

THEMATIC REVIEW SHEET #8: Dual Revolutions - Capitalist Industrialism & the Nation State

• *The dual revolutions of capitalist industrialism and the nation state profoundly altered the identities of individuals in Europe and the Americas by transforming the means by which they earned their livelihoods, the nature of the communities in which they lived, and their relationships to political authority.*

- The **Industrial Revolution** was closely tied to the economic system of **capitalism - the use or investment of money to make profits.**
- **Commercial capitalism** developed with the late-medieval revival of cities and trade and flourished as a result of global exploration, trade, and colonization beginning in the 16th century.
- **Before the 16th century, the power of monarchs depended on their relationship with an agrarian-military aristocracy; with the development of commercial capitalism, monarchs were supported by their merchant partners in mercantilism.**

In the economic sphere:

- **BEFORE -- guild production** (where the masters lived in close daily contact with their laborers and apprentices) and the **domestic system** (entrepreneurs who provided raw materials had personal contact with the workers)
 - **AFTER -- impersonal and shifting relationships of the factory mode of production** → clear distinctions between employer and employee + increasing demographic mobility and urbanization
- **Absolute monarchs** of the 17th and 18th centuries -- such as Louis XIV of France -- thought of themselves as the embodiment of the state.
 - The **redefinition and transformation of the state** took place in a variety of ways:
 - in **England**, the evolution of the modern nation state was catalyzed by revolutionary changes in the 17th century (English Civil War)
 - **American and French Revolutions** in the 18th century produced modern nation states
 - These political transformations were based on the concept of the state as a **social contract -- the idea of a compact between rulers and ruled as the basis for the state.**
 - The contractual nature of society was acknowledged by **political guarantees of legal equality and personal freedom, though gender and social class often determined the extent to which these principles were enacted.**

17th through 19th centuries in Europe -- DUAL REVOLUTIONS:

- changing modes of production accompanied capitalist industrialism
- nation states replaced dynastic states
- their effects were not uniform and did not occur at the same time

- **Capitalist industrialism depended on the nation state to succeed and supported the efforts of nation states in Europe (and the U.S.) to extract wealth from other parts of the world & reinvest it.**
- **National revolutions in Latin America** were tied both to Europe and to independence movements directed by indigenous leaders.