning of the modern world. By 1850 only 22 per cent of the British workforce was in agriculture; the smallest proportion for any country in the world.



CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION



The density of population in England and Wales (by counties) in 1750, 1800 and 1850

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

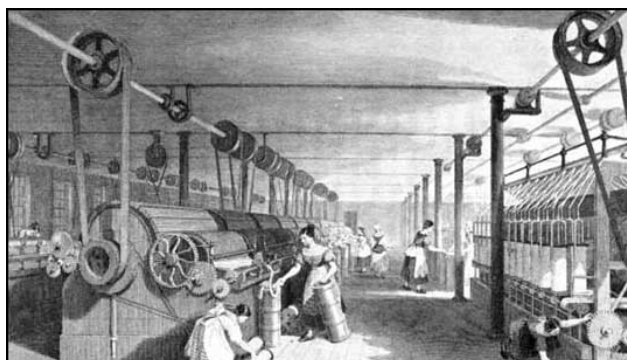
The Industrial Revolution is the term, first coined by TS Ashton, to describe the massive changes that took place in Britain (the first country to undergo such an event) between the years 1760 and 1830. Put simply, it is the movement from the period when the majority of the population lived in rural villages and earned their living from the land, to the time when the majority of the population lived in towns and cities and earned their living from working in occupations other than agriculture.

As the changes in agriculture resulted in more food being produced (enabling more people to survive) and less people were needed to produce the food, it became essential that other jobs be provided, on a large scale, outside of agriculture.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The first industry to undergo a 'revolution' was the textile industry. Prior to 1760 the main textile industry in Britain had been the woollen industry, based in people's homes.

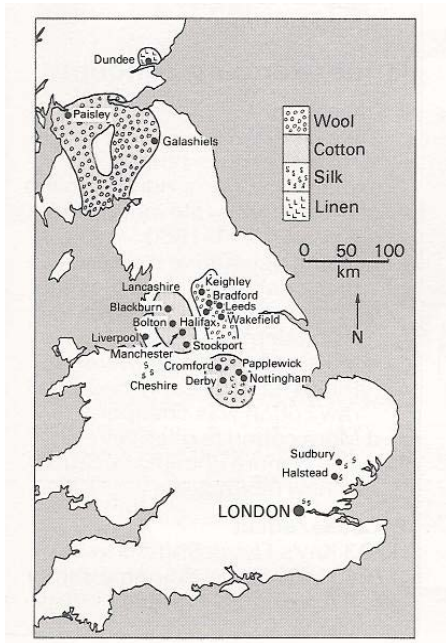
Following a series of spinning and weaving inventions it became possible to produce cotton textiles. The raw cotton came from America via the port of Liverpool. The new inventions were too large to be used in the home and so they had to be housed in factories. Many workers were needed for these factories and, because transport had not been developed, the workers needed to be housed close to where the factories were situated. Also, again because of the transport factor, these factories needed to be close to Liverpool. Hence the textile industry was est-



'Carding' in a factory



ablished in the counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire in England.



Centres of the textile industry in 1850

Manchester, for example, had been a small town of a few thousand people in 1750. By 1800 it had grown to 70,000 and within fifty years this had risen to over 300,000.



A Manchester slum at the end of the nineteenth century

THE COAL INDUSTRY

Whilst the Industrial Revolution in Britain began with the textile industry, this did not have a significant impact in Wales. The Industrial Revolution in Wales was to commence with the changes in the iron industry.

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