

Summary: The Age of Revolution

Changes in Science and Industry

In the 1600s, scientists and inventors began to make many new discoveries. Galileo Galilei explored the stars and planets with a telescope. Antoni van Leewenhoek used a microscope to see into a drop of water. The Scientific Revolution was a time of great scientific discoveries.

Modern societies grew from the Scientific Revolution. For example, new inventions changed how Europeans worked. Machines now did much of the work that had been done by humans and animals. These inventions changed how goods were made. The Industrial Revolution had begun.

In the late 1700s, English factories made cloth. A great number of factories were built in English cities. Soon England was called “The Workshop of the World.” Workers could earn more money in cities than on farms. Long hours and low pay were common, though. In 1838, three-fourths of the labor force was made up of women and children.

England’s early cloth industry was part of the beginning of capitalism. Factories and other businesses were able to make and sell goods that were not owned or controlled by the government. Private business owners decided which goods to produce. The owners set their own prices.

The French Revolution

People began to have new ideas about government, too. By the late 18th century, more people began fighting for political rights.

At the time, the French economy was in terrible shape. Hunger and high taxes made life miserable for common working people. Meanwhile, King Louis XVI and his queen Marie Antoinette lived expensive lives.

The French Revolution began on July 14, 1789. Mobs of people attacked a Paris prison called the Bastille. Revolts against the government spread. By 1791, France had a new constitution. It made all French citizens equal under the law. France finally became a republic in 1792.

The French Revolution ended in 1799. Eventually, ideas about equality and feelings of national pride spread throughout Europe. Citizens of other European nations began to fight for more rights and power.

Before You Read

Find and circle each vocabulary word.

Scientific Revolution *noun*, a time in the 16th and 17th centuries when scientific changes and discoveries occurred

Industrial Revolution *noun*, a time in the late 18th century when power-driven machines first made goods

labor force *noun*, a group of workers

capitalism *noun*, a system where privately owned factories and businesses make goods for profit

After You Read

REVIEW **How did the Scientific Revolution lead to the Industrial Revolution?** Highlight the sentences that tell how the Scientific Revolution led to the Industrial Revolution.

REVIEW **Why did French citizens demand a new government?** Underline the paragraph that tells reasons why the French revolted.