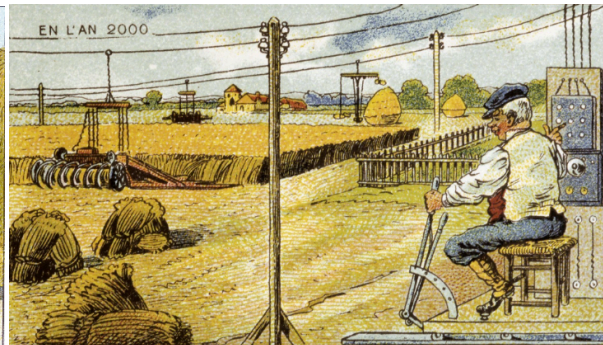# The Rural Exodus

The building of factories required a large source of labour. This combined with the use of machines in the countryside led to a **rural exodus** as people left the countryside to go and live in urban areas.
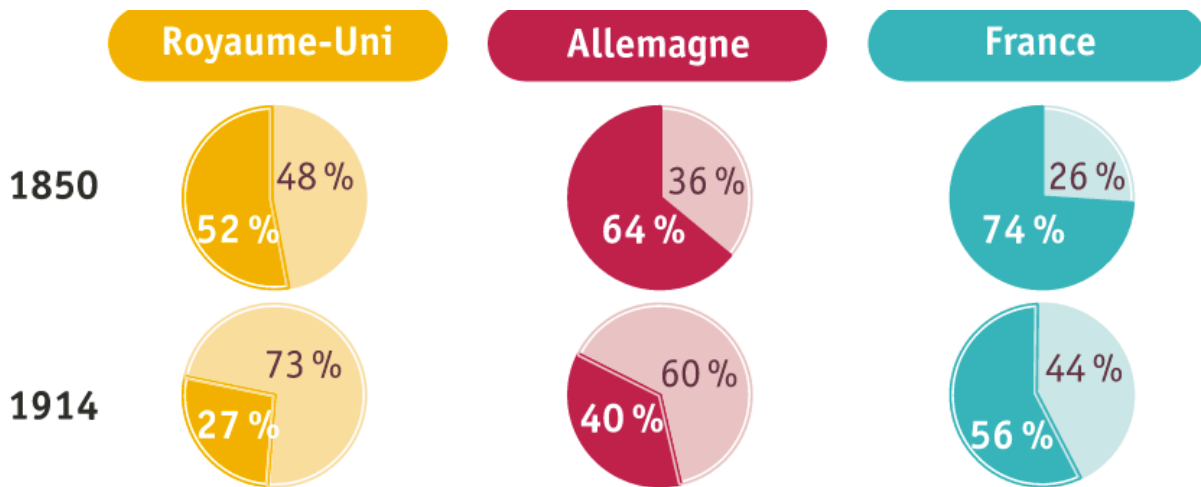
The Mechanisation of Agriculture

A combine harvester, 1910.

'Farming in 2000', 1910.

Rural and Urban Populations in the 19th and 20th centuries

Royaume-Uni

1850: 52% / 48%
1914: 27% / 73%

Allemagne

1850: 64% / 36%
1914: 40% / 60%

France

1850: 74% / 26%
1914: 56% / 44%

52 % Part de la population rurale
48 % Part de la population urbaine

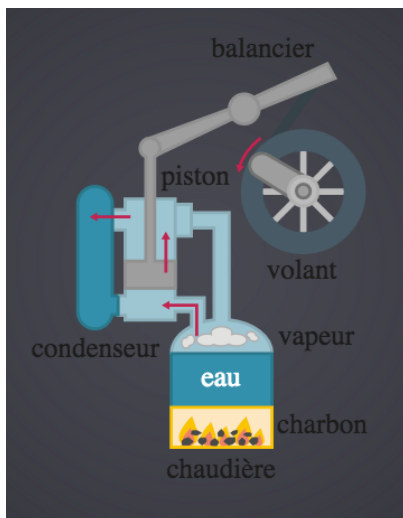| Translations		
UK	Germany	France
52%	Share of the rural population	
48%	Share of the urban population	

The Economic and Social Consequences of Industrialisation

The industrial revolution, which began in England during the 18th century was based upon a new source of energy (coal) and a new invention (the steam engine) which was used in the textile industry, metal industry and the railway industry. In the 1880s there was a **second industrial revol**ution based on another new source of energy (electricity and oil).

Mechanisation of farming and the use of machines in factories meant that production augmented and prices fell so more trade took place.

Diagram of James Watt's steam engine

| Translations |
|---|
| Pump |
| Piston |
| Wheel |
| Condenser   Steam |
| Coal |
| Boiler |

The development of factories, purchase of machines and equipment and the construction of railways were financed by banks which **lent** money. Businesses also sold **shares** to people to raise funds. These entitled people to a share of a company's profits if it was successful.

A share certificate issued by Rio Tinto, a mining company, in 1890.
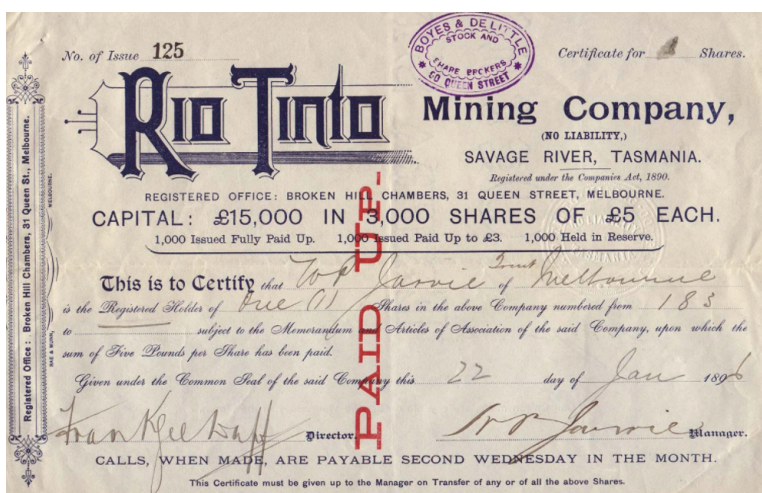
Peasants still made up the bulk of the population during the industrial revolution, however their lives were transformed by mechanisation in the countryside. As the working class grew in number, a new social group developed due to savings and education: the middle classes (employees of shops, banks etc). Industrialisation also led to the rise of the bourgeoisie who were enriched by commerce and banking. Well-known examples of these people include Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) who made his fortune in US steel companies, and John D Rockefeller (1839-1937) who made his money in the oil business.

The landscape of the industrial regions was transformed by mining and the metal industry. Such areas were called the 'Black country' and were common to France, England and other industrialized countries in the 19th century.

Smoke rising from factories in an industrial town in northern England, late 19th century

Technological progress improved living standards during the industrial revolution. Workers also organised themselves into unions and went on protests demanding improvements to their working conditions. Numerous social reforms were made however economic crises still periodically slowed economic activity and led to a rise in unemployment when factories dismissed workers.

Social Transformations in Europe

Faced with the consequences of industrialisation (such as poor living and working conditions) several political ideologies began to emerge.

Economic Liberalism rejected the idea of state intervention, defended private property ownership, and left industrialists free to run their businesses as they wanted. Socialism denounced what it saw as the exploitation of the poorest members of society and called for revolution against the social order.

In 1891, Pope Leon XIII, also denounced the abuses of unscrupulous bosses and proposed the concept of a social Catholicism.

In France the bourgeoisie and the working classes united in opposition to King Louis-Philippe and the revolution in 1848 led to the creation of the Second Republic. This introduced new rights for workers and to reduce unemployment, national workshops were created. These places provided obligatory work and a salary for Parisian workers

The French Second Republic, 1848-1852

Explanation of Picture

The **rainbow** represents fraternity.

The **carpenter's level** symbolizes equality.

The Second Republic relied on the **bee-hive** and the **lion**, i.e. the industriousness and the might of the French people.

Elsewhere in Europe there were other revolutions against the authorities, this was the so-called Springtime of the Peoples. A wave of nationalist sentiment later swept Italy and Germany during the 1860s and 1870s, which led to the unification of these countries.