

Society today is nothing like it used to be thousands of years ago. This is due to the simple reason that major changes have taken place all throughout history. People's thinking and lifestyle have altered greatly as a result of these revolutions. What is important to realize is that not all revolutions have to be political. As with the Neolithic Revolution and the Industrial Revolution, nonpolitical revolutions have introduced dramatic intellectual, economic, and/or social changes to cultures all over the world.

The Neolithic Revolution, from around 10,000 to 6,000 BC, ushered in an entirely new way of life from the Paleolithic lifestyle. Prior to 10,000 BC, most people were nomadic hunters, following herds of game for all their necessities. They never settled in one place for long and were highly affected by climate changes. Simple tools were made and fire was used for cooking and warmth. However, this was changed by the Neolithic, or Agricultural, Revolution. Instead of hunting and traveling from one area to another, they learned to farm by planting seeds and harvesting crops. Animals were domesticated for two purposes: to aid with the farming and to serve as food for their caretakers. No longer did people have to migrate.

Several changes in society resulted from the Neolithic Revolution. One major impact was that permanent settlements were established. With the development of villages, came also the rise of head leaders and chiefs. Social distinctions were eventually implemented, with divisions between men and women. They left

signs of culture, such as pottery and jewelry, for future anthropologists to examine and make conclusions. Of course, power struggles among aspiring chieftains ensued and the first wars were fought. The Neolithic Revolution was therefore an imperative step in the path to establish great civilizations.

Another major change in lifestyle occurred during the Industrial Revolution, from the 1750s to the 1850s. It began in England because of its many beneficial conditions. For instance, it had the iron ore and coal needed for machinery, a stable government, demand, transportation routes, and worker population. This nonpolitical revolution brought about numerous economic and social advancements and setbacks. Spinners and weavers had done their work at home but with the large machines, they were relocated to long sheds, called factories, by water sources for energy. Handmade goods were replaced by machine-made goods and mass production replaced the way spinners and weavers would produce goods one at a time. Supply and demand skyrocketed. Cities boomed and soon, many nations in Europe concerned themselves with churning out the most products.

The Industrial Revolution had a huge influence on the societies in which it was taking place. For one, the jump in child labor at the factories was shocking, especially to those who heard of the abuses. Children were worked to death, but they received nearly no income. Factory conditions were appalling, with the lack of sanitation, safety, and security; people

suffered so much during this industrialization. This resulted in calls for reform, for example the Sadler Report, and a few steps taken by the government to meet those demands. Health acts were passed to limit the working hours and set minimum wages, while also targeting the factories' neglect for the workers' rights and safety. Another effect was the intense pollution from the factory production, increasing the prevalence of asthma victims and other respiratory diseased victims. Although social reforms were issued, people suffered otherwise financially. The gap between the owners and the proletariat widened.

Many revolutions are not ~~driven~~ driven by the desire of political change, but rather by economic, intellectual, and social motives. The Neolithic and Industrial revolutions both are great examples of such changes, even though they occurred at the extreme ends of the historical timeline. The Neolithic revolution altered the way in which food was acquired, from nomadic hunting to farming and animal-domesticating. The Industrial revolution completely changed the way in which goods were produced. It is revolutions like these that make today's society ~~what~~ what it is.