CHAPTER 24

Life in the Emerging Urban Society

0CHAPTER OUTLINE0

I0.   Taming the City0
    A0.   Industry and the Growth of Cities0
        10.   The challenge of urban growth was felt first and most acutely in Britain.
        20.   In the 1820s and 30s people in France and Britain began to worry about the condition of their cities.
        30.   Rapid urbanization without any public transportation worsened already poor living conditions in cities in the nineteenth century.
        40.   Government was slow to improve sanitation and building codes.
    B0.   Public Health and the Bacterial Revolution.
        10.   Advances in public health, urban planning, and urban transport ameliorated these conditions by 1900.
        20.   Edwin Chadwick in England advocated improved sewage systems.
        30.   Louis Pasteur in France discovered that bacteria caused disease (1860s).
    C0.   Urban Planning and Public Transportation
        10.   In Paris and other European cities urban planners demolished buildings and medieval walls to create wide boulevards and public parks.
        20.   Mass public transport, including electric streetcars, enabled city dwellers to live further from the city center, relieving overcrowding.
II0. Rich and Poor and Those in Between0
    A0.   Social Structure
        10.   Wealth was distributed very unevenly throughout Europe.
        20.   Only 20 percent of the population was middle class or wealthy.
    B0.   The Middle Classes
        10.   The urban middle class was diverse.
        20.   The upper middle class included the most successful industrialists, bankers, and merchants. Increasingly, it merged with the aristocracy.
        30.   Middle ranks included doctors, lawyers, and moderately successful bankers and industrialists.
        40.   The lower middle class included small business owners, salespeople, store managers, clerks, and other white-collar employees.
    C0.   Middle-Class Culture
        10.   Middle-class people were loosely united by a certain style of life and culture.
        20.   They were also united by a shared code of behavior and morality.
    D0.   The Working Classes0
        10.   Skilled workers lived very different lives from the semiskilled and unskilled.
        20.   Skilled workers' income approached that of the lower middle classes.
        30.   Skilled workers tended to embrace the middle-class moral code.
        40.   Semiskilled and unskilled workers included many different occupations, from carpenters and bricklayers to longshoremen, street vendors, and domestic servants.
        50.   Domestic servants were a large proportion of the population.

E0.   Working-Class Leisure and Religion
10.   Working-class leisure included drinking in taverns; watching sports, especially racing and soccer; and attending music hall performances.
20.   Working-class church attendance declined in the nineteenth century.
III0. The Changing Family0
A0.   Premarital Sex and Marriage0
10.   For the middle classes, economic considerations continued to be paramount in choosing marriage partners through most of the nineteenth century.
20.   Increasing economic well-being allowed members of the working class to select marriage partners based more on romance.
B0.   Prostitution
10.   Prostitution was common.
20.   Middle- and upper-class men frequently visited prostitutes.
C0.   Kinship Ties
10.   Kinship ties helped working-class people to cope with sickness, unemployment, death, and old age.
D0.   Gender Roles and Family Life
10.   The status of women changed during the nineteenth century.
20.   The division of labor became more defined by gender.
30.   Economic inferiority led some women to organize for equality and women's rights.
40.   As society increasingly relegated women to the domestic sphere, women gained control over household finances and the education of children.
50.   Married couples developed stronger emotional ties to each other.
E0.   Child Rearing
10.   Attitudes toward children also changed during this period.
20.   Emotional ties between mothers and infants deepened.
30.   There was more breast-feeding and less swaddling and abandonment of babies.
40.   Increased connection often meant increased control, including attempts to repress the child's sexuality (for example, to prevent masturbation).
IV0. Science and Thought0
A0.   The Triumph of Science 0
10.   Theoretical discoveries resulted in practical benefits, as in chemistry and electricity.
20.   Scientific achievements gave science considerable prestige.
B0.   Social Science and Evolution
10.   Charles Darwin formulated his theory of evolution by natural selection.
20.   New "social sciences" used data collected by states to test theories.
30.   Auguste Comte's "positivism" presented the scientific method as the pinnacle of human intellectual achievement.
40.   Social Darwinists such as Spencer applied Darwin's ideas to human affairs.
C0.   Realism in Literature
10.   The Realist movement in literature reflected the ethos of European society.
20.   This was an expression of writers who sought to depict life as it really was.
30.   Realism stressed the hereditary and environmental determinants of human behavior.

0INTERNET RESOURCES0

10.   National Archives: Citizenship: A History of People, Rights, and Power in Britain (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/index.htm)

20.   National Archives: Power, Politics and Protest (www.learningcurve.gov.uk/politics/default.htm)

30.   Charles Darwin: Online Library (www.literature.org/authors/darwin-charles)

40.   The Victorian Web (www.victorianweb.org)

50.   Victorian Women Writers Project (www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp)

60.   Nineteenth-Century British Public Health Overview
      (www.victorianweb.org/science/health/healthov.html)