



# **nova** Mea Schola

**Centro di istruzione e formazione**

At the end of the 18 th century there were two revolutions: the agrarian and industrial revolutions. The British colonies became a new Nation and the French Revolution spread ideas of freedom and equality

# What changes were there in Britain at the 18 th century?

Britain changed from a farming country into an industrial one. Searching a new job , a lot of people went to the city . The most important cities are London, Manchester and Liverpool

## **What caused this change?**

The growth of the population led to a greater demand for food, clothes... and a more efficient production

## **What did the “Industrial Revolution imply”?**

It implied new technologies and inventions, the development of the factory system (this introduced alienation ) and new transports and power. Moreover children became chimney sweepers because they were small

## What were the most important inventions?

Machinery for cloth-making , such as the Spinning Jenny (**telaio meccanico** ) and the water frame (**telaio ad acqua**)

## What fuelled these machines?

Firstly, most of the power came from water , but they need for more energy led to the steam power. Then James Watt invented a more powerfull engine that wasted less fuel

## **What was the effect of Watt's invention?**

New factories were built on the coal and iron fields and they allowed Britain to produce cloth more cheaply but some people lost their job

## **How did changes in transport affect the Revolution?**

Goods became cheaper and transport more efficient. New waterways and roads were built.

## **What changes occurred in agriculture?**

In agriculture were used new technological invention , such as the shifting of the fields.

## **What forms did the Agrarian Revolution take?**

It took two principal form : the widespread enclosure of open fields and common land to make larger farms; improvement in the selective breeding to produce more meat.

## INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

During 18th century there was a shifting of population from the agricultural areas of the south, to the factories of the north. The workers lived in small towns called “mushrooms towns”. A lot of women and children were employed because they could be paid less. People worked for lots of hours in terrible living conditions, in fact there weren't public services, the air and water were polluted and the houses were overcrowded.



The life expectancy of the poor inhabitants was under 20 years, due to diseases, heavy drinking and alienation.

At the beginning of 19th century, the need of workers increased in consequence of the new technologies but increased also the discontent, so it was a period of repression.

## HOW CHILD LABOUR CHANGED THE WORLD

At the beginning of the 19 th century the working children were more than a million. Factory owners found out that local labour was scarce and unsuitable for industrial production, so they created a new work force: the children. They were cheap, malleable and fast learning. They weren't paid but only fed and given a place to sleep. During time the exploitation of children increased but it was only an extension of an already established practiced employed by farmers.

## **LONDON** by WILLIAM BLAKE (1794)

One of his greatest, this poem conveys Blake's view of the city, of the disease and suffering brought about by industrialisation. Blake lived in each society where is important work, production, wealth and corruption.

In particular he worked in London. He used the first person. Child has a lot of man with pure sore for the contact to nature

## THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

In 1760, the American colonies were rich and populated by educated religious and political refugees and economic migrants.

### **What was the situation in Britain when George III came to the throne?**

When George III came to the throne, Britain was in control of the seas and was in a period of domestic stability and economic expansion.

# What caused the conflict between the American colonies and Britain?

The British government imposed new taxes at the American colonies to help pay for their defence , such as the tax on the importation of the tea . In 1773 , at the Boston Tea Party , some rebels , dressed as native americans , threw the tea into the Boston harbor because they thought that the taxes were unjust. (their motto was "No taxation without representation")

## **Did any people in England support the American cause?**

Yes, Edmond Burke recognized the justice of the American cause and Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* stimulated the desire for a republic .

## **What was the difference between the Patriots and Loyalist's?**

When the war of independence began the Americans were divided into Patriots and Loyalists. The Patriots had no army but they knew the land and were supported by the French .The Loyalist had an army but it was too small to attack or defend

## **What happened on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1776?**

In Philadelphia , the Continental Congress signed the declaration of independence , written by Jefferson . It established that all man had a natural right to life, liberty and happiness .Moreover it said that governments can rule only if they have the approval of the population



## **What did the Treaty of Versailles recognise?**

The Treaty recognised the Independence of its colonies. The new republic of USA adopted a federal constitution , and George Washington became the first president in 1789 .

## 1776, THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

On 4 th July 1776 the declaration of independence was signed. On 9 th July 1776 the colonial assembly of New York gave its assent to the declaration. The inhabitants pulled down a statue of King George III and the royal arms were taken down. The king's name was removed from documents and his portraits were destroyed

## AMERICAN'S BIRTHDAY

On 4<sup>th</sup> July , American people celebrate with parades and fireworks. Families and Friends organize barbecues and picnics with hot dogs , hamburgers and chocolate cake .

## THE SUBLIME: A NEW SENSIBILITY

The sublime is what inspire a strong feeling.

### A journalist

Scholars have debated the term “sublime “in the field of aesthetics for centuries. This latin term expresses noble of elevated feeling and behavior. It was analized by an unknown rhetorician of the 1 century A.D. : it is not the perfection of the style but the passion of ispiration echoing in the soul. Joseph Addison in “ The Spectator” distincts the beautiful and the sublime . Also Edmund Burke opposed the beautiful at the sublime

## A gallery owner

The writings of Burke contained the themes. The first was that sublime should be discussed in terms of its effects upon the perceiver. So, the person who enjoys sublimity became more important than peaking object.

Classical and Renaissance aestheticians defined the qualities of the beautiful object, followed, for example, for the Venues de Milo, that is a mixture of unity and variety.

## **A teacher**

Burke's conception of the sublime relates to nature and art. The sublime now becomes what causes astonishment, "that state of soul which all its motions are suspended, with some degree of horror". Sometimes the sublime produces admiration, reverence, and respect. Often it produced terror. Relating to art Burke lists sources of sublimity: magnitude, unfinishedness, difficulty, magnificence and color.

## A lecturer

The sublime isn't the pleasure produced by beautiful forms or the detached contemplation of the object but it is connected at the feelings of fear and horror created by what is infinite and terrible. (obscurity, silence, tall oaks ,night are sublime. flowerbeds and days are beautiful)

Burke called it horrible beauty and his theory was developed by Emmanuel Kant : he wrote that the sublime doesn't derive from sensibility and intellect but the free conflict between sensibility and reason. (The sublime is in the subject who perceives it, not in the object)

## IS IT ROMANTIC?

The word “Romantic” was adopted at the end of 18th century, at first it was linked to romance. Rousseau linked this adjective to a new sensibility.

With the term “romantic age” we identify a period in which certain ideas become dominant in most intellectual areas.

Expression (in art, music, poetry, drama, literature) was very important to the Romantics. In most cases, these ideas were created by sense of dissatisfaction with the dominant ideals of the society.



## EMOTION VS REASON

The poets were divided in: pre-romantic (Thomson: natural country scene, Gray “Elegy written in a country churchyard” and Burns because he spoke about love ,countrylife and use a dialect), 1st generation (Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge) and 2nd generation (Byron, Keats, Shelley).

In England there were two faces of Romanticism: Pre-romanticism and Romanticism (this one started in England on middle to 17th century). These writers gave voice to a period of political, social and intellectual change.

English Romanticism covers the period between the French Revolution and the coronation of Queen Victoria in 1837. Differences with the Enlightenment: it emphasised objectivity and reason, Romanticism empathized the subjective and irrational parts of human nature (= emotion, imagination, introspection).

## A NEW SENSIBILITY

At the end of the 18th century a new sensibility became dominante and it was called Romanticism ,refferring to feelings and emotions. It led also to a new way of considering the role of man in the universe. The interest in every day life and in the countryside grew , because it is the place were there is a relationship with nature. A new taste for the desolate spread , to contrast with present reality. There was also a revoluction in the concept of nature : no more n abstract and philosophical concept but something that man could control with reason Than it was seen as a manifestation of divine power. Immagination became very important because expressed the emotional experience . Moreover to a romantic a child was purer than an adult because he was unspoilt by civilisation and uncorrupted ,so he was closer to Good .

## THE EMPHASIS ON THE INDIVIDUAL

The Romantics thought that universe was expanding and that it was organic and alive. Great emphasis was laid on the significance of the individual.

They saw the individual in a solitary state and they exalted the atypical and the rebel ( for example the rebel in Coleridge and the Byronic hero).

Moreover they thought that the habits and rules imposed by the society had to be abandoned.

Rousseau encourage the idea that the conventions of civilisation were intolerable to the individual, producing corruption and evil; only natural behavior was good.

Rousseau also influenced the cult of exotic : the veneration of what is far in space and time , with frightening features.

## HOW THE ROMANTICS UNDERSTOOD NATURE

The Romantics admire the power of living nature and looked for its moral and emotional relationship with mankind. The warmth of the heart was found by communion with nature. The heart was a source of knowledge. Man could learn more through intuition, feelings and instinct. The interest in the humble and uncultured is the demonstration of how the romantics reinterpreted the irrational aspect of reality: the imagination.

## A GUIDE TO THE ROMANTIC UNDERSTANDING OF NATURE

The Romantics considered nature as:

- . Opposed to institutionalised practices of thought
- . A substitute for traditional religion (pragmatic)
- . A vehicle for self consciousness : people discover what they really are
- . A source of sensations
- . A provocation to a state of imagination
- . An expressive language