Achievement and Growth

The Industrial Revolution was a major turning point for many places around the world. This was a time of not only social but also economic changes. The most important things that were improved during this time were machines, transportation, communications, and the methods that people worked. Life was far from perfect. With that being stated, the people who suffered are the reason we have some of the laws and regulations that we have today. The achievements and growth of the Industrial Revolution were worth the cost to society.

One of the major changes during the Industrial Revolution was the use of machinery. Some of the machines introduced during this time included the spinning jenny, cotton gin, and steam engine. In 1765 James Hargreaves invented the spinning jenny. In 1799 James Watt made needed improvements to the steam engine (Wade Thatcher). The both the spinning jenny and steam engine were brought together in one mill was when the speed at which cotton was spun majorly increased. Another thing that was introduced during this time was electricity. “Electricity provided a power source that was cleaner, quieter, more flexible, and more efficient than steam” (Michael Marshall). This source of power was used to light offices, homes, city streets, and even factories. With these advances taking place, our foundation for modern machinery and methods of production was laid down.

Another aspect of change was in transportation. During this time was when electric traction was developed further. Soon a specialist in
stationary gas engines, Gottlieb Daimler, along with the help of others was able to supply a machine with gas (Theo Barker). According to the article, Gasoline could now be held within a small tank on the vehicle (Theo Barker). From this, bus services and the motor cycle was produced. One of the biggest benefits was public transportation as well as cars, roads, and other things aided society instead of hurting it. This also led to a rise of new industries such as motor repairers, retailers, and road building (Theo Barker). Due to these things we know that Henry Ford developed the first production line (Neil Cossons). Taiichi Ohno and Eiji Toyoda contributed their concept of lean production. If these events would have never occurred we wouldn’t have the methods of transportation we have today.

You may have heard that a bad start can lead to success in the end. Well, this is the case with child labor and tenement life. When families moved to cities for work their life got worse than it was. To survive every member of the family had to work. This was when child labor started. Children worked hard for less pay than adults and hard work caused many of the children to become injured. They were basically forced to work because their families need any money they could get. Alongside child labor, tenement life was another horrible thing. “By the 1850s, tenements were ridiculously overcrowded, dirty, and disease ridden cesspools” (Deanna McFadden). Due to things like poor ventilation and no proper sewage, diseases spread and death rates soared (Deanna McFadden). “Nineteenth century reformers and labor organizers sought to restrict child labor and improve working conditions, but it took a market crash to finally sway public opinion” (history.com). If children would have never worked and life was never this way we wouldn’t have the labor laws and regulations we have today. The past has made everything we know today.
Due to the many advances we have today it is made evident that the achievements and growth of the Industrial Revolution were worth the cost to society. Things like computers and cars, which most people use every day, are products of what began during the Industrial Revolution. If people would have never suffered, who knows, we could have been those people just in a different time period. The Industrial Revolution helped to pave the way for the future.
Works Cited


