

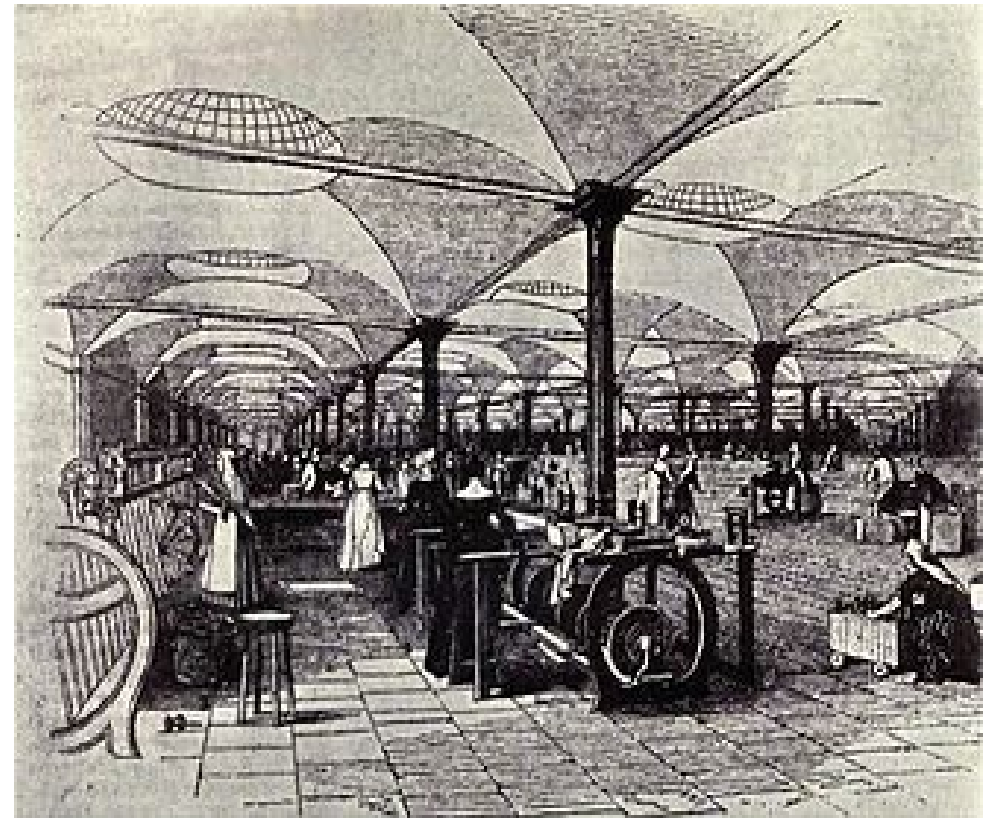
# The Chartists

Influences on Why and How They Came About

# Industrial Revolution



# Agricultural/Cottage Industry to Factory



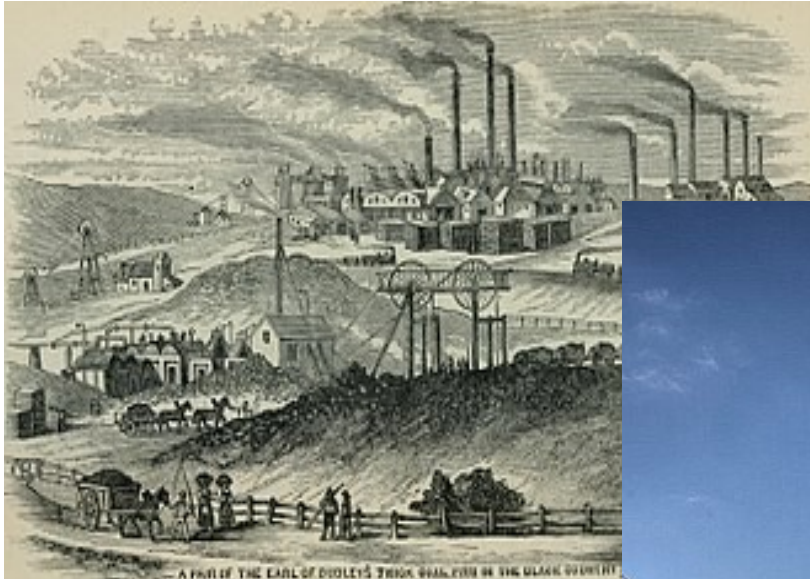
# Significant Population Growth

England Population expanded slowly from late Middle Ages, then shot up:

- 1500 3.2m
- 1600 4.1m
- 1700 5.2m
- 1801 8.3m\*
- 1831 13m

\* most of this was after 1750

# People Migration/Urbanisation



# Napoleonic War - Aftermath



# Luddites & Organised Labour



THE LEADER OF THE LUDDITES

Printed and Sold by W. G. Smith, Strand, London.

# The Peterloo Massacre





# The Chartists

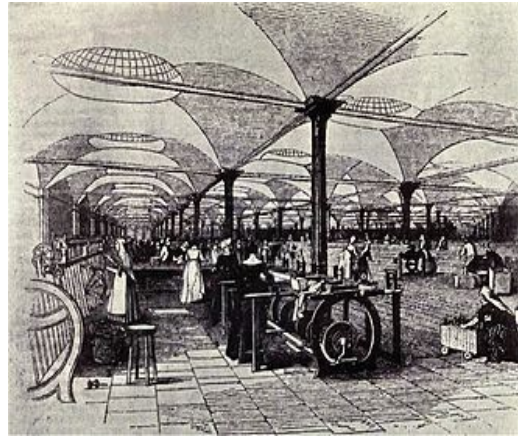
Influences on Why and How They Came About

# Industrial Revolution



Economic historians have said the I.R. Was the most important event in human history since the domestication of animals and plants.

# Agricultural/Cottage Industry to Factory



***Weaver Nurnberg 1524 – Marshall's, Leeds, early 19C***

Britain moved from Agrarian Society with Cottage Industry ( The “Putting Out” System) towards a city-based factory one.

Started with mechanised spinning in 1780s, and thus primarily factory-produced textiles using water power, hence location in North Midlands with good water flows.

*[Manchester, a market town of approx. 10k in 1700, to 100k in 1801 and 200k in 1831].*

New methods of producing Iron & Steel, invention of machine tools, advances in chemicals, paper-making etc. transport improved with Canals, leading to huge improvement in worker productivity.

“Agricultural Revolution” - Invention & use of Seed Drill, Dutch Plough and Threshing M/C made spare labour available for industry.

A much larger “Middle Class” emerged (clerks, supervisors, book-keepers etc.)

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Population exploded, but GDP per Capita increased even more.

England Population increased slowly from the Middle Ages to 1750, then shot up.

1500 – 3.2m, 1600 – 4.1m, 1650 – 5.3m, 1700 – 5.2m, 1801 – 8.3m, 1831 - 13m

# People Migration/Urbanisation



*Birmingham & Manchester “Cottonopolis” (c1840) – Saltaire (Sir Titus Salt, 1851)*

Worker Migration to new industrial areas

Urbanisation - man as the breadwinner (after “Enclosure”) became family as joint breadwinners (men, women and elder children)

Much of the early factory workforce were women and children (latter could be paid 20% of an adult).

## Napoleonic War - Aftermath



*"Waterloo" Painted by Clement-Auguste Andrieux*

"The Continental System" and the "War of 1812" reduced trade leading to food & other shortages.

"Income Tax" and other levies to pay for the war (huge subsidies to other nations to fight) reduced overall economy.

"The Year without a Summer" - April 1815 eruption of Mt. Tambora (Indonesia, 750m east of Jakarta) – the biggest eruption in recent history. Millions of tons of ash in upper atmosphere led to failed harvests across UK (and Europe) in 1816 and impacted them in the following few yrs. Poor nutrition led to major typhus epidemics (55k deaths in UK). [JMW Turner sunsets]

"Corn Laws" 1815, latest in a long line of tariffs on imports and price control of grain, led to shortages for many because of high "fixed" prices.

Slump led to weavers' wages in factories being docked from 15s/wk in 1803 to 5s or less by 1818.

# Luddites & Organised Labour



*Hand coloured etching - 1812*

Ned Ludd from Leicestershire in 1779 broke 2 stocking frames. Became mythical hero of Luddites in 1810s, but actually may have been a fictional character.

- Combination Act 1799 (repealed 1824), prohibited any kind of trade union
- One British newspaper in 1834 described unions as "the most dangerous institutions that were ever permitted to take root, under shelter of law, in any country..."
- Luddites formed 1811, textile workers mostly. They protested against manufacturers who used machines in what they called "a fraudulent and deceitful manner" to get around standard labour practices. Luddites feared that the time spent learning the skills of their craft would go to waste, as machines would replace their role in the industry. Some workshop owners were priced out of business, but couldn't find work in factories (too many looking for too few jobs).
- Machine-breaking was one of very few tactics workers could use to increase pressure on employers, to undermine lower-paid competing workers, and to create solidarity among workers. Not hostile to machinery as such; just a convenient target.
- Bloodshed on both sides, Army used to quell activities (more troops than were with Wellington!). Large "show" trials and harsh penalties eventually ended the movement by end 1816.
- Frame Breaking Act 1812, opposed by Byron, made it a Capital offence to damage machinery.
- In 1817, an unemployed Nottingham stockinger and probably ex-Luddite, named Jeremiah Brandreth led the Pentrich Rising. While this was a general uprising unrelated to machinery, it can be viewed as the last major Luddite act.

An agricultural variant of Luddism occurred during the widespread **Swing Riots** of 1830 in southern and eastern England, centring on breaking threshing machines.

# The Peterloo Massacre



*Coloured print published by Richard Carlile, a speaker at the meeting.*

St Peter's Fields, Manchester, 16-08-1819.

18 killed, 700 injured, of 60000 attendees. Manchester & Salford Yeomanry, Cheshire Yeomanry, Manchester Special Constabulary and 15<sup>th</sup> Hussars.

- Organised by Manchester Patriotic Union to call for Universal Suffrage (male). Main speaker was Henry Hunt ("Orator").
- In 1819, Lancashire was represented by two county members of parliament (MPs) and a further twelve borough members sitting for the towns of Clitheroe, Newton, Wigan, Lancaster, Liverpool, and Preston, with a total of 17,000 voters in a county population of nearly a million.

*[Old Sarum in Wiltshire, with one voter, elected two MPs, as did Dunwich in Suffolk, which by the early 19th century had almost completely disappeared into the sea!]*

- The major urban centres of Manchester, Salford, Bolton, Blackburn, Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham and Stockport had no MPs of their own, and only a few hundred county voters.

*[Of the 515 MPs for England and Wales 351 were returned by the patronage of 177 individuals and a further 16 by the direct patronage of the government]:*

- Magistrates used M&S Yeomanry to clear path for Constabulary to arrest Hunt and others. Other troops told to disperse crowd.
- Hunt and several others arrested, subsequently tried and imprisoned.

Despite full Govt. Approval of magistrates actions the presence of National Press meant wide-spread coverage. Marked the beginning of Reform in Britain. More meetings, riots, demonstrations etc. led eventually to the Great Reform Act.