



AP[®] European History 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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The years from 1850 to the beginning of the first world war were a time of rapid industrialization in Europe - a new working class emerged and appeared in the big cities of Europe, eager to profit from the opportunities & jobs created by the factories and workshops. The working class responded positively to the industrialization in Europe; accepting their new role in the cities, calling for state involvement in the life of the people and finally, seeking hope in the drudgery of this new life (social changes)

The availability of capital and eager entrepreneurs led to the establishment of many factories in the cities, and the working class optimistically underwent the pilgrimage from the countryside (putting-out system, guilds) to the city (huge and dangerous factories). Many sought to gain a living in this new sphere of society, as the countryside was no longer an area to benefit too much from. Whole families moved to the city, where they settled in the slums and obediently served factory owners and managers. Many took on the jobs of workers and laborers, pioneers in the area of national industrialization.

The working class, however, soon discovered the dark and dangerous slums of the city, the exploitation of factory workers and lack of fairness in life. While obediently following the rigid daily work schedules (to which they were unused to), the working class demanded greater state involvement in the affairs and welfare of the people. They demanded labor unions and other such organizations to protect themselves from job exploitation and similar oppression. Many also wanted a social welfare system (Germany was the first to give its people a welfare and pension system) and less exploitation of the young and poor. The government of England responded to these demands with the Poor Laws and the 10 Hours Act, which limited the workday to 10 hours per day. Although many were still exploited, the working class still realized it needed to help itself.

The working class also showed us changes in social structure and family life free from village and community controls. In the countryside many developed relationships in the city based simply on attraction and romance. This, however, was not always good: economic problems and other commitments prevented marriage and led to a large rate of illegitimacy. The working class helped itself by keeping the family together in the city for comfort and security in a time of widespread suffering, disease and oppression.

Industrialization and urban life were not easy for the working class which adequately rose to the challenge and led the way for future European industrialization and modernization. Moving from the countryside to the city, this group helped realize the state's goals of greater emphasis on production of goods and profit from export (with new technologies of nitrogen fixing and rotating crop cycle, enough food was already being produced). The working class responded to industrialization mainly by supporting factories in the cities, demanding greater reforms of working (labor) rights and living conditions and finally, increasing family togetherness. It should be noted that most of this occurred in western and central Europe, for the nations in the East (such as Russia) still focused on agrarian produce. Reform of living conditions mostly began from the demands of government agents and scientists (i.e. Louis Pasteur and his discoveries on the spread of disease and bacteria), and not from the working class, which knew it was living in filth but didn't try too much to change that.

During the 1850 - 1914 time period, the working class saw a gradually improving situation. Better sanitation, living conditions and working conditions improved ~~to~~ the disastrous situation of the early industrialization. But most working class people still felt they were left out of the social system that was established by industrialization - this led to the rise of new political movements: socialism, Marxism and anarchism.

The working class felt ~~that~~ that the liberal state didn't provide enough ~~services~~ help. Some people of the working class took a moderate course and embraced socialism, which proposed a more socially-orientated ~~a~~ state than that proposed by Jeremy Bentham, and John Stuart Mill, the welfare state. This was obvious, when you see the emergence of Labour party in England and the socialist party in France, led by Jean Jaurès and Jules Ferry.

A lot of working class people also joined Marxism, the theory advanced by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. They saw their chance

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Part C question 7

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because Marxism advocated the ~~proletarian~~ proletarian revolution: the working class would then be relieved of the burden of poverty and misery.

A third movement was anarchism, invented by Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, who declared "property is theft" - this movement was experienced during the Paris Commune of 1870. Although the most radical working class people responded by anarchism, it failed to have real importance.

The responses to industrialization by the working class were mainly socialism, Marxism and anarchism.