

MAIN IDEA

The factory system changed the way people lived and worked, introducing a variety of problems.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The difficult process of industrialization is being repeated in many less-developed countries today.

SETTING THE STAGE The Industrial Revolution eventually led to a better quality of life for most people. Yet the change to machine production also caused immense human suffering. In Britain, the Industrial Revolution proved to be a mixed blessing.

Industrialization Changes Ways of Life

The pace of industrialization quickened in Britain. By the 1800s more people could afford to heat their homes with coal from Wales and to dine on Scottish beef. They wore better clothing, too, woven on power looms in England's industrial cities. These cities soon swelled with workers. However, other people suffered from industrialization.

Growth of Industrial Cities For centuries, most Europeans had lived in rural areas. After 1800, the balance shifted toward cities. The growth of the factory system—manufacturing goods in a central location—brought waves of jobseekers to cities and towns. Between 1800 and 1850, the number of European cities boasting more than 100,000 inhabitants rose from 22 to 47. Most of Europe's urban areas at

least doubled in population. This period was one of **urbanization**—city building and the movement of people to cities. Some cities, such as Glasgow and Berlin, tripled or even quadrupled in size.

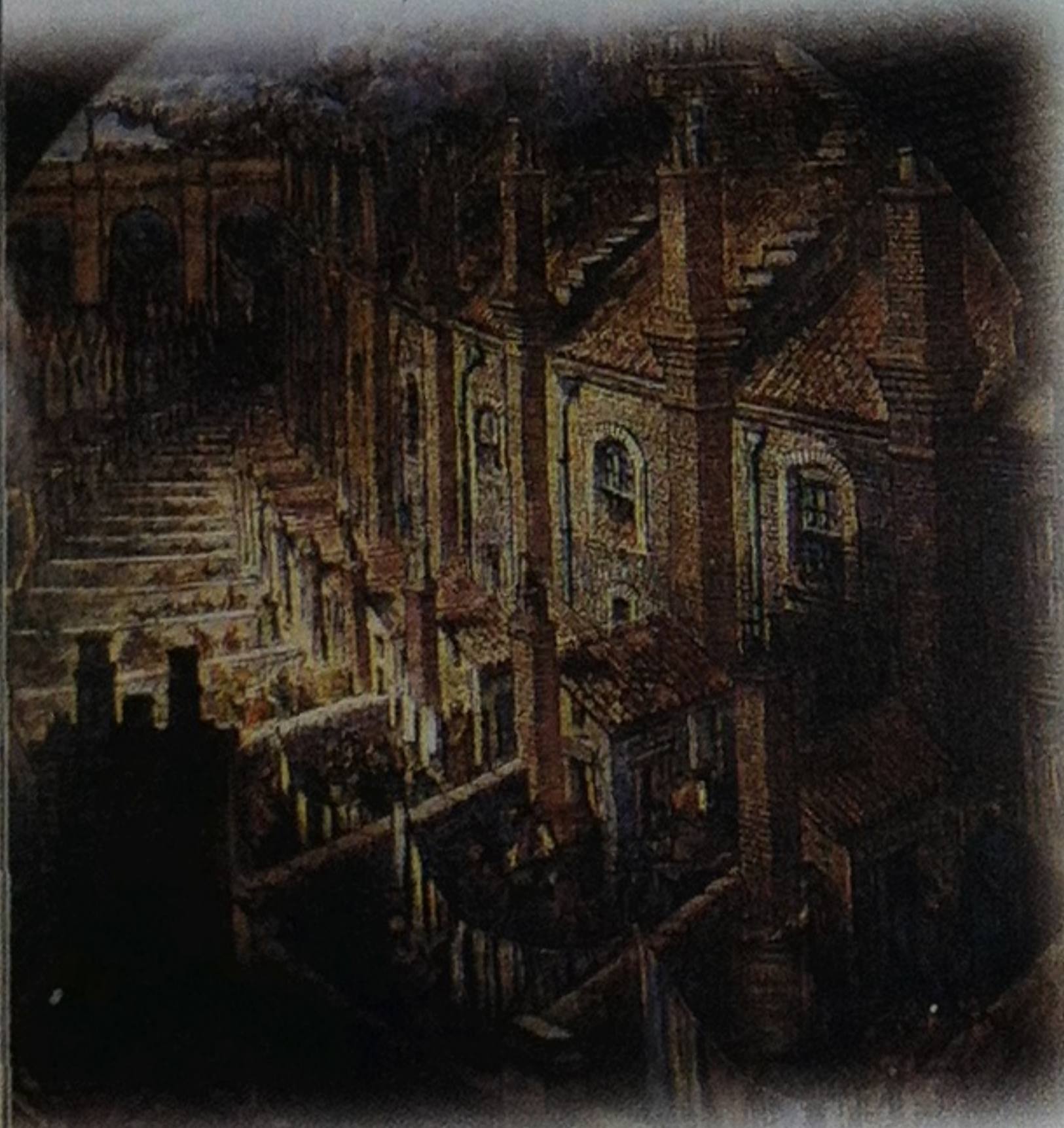
Factories developed in clusters because entrepreneurs built them near sources of energy. Major new industrial centers sprang up between the coal-rich area of southern Wales and the Clyde River valley in Scotland. The biggest of these centers developed in England.

Britain's capital, London, was the country's most important city. Containing twice as many people as its closest rival (Paris), London became Europe's largest city. It had a population of about 1 million people by 1800. During the 1800s London's population exploded, providing a vast labor pool and market for new industry.

Newer cities challenged London's industrial leadership. Birmingham and Sheffield became iron-smelting centers. Leeds and Manchester dominated textile manufacturing. Along with the

port of Liverpool, Manchester formed the center of Britain's bustling cotton industry. During the 1800s, Manchester experienced rapid growth. In 1760, the population of this market town was around 45,000. By 1850, it had swelled to 300,000 people.

Living Conditions No plans, no sanitary codes, and no building codes controlled the growth of England's cities. They lacked adequate housing, education, and police protection for the people who poured in from the countryside seeking jobs. Most of the unpaved streets had no drains and collected heaps of garbage. Workers lived in dark, dirty shelters, whole families crowding into one bedroom.



As cities grew all over Europe, people crowded into tenements and row houses such as these in London.