

AP Euro: Seminar

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Period 4

11/29/11

Prompt

Discuss the combination of social, cultural, political, and economic factors that allowed Great Britain to be the first nation to industrialize.

Industrial Revolution first occurred in Great Britain

- The industrial revolution began in 1780
- Britain had a large market in form of its empire
- Developed advanced agriculture = surplus
- Had a central bank and good canal system
- In spite of the Napoleonic Wars in Europe, it didn't leave Great Britain devastated

Social & Cultural

- I. Agricultural Revolution played a vital role to the Industrial Revolution in Britain
 - a) Landholders tried to rationalize their landholding and started the Enclosure Movement
 - b) This supply of cheap and abundant labor emerged as the Enclosure Movement forced many landless farmers to move into towns and cities
 - c) More and more people started to work in factories or in the distribution of other goods and services

Social & Cultural

II. Agriculture

- a) English farmers adopted new methods of farming, and were able to feed large numbers of people
 1. Population increased
 2. Demand for goods within the country increased
- b) Large classes of hired agricultural laborers
 1. Rural wage earners were relatively mobile

Political

I. Colonial Empire

- a) Provided Britain with raw materials needed for the development of many industries
- b) Growing market for British manufactured goods occurred in its colonies, supported by the African slave trade and in Latin America

Political

II. Role of Government

- a) The monarchy and the aristocratic oligarchy ruled the country since 1688, and provided a stable and predictable government
- b) The government supported the economic growth and the industrial development
- c) They also supported the expansion of the middle class

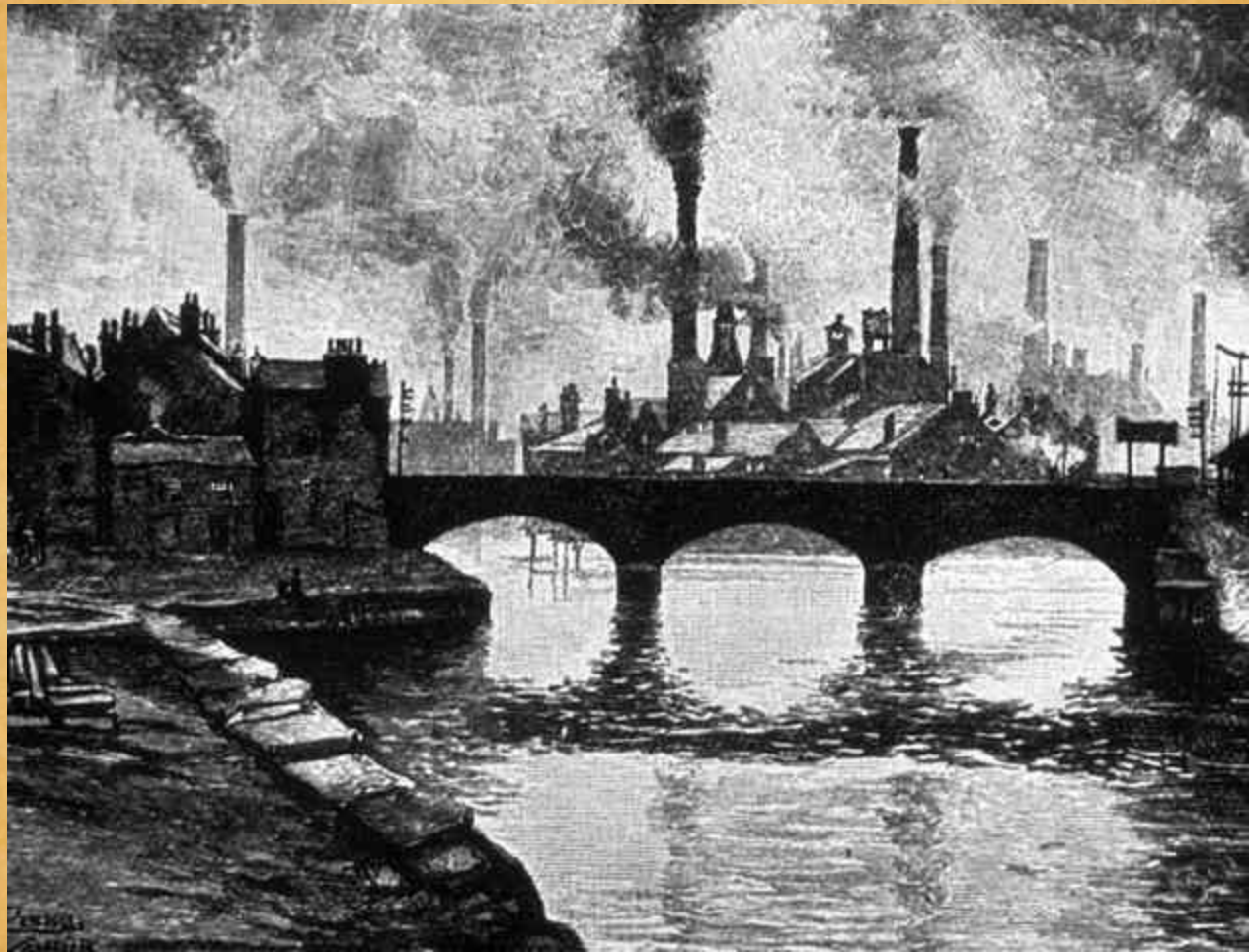
Economic

- I. The expanding Atlantic economy of the 18th century served mercantilist Britain very well
 - a) The growth of Royal Navy and the development of ports provided protection from foreign invasion, and that also promoted Britain's commercial empire
- II. Large supplies of capital were available because of profitable commercial activity
 - a) The central bank was established by the government in 1694
 - b) Britain had well-developed credit markets

Economic

- I. Land and geography
 - a) Britain was isolated which offered protection from the continental wars
 - b) Waterways and canals were a source of alternative power for factories, and transportation by ship for trade and communication
 - 1. It was much cheaper to ship goods by water than by land





The End