Study Guide

Unit 5: Nationalism, Industrialism and Imperialism

# Theme

What is the impact of technology upon society?

# Vocabulary

## Context

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Domestic System |  |
| Steam engine |  |
| Fossil Fuels |  |

## Conflict

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Industrialization |  |
| Factory system |  |
| Urbanization |  |
| Capitalism |  |
| Communism |  |

## Characters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| James Watt |  |
| Adam Smith |  |
| Karl Marx |  |
| Cecil Rhodes |  |
| King Leopold II of Belgium |  |

## Plot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Imperialism |  |
| Berlin Conference |  |
| Scramble for Africa |  |
| Social Darwinism |  |
| “White Man’s Burden” |  |

## Resolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nationalism |  |
| Opium Wars |  |
| Meiji Restoration |  |

# Analysis

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using your own words. The answers require about 3 sentences.

## Setting

1. How was life transformed by the Industrial Revolution?

## Conflict

1. What contributed to the changes of the Industrial Revolution?

## Characters

1. Compare and contrast the thought of Adam Smith and Karl Marx.

## Plot

1. Why did industrialized nations imperialize other places?

## Resolution

1. How was imperialism justified?

## Theme

1. Was the impact of the Industrial Revolution positive or negative?

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# Theme

What is the impact of technology upon society?

# Vocabulary

## Context

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Domestic System | Merchants distributed jobs out to people to complete in their homes |
| Steam engine | A machine using steam to perform mechanical work. |
| Fossil Fuels | An energy source (oil, gas and coal) formed from ancient plants captured underground |

## Conflict

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Industrialization | An economic system built on manufacturing products with machines |
| Factory system | Replacing the domestic system, people now went to factories that were built to house machines |
| Urbanization | The process of moving from rural to urban areas, or from farms to cities. |
| Capitalism | An economic system based on the free trade of privately owned goods or services provided through firms or companies. |
| Communism | An economic system where the means of production are shared thereby eliminating social class. |

## Characters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| James Watt | Inventor of the steam engine |
| Adam Smith | Influential economist who observed the productivity of specialization and argued that markets would regulate themselves through supply and demand. |
| Karl Marx | Influential economist who critiqued industrialism and argued that workers would unite against their exploitation to move society to holding property in common. |
| Cecil Rhodes | British colonizer in South Africa who grew wealthy trading in diamonds. |
| King Leopold II of Belgium | Belgian king who grew wealthy from the rubber trade in his colony of Congo. |

## Plot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Imperialism | A country’s expansion of power into new territories through colonization. |
| Berlin Conference | A gathering of European powers to organize the colonization of Africa. |
| Scramble for Africa | The division, occupation, and colonization of Africa by European nations from 1881 to 1914. |
| Social Darwinism | The application of the concept of natural selection to human society, arguing some were more ‘fit’ than others. |
| “White Man’s Burden” | The task of white colonizers to civilize the people in their colonies. |

## Resolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nationalism | An extreme form of patriotism marked by a sense of superiority over other peoples |
| Opium Wars | Wars successfully fought by the British over China to open new ports for their opium trade. |
| Meiji Restoration | The radical political changes in Japan to modernize it as a response to Western imperialism |

# Analysis

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using your own words. The answers require about 3 sentences.

## Setting

1. How was life transformed by the Industrial Revolution?

Life before the Industrial Revolution was focused on agriculture. Most people were farmers and their life and work tended to revolve around their family and house. They lived by the rhythms of the sun and seasons. The Industrial Revolution shifted the center of life from farming to factories. People moved to cities, urbanization, where they found work in the newly developing factory system. There they worked by the clock for tasks requiring minimal skills. They were now required to work long hours under a boss for small pay, shifting life away from the family.

## Conflict

1. What contributed to the changes of the Industrial Revolution?

Several changes contributed to the industrial revolution. 1) *A labor force.* New innovations in agriculture helped to increase the productivity of the land, like Jethro Tull’s seed drill. More could be produced with fewer people. This created a population looking for new employment. 2) *Capital*. New technologies in cloth-production put an end to the domestic system because machines could produce more. These new machines required large amounts of capital (money) both to have them built and to house them in factories. Only a few could afford this. 3) *Natural resources*. The availability of natural resources, especially fossil fuels, for running machines was required. 4) *Transprotation*. Finally a strong system of transportation supported the movement of goods.

## Characters

1. Compare and contrast the thought of Adam Smith and Karl Marx.

Both economists were deeply impacted by the changes they witnessed during the Industrial Revolution. Adam Smith saw the efficiency and productivity of specialization, or a division of labor. He argued that the balance of supply and demand did not require oversight, but worked naturally by “the invisible hand”; therefore, he was critical of the mercantilist system of the time. On the other hand, Karl Marx saw how work in the industrial factories dehumanized and exploited people. He argued that workers would unite to revolt against this system of oppression.

## Plot

1. Why did industrialized nations imperialize other places?

Industrialization began with machines that could increase the production of goods, but with that increased efficiency there was also a demand for more natural resources. (Increased production of cloth leads to a demand for more thread. Increased production of thread leads to a greater demand for cotton.) European nations looked beyond their borders for natural resources and they turned to Africa and Asia. A new wave of colonization began. At the Berlin Conference, European nations agreed to divide up Africa, ignoring traditional ethnic and cultural boundaries.

## Resolution

1. How was imperialism justified?

Europeans influenced by Social Darwinism believed that they had a special responsibility as a superior “race” to civilize the foreign peoples of Africa and Asia. Europeans transferred Darwin’s new observations on biology and evolution to a social context believing that Europeans were more “evolved” or” fit” than others. They moved outward not only colonize, but with a sense of responsibility to civilize others—the “white man’s burden.” European nationalism became increasingly competitive as they scrambled for control of resources and power.

## Theme

1. Was the impact of the Industrial Revolution positive or negative?

The Industrial Revolution led to overall increasing wealth, especially for the new growing middle class. Nevertheless, it had many negative consequences, like working conditions that exploited the working class both at home and abroad, environmental pollution, colonization, and questionable social values.