



Frames in Unit 7

The “long nineteenth century” appears revolutionary, no matter which frame you use to view the changes that occurred. But were these changes positive for everyone?



<p>0:08 <i>Bob Bain speaking; a timeline of the Long Nineteenth Century, lasting from 1750-1914 CE</i></p>	<p>We use the word revolution to describe a lot of the big events and Transformations, including the Haitian Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the French Revolution. You'll encounter all of these and more as you work your way through the Long 19th Century, the years between 1750 and 1914.</p>
<p><i>Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Belley; map of North and South America; series of paintings depicting the people and events associated with the revolutions in Haiti, Mexico, Latin America, and the British North American colonies</i></p>	<p>All these revolutions signify enormous change breaking with the past and creating something new. When viewed through each of the frames we see that in many ways a new world was created in this era. For example, people were rapidly changing their communities in a variety of ways. Old European Empires in the Americas were collapsing, many revolutions in Haiti, Mexico, Latin America, and the British North American colonies, resulted in new independent states.</p>
<p>0:58 <i>Bob Bain speaking; above him, the definition of nation-state is displayed</i></p>	<p>Many of these states formed new kinds of communities: nation-states. These nation-states were based on the radical idea that a people, although not necessarily all people, had the right to govern themselves individually and together as a country. Nation-states are a legacy of this era that still endures today. The United States, for example, was a nation-state created in this era.</p>
<p><i>Satirical painting depicting Uncle Sam building the Nicaraguan Canal</i></p>	<p>But the birth of nation-states did not mean the immediate end of all empires. In fact, new empires were created in the Long 19th Century. Existing powers, like Britain and France, along with new challengers, like Germany, the United States, and Japan, captured territory and conquered people in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.</p>
<p>1:42 <i>Bob Bain speaking; series of photos depicting city life in the 19th century</i></p>	<p>Changes were also happening at a smaller level to the structures of our communities. More and more people were moving to bigger and bigger cities. City life often meant people had less support from families and neighbors, and therefore needed to find new ways to connect and live with others.</p>
<p><i>Series of images depicting social life and scientific advancements of the 19th century</i></p>	<p>There was a growing philosophical challenge to religion, from changing ideas about religious communities and freedom. Changes that emerged in expanding networks of philosophers and scientists, who created exchanged and tested big new ideas. These innovations helped us to better understand our environment, our universe, and ourselves, and challenged older and traditional views.</p>
<p>2:25 <i>Photo of young children protesting slavery; photo of a group of women seated at a table</i></p>	<p>We developed a growing sense of human liberties, and the rights of workers, children, and other groups. Within these networks, ideas moved faster and people shared them more effectively than ever before, a change that has accelerated ever since.</p>



<p><i>Bob Bain speaking</i></p>	<p>Today's networks of idea-sharing and communication are faster and more extensive than ever before. All these changes occurred in the context of perhaps the biggest revolution of this era: the Industrial Revolution.</p>
<p>2:54 <i>Drawing depicting life during the Industrial Revolution; two illustrations: the first is a poster showing William McKinley standing atop a gold coin and the second is a satirical drawing depicting the capitalist pyramid</i></p>	<p>Not since humans started to farm had there been as large and important a transformation in production and distribution. The Industrial Revolution changed how we worked and how we lived. It shaped people's daily lives and schedules, the size of their families, and the food they ate. It also stimulated the development of not one, but two new and competing economic systems: capitalism and socialism.</p>
<p>3:21 <i>Bob Bain speaking</i></p>	<p>In many ways, industrialization was the economic root of our modern world. Our lives today, lived mostly in cities, employed for wages, buying what we need instead of making it ourselves, is a product of the Industrial Revolution.</p> <p>These revolutionary changes happened at an enormous scale. People around the world became increasingly connected through their communities, networks, and systems of production and distribution. But these changes did not affect everyone equally, and not everybody changed in the same way or at the same time.</p>
<p>3:55 <i>Bob Bain speaking; series of images of soldiers from World War I; painting depicting a WWI submarine and warship</i></p>	<p>Nevertheless, the Long 19th Century created a world that was more globalized than ever before. Now, when a major war broke out at the end of this era in 1914, people in many regions experienced that suffering together. That global war, World War I, broke down for a time, the global system of production and distribution of goods, and led to a great misery. It reduced connections between people and communities as shipping and communications came under attack. Great empires broke apart, while some new states were created from the fragments. It proved, and not for the last time, that our societies can be disrupted across all the frames, even in the Modern Age.</p>



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