

Industrial development and social changes

The industrial revolution at the end of the 18th century laid the foundations for a radical change of the production system and therefore of the same structure of western society. While in the agricultural sector innovations due to technical progress had a limited affirmation, with the second revolution industrial, dating back to the first two decades of the nineteenth century, technological evolution found wide application in the manufacturing sector. Modern industry was characterized by three main elements:

1) introduction large-scale machinery, gathered in certain places, intended exclusively to accommodate production activities (factories);

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Summary of Renaissance

Between 1350 and 1550, Europe experienced a rebirth (renaissance) of commerce, interest in the classical cultures of ancient Greece and Rome, and confidence in human potential.

Key Ideas

- ✪ The Renaissance began on the Italian peninsula because of its location as the gateway to Eastern trade.
- ✪ The outstanding feature of Renaissance Italian society was the degree to which it was urban.
- ✪ Renaissance values were based on the revival of humanism—that is, an interest in an education program based on the languages and values of Classical Greek and Roman cultures.
- ✪ In the fifteenth century, Renaissance values spread northward to the rest of Europe.

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Italy from 1831 to 1846

After the uprisings of 1831 there had been no significant political or institutional changes in the Italian states. The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was affected in 1837 by a severely repressed separatist insurrection in Sicily. The new king Ferdinand II took care to strengthen the alliance between monarchy, aristocracy and clergy, while the bourgeoisie was too small to have any weight. Lombardy-Veneto, under Austrian domination, was the richest and most advanced part of the empire: while exploiting its resources and by repressing any aspiration for autonomy in the region, the Austrians had created an efficient government and strengthened education and the communications network. The Church State represented perhaps the maximum example of political, social and economic backwardness, while every reformist initiative had been condemned by Gregory XVI with the encyclical *Mirari vos* of 1832.

The European Union (EU)

The European Union is not a geographical expression, but a supranational organization between States as it is politically integrated (with common institutions, such as Parliament and the Commission and the free movement of citizens) and economically (Central Bank, single currency for 19 countries, free movement of goods).

The EU Member States from 28 that were will shrink to 27 because the UK voted in 2016 for the exit from the EU. They are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Hungary.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

The CIS is an international organization of economic, political and military cooperation, born in 1991 at the same time as the dissolution of the USSR. It includes nine of the fifteen former Soviet republics, some geographically belonging to Europe, some not: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The most significant objective of the CIS is the creation of an economic free trade area between states members, in force since 2005. Cooperation in the democratization and prevention of international crimes is also among its aims.

Year 2017

January

1. Turkey: massacre at Reina del night club Istanbul's Beshiktash district where a solitary attacker armed with Kalashnikovs kills 39 people injuring 70. The attack was claimed by ISIS.

2. France: English narrator, essayist and painter John Berger dies (90 years). Its the novel G. (1972) and the essay Questione di looks (Ways of Seeing, 1972). Brazil: the death toll is at least 60 a riot in Manaus prison.

4. Rome: according to ISTAT surveys, the price trend in Italy is in deflation at the end of 2016 (-0, 1%). Not it happened from 1 959. Philippines: a commando of Islamists assaults Kidapawan prison in the south of the country, freeing more than 1,500 prisoners. Dead 1 guard and killed 6 detainees.

5. Rome: the linguist Tullio De Mauro dies (84 years old). He had been education minister. Among the many works, the dictionary of the language Italian for the third millennium.

6. USA: at Fort Lauderdale airport, in Florida, an ex-soldier gets off a flight inside and shoot: 5 people killed and 8 injured.

9. Egypt: at least 8 soldiers died in one place blockade in Northern Sinai forced by a suicide bomber on board a truck. Yesterday in Jerusalem in the same way, 4 soldiers killed by a Palestinian. United Kingdom: influential

Polish sociologist Zygmunt Bauman (91 years old) the theorist of the "liquid society" dies in Leeds.