

The Industrial Society

When the Liverpool and Manchester Railway line opened in September of 1830, the railway train – drawn by the Rocket, the fastest and strongest of the locomotives – ran down and killed William Hukisson, a leading British politician and an ardent advocate of improving transport and communication, who had underestimated its speed. This, the first railway accident in history, was symbolic of the new age to come, which benefited many, brought destruction to some, and transformed society far more rapidly than anyone had predicted.¹

Background: As the William Hukisson incident demonstrates, many people at the time were not aware of the wide-ranging consequences that the Industrial Revolution would have. Not only was the economic landscape of Europe forever changed, the social and cultural impact of the revolution is in many ways still being felt. While we will not spend much time studying the “nuts and bolts” of the Industrial Revolution, we will spend considerable time studying various thinkers of the Industrial Age whose ideas shaped a culture.

Your Mission (That is, if you decide to accept it – even though you really have no choice – but who’s counting?...): *Explain and defend a particular thinker who is associated with the Industrial Age.*

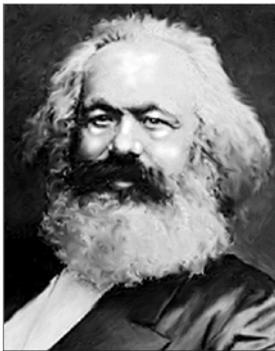
Activity Description: Each person will be assigned to a small group (2 or 3), and each group will be assigned an historical person. Read about your person in your text (Chapters 22 & 25), complete additional research and as a group, decide if your person’s

¹Robin W. Winks and others, *A History of Civilization: Prehistory to the Present* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1988), 540.

ideas are valid – both in that time period and today. Your group will have to present arguments to the class to defend your position.

The Particulars

- Each group must complete a brief (about one page) typed project.
- Include any relevant background information, interesting stories about your person, significant publications, and the major ideas of your person.
- Include relevant copies of your person's work (i.e. excerpts from *The Communist Manifesto*) You should refer to these during your presentation to support your explanation of the person's major ideas.
- Make copies (of your one-page project as well as your person's work) for everyone in class.
- You **must** know not only about your person, but everyone else's as well – during our presentations, you will need to be able to defend your position (the person's ideas were/were not valid). That means when another group is presenting, you will need to be prepared to ask them questions. You very well might be called on to ask a particular group a question.



The Characters

Karl Marx
Thomas Malthus
Louis Blanc
Robert Owen
David Ricardo
Charles Darwin
Auguste Comte
Friedrich Nietzsche
John Stuart Mill
Sigmund Freud