

Mass Society in an “Age of Progress” Notes

Spielvogel Chapter 23

- I. Age of Progress
 - A. new society arises from new technology
 - B. people feel they have arrived at the pinnacle of scientific understanding
- II. Technological changes – Second Industrial Revolution
 - A. Differences from the first
 - 1. First IR had textiles, railroads, iron, & coal
 - a. Second focuses on steel, chemicals, electricity, and petroleum
 - 2. Science & technology become irrevocably joined
 - B. German production surpasses British
 - 1. In steel by 1910
 - 2. In organic chemical compounds by 1900
 - 3. Because it was hard for Britain to shift gears after dominating first industrialization
 - C. electricity – available by 1870s
 - 1. Changes in lifestyle
 - a. Light bulb
 - b. Telephone
 - c. Radio
 - d. Electric railroads – streetcars & subways
 - 2. Factory work easier
 - 3. Countries without adequate coal could industrialize
 - D. Internal combustion engine 1878
- III. Technological Changes lead to Economic Changes
 - A. Markets
 - 1. Foreign markets already dominated, switch to domestic
 - a. Reaction against free trade
 - b. cartels
 - 2. Real wage increase between 1850-1900
 - a. Mass marketing
 - 3. Economic crises (arguable depressions) 1873-1895
 - a. Different times in different countries (first in US & Germany, then in France & Britain)
 - 4. Move toward a world economy
 - a. Imports worldwide, exports worldwide
 - B. Eastern vs. Western Europe – divided by 1900
 - 1. Advanced industrialized areas with high standard of living (mostly in the North, also northern Italy)
 - 2. Backwards suppliers of food and raw materials (mostly in the south and east)
 - a. Many in these backwards areas emigrated to the Americas
 - C. Changes in jobs
 - 1. Initially married women mostly forced to do piecework

- a. Shortage of men to do low-paying white collar jobs leads women to do them
 - Secretaries, file clerks, sales clerks, teachers, etc.
 - These were opportunities for middle class
- b. many lower-class women forced into prostitution to support families
 - often licensed/regulated
 - many eventually rejoined the regular workforce or married

IV. Economic changes led to changes in views of government

A. Divisions within socialism

1. revisionists – non-Marxian socialists (a.k.a. Evolutionary Socialists)

a. Eduard Bernstein (d. 1932)

- Exiled to Britain
- Challenged Marxist ideas in *Evolutionary Socialism*
 - Middle-class expanding
 - proletariat getting better-off

b. favor change by democratic means

2. Nationalism – contrary to Marx's ideas

3. German Social Democratic Party

- a. Largest socialist party, was the largest single party in Germany in 1912

4. France also had a variety of Marxist parties

B. Unions

1. Only 1/5 of workforce by WWI

2. Not as popular on the Continent as in Britain

- a. viewed as being too tied to socialist ideology
 - in Germany, they were tied to political parties

C. Anarchists

1. Goal was to have true freedom by abolishing all social institutions

- a. initially non-violent, later ultra-violent under Bakunin (Russian)
- b. after his death, move to assassination
 - including a tsar, president of France, king of Italy, and pres. of US

2. Mostly in less industrialized countries

- a. tendency to be uneducated/lack wealth – in short, have no power

V. Governments act on these changes

A. Western Europe increases liberal reforms (constitutions, parliaments, individual liberties)

1. further division between East & West

2. tied to economy – freedom leads to better economy

B. Britain

1. Further increase in voting rights, British parliament now paid (access to lower classes)

2. Ireland

- a. Nationalism; rule by British

- b. Irish Catholics began to demand independence through terrorism
- c. Granted in Home Rule Act of 1914
 - northern Protestants didn't want to join Catholic state

C. France

1. Napoleon III gone with defeat in Franco-Prussian War
2. Republicans set up a provisional government
 - a. People elect monarchists
 - b. Republicans set up separate government – the Paris Commune
 - Fighting broke out in April 1871
 - lower-class women actually fought
 - government massacre of Commune (20,000 shot; 10,000 exiled)
 - leads to ongoing class anger
3. end up with Republic anyway because they couldn't agree on who should be King
 - a. Republic set up in the Constitution of 1875
 - Meant to be temporary
 - Lasted 65 years
 - b. Boulanger crisis
 - Boulanger was a military officer who wanted to do away with republican government
 - lost his nerve and fled on the cusp of coup d'état
 - crisis served to give support to republic

D. Spain

1. Little change because government tied to conservative order
2. Rebellion in Barcelona in July 1909, brutally suppressed

E. Italy

1. Great sectional differences divided country
 - a. industrializing north & poorer south

F. Germany

1. Emperor remains in control despite parliament
2. Unity did not do away with each state having its own leaders, and even armies
3. Bismarck worked to maintain power of emperor
 - a. Kulturkampf (“struggle for civilization”)
 - Effort to seize power from Catholicism
 - b. began to attack the Social Democratic Party, seeing it as a threat to nationalism
 - tried to reform, but his reforms were inadequate (i.e. no pension until age 70)
 - c. fired by the new Emperor (William II)

G. Austria-Hungary

1. Universal male suffrage led to move toward independence by minorities

H. Russia

1. Alexander III (d. 1894) undid reforms, expanded secret police, believed in absolute power of the tsar

2. Passed these beliefs on to his son, Nicholas III (d. 1917)

VI. Changes in thinking/gov. lead to social changes – “Mass Society” in this period

A. Population increase

1. Medical discoveries (smallpox vaccinations), better environmental conditions, and improved nutrition
2. Due to decline in death rates, move away from rising birth rates after 1880

B. Urbanization

1. Economic necessity (gain employment)
2. Better living conditions due to building regulations
 - a. Fresh water pipes
 - b. Heat
 - c. Sewers
3. Realization that private industry had no motivation to cure housing ills – move to government control
4. Defensive walls turned into parks and boulevards
5. Creation of suburbs

C. New social circumstances

1. Elite

- a. 5% of population controlled 30 – 40% of wealth
 - fortunes shifting toward upper middle class
 - fusion of aristocrats and plutocrats
 - called “Gilded Age” by Mark Twain – layer of gold over crud

2. middle class

- a. split into upper, middle, and lower
- b. new groups of workers idealizing middle-class sprang up
 - traveling salesmen, bank tellers, secretaries, property-less and poorly-paid
- c. Women’s roles changing
 - The “woman question” – catchphrase used to refer to the debate over the role of women in society
 - marriage was viewed as the only honorable and available career
 - economic necessity often dictated otherwise
 - women expected to work until they married (new careers – i.e. secretaries)
 - those who can’t marry often go into domestic service
 - Ideals
 - ideal of togetherness – women to provide recreation
 - ideal of idle wife
 - need for servants; usually not affordable
 - leads to women overworking themselves

d. children

- mass-production of toys (inc. dolls)
- education

- Purposes
 - Educated electorate
 - Provided trained workers
 - Indoctrination in nationalization
- reinforces gender roles
 - daughters – taught to “entertain”
 - sons – taught to be career men
 - Boy Scouts (correct overly-female influence)
- Effects – countries that spend money on compulsory education have vastly higher literacy rates (in high 90s vs. low 20s)

3. lower class

- a. 80% of people
- b. Increasingly like everyone else due to compulsory education (speak nat'l language; know nat'l history)
- c. Lives getting better with improving wages

D. leisure

1. new technology

- a. amusement parks
- b. transportation
 - access to athletic events, amusement parks, dance halls
 - not just the local tavern anymore

2. team sports

- a. designed to prepare kids for military service and build character
- b. focus on males since females not suited for “vigorous physical activity”