

Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844*

Important Passages:

- **L3-** Before the Industrial Revolution, people were intellectually dead.
- **L3-** Invention of the jenny led to weaver specialization and the loss of farming weavers.
- **L5-** Industrial Revolution set England apart from any other nation.
- **L6-** Predicted a revolution similar to that of the French Revolution to occur in England if oppression does not stop.
- **L7-** Uncertainty of proletarians about whether or not they will have a job each day.
- **L8-** Middle-class's living quarters are separated from those of the working class, and so middle-class might not have seen the slums too often.
- **L13-** Class struggle: bourgeoisie own everything.
- **L13-** Proletarians must starve in order to fight bourgeoisie.
- **L13-** Irishmen foil English proletarians.
- **L13 & 14-** Competition is one of the causes of the proletarian condition.
- **L15-** Workers are a commodity: fewer workers = higher wages = workers have more kids = more workers available = decrease in wages.
- **L16-** Society "murders" proletarians.
- **L18-** Deformities result from factory work.
- **L19-** Considered "old" at 40 years of age.
- **L21-** Evolution of birth control.

What were some of the changes that occurred in the working person's life as a result of the Industrial Revolution?

Before

- Working person exercised more control over his or her own life.
- Lived in less crowded conditions and worked outside under the sun in fresh air.
- They earned what they needed and had more time for leisure.

After

- Less freedom to set own schedule.
- Working class lives in dirty conditions and in close quarters with a lack of food and insufficient clothing, which increases chance of becoming ill.
- Start to think country life might have been better.

Was society guilty of murdering the working class?

- Cannot give society a single identity.
- Greedy bourgeoisie not giving lower class enough to survive; they are looking after their own wellbeing first and not considering that of the working class. Is this not human nature?
- The high demand for work allowed bourgeoisie to treat workers inhumanely, but the bourgeoisie did not consciously murder the proletarians.

What should a good owner do?

- Raise wages so that the happiness of the workers would increase, thus giving workers greater motivation to increase the business's productivity.
- Increased wages would also attract workers in pursuit of better pay from other factories, which might also help to increase a factory's productivity. (Competition among bourgeoisie for workers)

Is the middle-class similar to Frankenstein in that they create the proletariat but take no responsibility for it?

- Working class was established as middle-class began to set up factories; bourgeoisie did not really help the proletarians to overcome their poverty.
- Because the bourgeoisie did not create the proletariat consciously, is the working class really their responsibility?
- Frankenstein wanted to make a huge scientific advancement through his studies, which is similar to how the people of the Industrial Revolution strove to invent great machines.