10. 3 Industrial Revolution: Urbanization

**Historical Background:** Manchester, England, became a leading textile manufacturing center soon after its first large mechanized cotton mill was built in 1780. Its population increased from 18,000 in 1750 to over 300,000 by the census of 1851, much of this made up of the working class and immigrants. In the 1832 Reform Bill, Manchester was granted representation in Parliament and middle-class men received the vote. After Queen Victoria’s visit in 1851, Manchester was granted a royal charter.

**Directions:** Read each source and complete the 6Cs.

**Prompt:** Based on your understanding of the documents, identify the issues raised by the growth of Manchester and analyze the various responses to those issues over the course of the nineteenth century.

1. **Source: Thomas B. Macaulay**

   Macaulay was a liberal Member of Parliament and historian.

   Source: Thomas B. Macaulay, “Southey’s Colloquies”, 1830s.

   People live longer because they are better fed, better lodged, better clothed, and better attended in sickness, and these improvements are owing to the increase in national wealth which the manufacturing system has produced. Mr. [Robert] Southey has found a way, he tells us, in which the effects of manufacturers and agriculture may be compared. And what is this way? To stand on a hill, to look at a cottage and a factory, and to see which is prettier. Does Mr. Southey think that the English peasantry live, or ever lived, in substantial and ornamented cottages, with box hedges, flower gardens, beehives and orchards?

2. **Image: Manchester**

   View from Blackfriars bridge over the River Irwell. Published in the weekly magazine that dealt with social issues.

   Source: The Graphic, 1870s

Mary Evans Picture Library. Engraving by Charles Roberts.
Map: Manchester 1750 and 1850

Two map showing the development and changes of Manchester from 1750-1850.

Source: The 1750 map: Thomson, History of Manchester to 1852, 1850s. The 1850 map: Adapted from Ashley Baynton-Williams, Town and City Maps of the British Isles, 1800-1855, late 1850s.

Chart: Average Age at Death

The chart compares the average age at death for people living in rural and industrial areas.


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Works Cited: