**World History**

**Unit 2: *The Industrial Revolution***

**CRQ # 2**

**Introduction**

From 1750 until 1919 Western Civilization underwent a radical and fundamental transformation known as the Industrial Revolution. This revolution, which was based on scientific principles, mechanical advancements, and profit-driven motives, eventually overtook the agrarian and mercantile structure which had dominated Western society up to that time. Though its essence was focused on economic production it succeeded in occupying and changing all parts of daily life. How then, did the Industrial Revolution come about and what important affects did it have on Western Civilization at that time? The Industrial Revolution greatly affected many aspects of life throughout the Western world.

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain during the latter half of the eighteenth century. A land blessed with natural resources such as iron ore, coal, timber, and navigable rivers, Britain also had a large and growing population thanks in part to the Second Agricultural Revolution (Document 2). Another feature that helped facilitate the Industrial Revolution was the large amount of capital contained within the British economy. Having established overseas colonies and markets via the Atlantic economy as well as trade with its European neighbors, Britain’s entrepreneurs and merchants controlled the sums of money needed for investing in an industrial future. When coupled with her natural resources, this capital and investment pushed industrialization forward, though not without with out debate over its economic consequences.