**Notes from the Industrial Revolution videos**

**Origins of the Industrial Revolution:**

The IR started in England where the land had been settled for a thousand years and the government was stable. Peasants were tied to the land owned by nobles. Each class worked together as nobles needed the food peasants produced and peasants needed the nobles land and protection. This is called an **agrarian** society. Farmers would make products out of their home during spare time or during the winter to earn a little extra spending money. Production was slow and costly. This is known as the **cottage** industry.

With the invention of agricultural tools such as the **seed drill** – which could plow, plant, and cover three rows at a time – England’s food supply increased 500% in a short time. This meant that a lot of farmers were no longer needed for labor. More food also means more people so England’s population boomed.

Too many people + not enough jobs = very low wages. Many farmers moved to the city looking for work. Cities were unprepared for the massive amount of people moving there in such a short period of time. The only sources of power at the time were fire and water so cities had to be located close to coal reserves or rivers. Most people in England remained **rural**, or lived in the country-side.

As people moved to the cities rapidly and in large numbers, **urbanization** occurred. Urbanization is when cities rush to accommodate the large number of people moving in faster that water, sewer and sanitation, and housing can be build. This often leads to poor and cramped living conditions.

Factories begin popping up around densely populated areas to take advantage of the cheap labor. Mass production made tasks very simple and labor began to become **unskilled**. Workers could be replaced quickly and easily by immigrants, children, or women. This drove down wages and working conditions.

Middle level management positions, or **white collar jobs¸** began to form to manage the resources and employees of these factories. As big businesses and factories increased, the wealthy began to get even wealthier while worker’s wages remained stagnant. With mass production exports began to increase and global markets appeared that connected all of the continents. With this new flow of money coming in, the gap between economic classes began to widen even more. Class structures formed throughout England and Europe that became known as the **bourgeoisie** (middle class) and the **proletariat** (poor working class).

It would not take long for conflicts to arise between these social classes.