

In Monday's class we began our discussion with a reference made by Prof. Helman to I-3 of the Frederick Engels selection in our binder. The discussion began with comments on the jenny and how it improved production and its effects on lives. The jenny was used as a specific example of industrialization in general. One effect that was mentioned in class of the jenny was that farmers traded the plows of the fields to come work on the jennies, which carried the hope of more money and more free-time than toiling away in the fields.

There was a debate following this part of the class regarding whether or not there was still a need for manual labor and what was defined as hard manual labor. On the subject of labor the question was raised as to what manual labor jobs would be making money and which ones were no longer making money. It was decided after debate that the jobs which would still be making money were the skilled labor jobs such as violin making, for example. The manufacture of pens by hand, for example, would have lost money due to the ability of machines to do the same job. Saxophones and dodgeballs were also used as examples of the same comparison (saxophones=violines/dodgeballs=pens).

The second major question of class was what would our reaction be to the Industrial Revolution. The general consensus was that if we were proletariats we would dislike the Industrial Revolution due to its lack of job security for lower classes. On the other hand, if we were a bourgeoisie then we would be okay with the revolution because

it would mean higher profits and opportunities for middle/upper-management positions. It would also mean cheaper goods. Then the question was posed whether people were happy or unhappy with urbanization. Several scenarios were given to present an argument for both sides and there was no clear decision on whether people felt pushed into the cities or voluntarily left.

Various categories such as housing, clothing, food, and working conditions were part of the final stages of Monday's discussion. Examples from the reading about each were mentioned to strengthen and clarify points on each category listed on the chalkboard. The final question for the class was whether the Industrial Revolution was a good thing or if it was something that in hind-sight should have been stopped. It was mentioned that prior to the Industrial Revolution some believed those conditions to be not worthy of a human being due to long work days and poor pay. However, it was brought up that such conditions were all they knew before the revolution.