

Life in the Emerging Urban Society



I. Taming the City

A. Industry and the Growth of Cities

1. The challenge of urban growth was felt first and most acutely in Britain.
2. In the 1820s and 30s people in France and Britain began to worry about the condition of their cities.
3. Rapid urbanization without any public transportation worsened already poor living conditions in cities in the nineteenth century.
4. Government was slow to improve sanitation and building codes.

B. Public Health and the Bacterial Revolution.

1. Advances in public health, urban planning, and urban transport ameliorated these conditions by 1900.
2. Edwin Chadwick in England advocated improved sewage systems.
3. Louis Pasteur in France discovered that bacteria caused disease (1860s).

C. Urban Planning and Public Transportation

1. In Paris and other European cities urban planners demolished buildings and medieval walls to create wide boulevards and public parks.
2. Mass public transport, including electric streetcars, enabled city dwellers to live further from the city center, relieving overcrowding.

II. Rich and Poor and Those in Between

A. Social Structure

1. Wealth was distributed very unevenly throughout Europe.
2. Only 20 percent of the population was middle class or wealthy.

B. The Middle Classes

1. The urban middle class was diverse.
2. The upper middle class included the most successful industrialists, bankers, and merchants. Increasingly, it merged with the aristocracy.
3. Middle ranks included doctors, lawyers, and moderately successful bankers and industrialists.

4. The lower middle class included small business owners, salespeople, store managers, clerks, and other white-collar employees.
 - C. Middle-Class Culture
 1. Middle-class people were loosely united by a certain style of life and culture.
 2. They were also united by a shared code of behavior and morality.
 - D. The Working Classes
 1. Skilled workers lived very different lives from the semiskilled and unskilled.
 2. Skilled workers' income approached that of the lower middle classes.
 3. Skilled workers tended to embrace the middle-class moral code.
 4. Semiskilled and unskilled workers included many different occupations, from carpenters and bricklayers to longshoremen, street vendors, and domestic servants.
 5. Domestic servants were a large proportion of the population.
 - E. Working-Class Leisure and Religion
 1. Working-class leisure included drinking in taverns; watching sports, especially racing and soccer; and attending music hall performances.
 2. Working-class church attendance declined in the nineteenth century.
- III. The Changing Family
1. Premarital Sex and Marriage
 1. For the middle classes, economic considerations continued to be paramount in choosing marriage partners through most of the nineteenth century.
 2. Increasing economic well-being allowed members of the working class to select marriage partners based more on romance.
 2. Prostitution
 1. Prostitution was common.
 2. Middle- and upper-class men frequently visited prostitutes.
 3. Kinship Ties
 1. Kinship ties helped working-class people to cope with sickness, unemployment, death, and old age.
 4. Gender Roles and Family Life
 1. The status of women changed during the nineteenth century.
 2. The division of labor became more defined by gender.
 3. Economic inferiority led some women to organize for equality and women's rights.
 4. As society increasingly relegated women to the domestic sphere, women gained control over household finances and the education of children.
 5. Married couples developed stronger emotional ties to each other.
 5. Child Rearing
 1. Attitudes toward children also changed during this period.
 2. Emotional ties between mothers and infants deepened.
 3. There was more breast-feeding and less swaddling and abandonment of babies.

4. Increased connection often meant increased control, including attempts to repress the child's sexuality (for example, to prevent masturbation).

IV. Science and Thought

. The Triumph of Science

1. Theoretical discoveries resulted in practical benefits, as in chemistry and electricity.
2. Scientific achievements gave science considerable prestige.

A. Social Science and Evolution

1. Charles Darwin formulated his theory of evolution by natural selection.
2. New "social sciences" used data collected by states to test theories.
3. Auguste Comte's "positivism" presented the scientific method as the pinnacle of human intellectual achievement.
4. Social Darwinists such as Spencer applied Darwin's ideas to human affairs.

B. Realism in Literature

1. The Realist movement in literature reflected the ethos of European society.
2. This was an expression of writers who sought to depict life as it really was.
3. Realism stressed the hereditary and environmental determinants of human behavior.