



The Fours of the Industrial Revolution
FACTORIES

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Purpose (Why it was created and how it was utilized)?

The innovation that I am exploring are Factories.

A new way of making products that began during the Industrial Revolution, was the Factory System.

The factory system introduced new ways of making products, that could be made cheaper, faster and in larger volumes. Instead of individual workers spread out in their homes and workshops, the factories became a central place, where many workers came together to make products. The machinery used to make these products were expensive and needed power in order to work. A lot of the machines were large and operated by many workers, therefore a factory was the best option to house them.

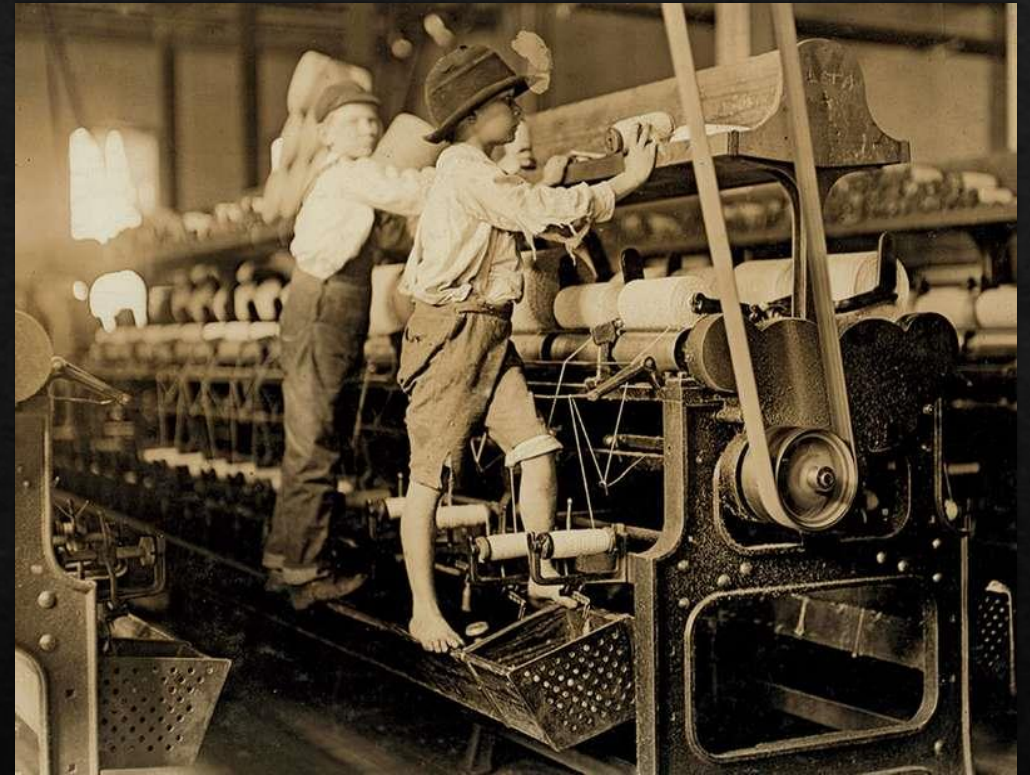


A problem that has faced the innovation since its creation

A problem that faced the Factories was the working conditions. During the Industrial Revolution the working conditions were extremely dangerous, mainly because the factory owners were anxious to get their machines up and running and did not care for the safety of their workers.

Factory owners did not need skilled tradesman, to operate the machines, so they hired women and children, who would work at half the wages of the men. There were no regulations and people were easily replaced, which is why the factory owners did not care about their workers safety or the working conditions, in which they were forced to work. Most people worked between 12-16hrs per day, 6 days a week, with only a 1 hour break all day. They did not get any paid holidays or vacations.

The factories were dark, dusty and dirty, with very little light. The steam caused by the machines meant smoke was everywhere. Many people ended up with eye problems and lung diseases. The machinery in which they worked on, were unsafe, and accidents happened regularly. If someone got injured on the job and were unable to work, they were fired and replaced by someone else. Their wages were stopped immediately, and no medical attention was given to them.



A solution that has helped improve the innovation in our modern world

A solution that has helped improve the working conditions in factories, are unions. Unions have been around since the 1880's. Unions were formed because workers wanted to fight for safer working conditions, better hours and increased wages. It was easy for factories to replace one employee who complained but much more difficult to replace all their employees, therefore unions were made, so employees could work together for better rights.

In 2015, the total number of unions in Canada stood at 776. They are divided into 4 main types, National, International, Independent Local Organizations and Directly chartered locals.

Now a day's unions are separated into large groups of workers, usually in a similar trade or profession, all fighting together for the same results.



Imagine the world 50 years from now, how could this innovation be utilized then? (How could we continue to improve this innovation)?

In 50 years, I think that factories will change quite a bit. I imagine that factories will be the same size if not bigger and will be completely run by machines and robots instead of humans. I bet there will be drones used as well, to fly products and materials around within the factories themselves. So instead of having lots of people working in the factories, needing unions to fight for them, there will be very little to no people needed. Everything will be self-sufficient and will run on computers.



Work Sited

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