

The Positive Influence of British Industrial Revolution on Women's Life

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Abstract: The British Industrial Revolution is one of the most important revolutionary events that profoundly changed the environment for human survival and development in the western economic and social history. In 1884, Arnold Toynbee delivered a lecture on the British Industrial Revolution, and pointed out that it was not only a technological revolution, but also a far-reaching social revolution. This view was generally accepted by the academic community and the society as a classic understanding of the phenomenon of Industrial Revolution. Since the reform and opening up, Chinese scholars have conducted in-depth studies on major issues in British history, such as the British revolution and the Industrial Revolution.^[1] Since the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's the defense of women's rights, British women have had their own voice. At the same time, they deconstructed the social discourse centered on the aristocratic language at that time by creating a family social circle, entering new factory labor, and directly or indirectly participating in political activities. It can be said that they play an important role in deconstruction. This paper focuses on the great role played by British women during the industrial revolution. And it is divided into two parts, namely, the impact of the British Industrial Revolution on women's economy and spirit, and the impact of the British Industrial Revolution on women's marital status.

1. Introduction

Britain was the first country to carry out the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution not only led to the rapid development of social productivity, but also caused a great change in social production relations. After the Industrial Revolution, productivity and the whole society developed. At the same time, it caused changes in social relations and destroyed the personal attachment and the hierarchy based on super economic coercion in the preindustrial era. All these have had an impact on women's social status. The impact of the industrial revolution needs to be viewed in a dialectical manner. The impact of the industrial revolution needs to be viewed in a dialectical manner. The analysis of its impact helps to provoke thinking about the way forward and to enhance the knowledge of feminist development. Therefore, it is a useful thing to understand the living conditions of British women during the Industrial Revolution. It enlightens women in the world today. This paper focuses on the living conditions of women in British under the Industrial Revolution and its positive impact on women's economy, spirit, and equality consciousness and marriage.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Comparative research method

Comparative research method is a logical method to draw relevant conclusions by comparing the similarities and differences of objects and their connections. This research method mainly includes comparison of similarities, comparison of differences, and comparison of similarities and differences. This paper uses the comparative research method to analyze the women under the Industrial Revolution and the state of women before the Industrial Revolution, and analyze the historical era change.

3. The connotation of female development

3.1 Improvement of women's ability

Due to the long-standing different social division of labor, women do not have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate their work abilities. Women do not enjoy the same status as men, they have a limited range of activities and are not given enough opportunities to improve their abilities. Women's ability to perform both manual and mental labor signifies that women have been given equal opportunities to advance their abilities. Women's empowerment has led to a shift in society in both economic forms and educational models.

3.2 Women's self-resistance to backward thinking

From the point of view of social development, women's emancipation plays an important role in human emancipation. Spiritual civilization and future development and other aspects need women to have room to grow. For a long time, old ideas are deeply rooted and have a profound influence on women. Women have been restricted in everything from educational opportunities to family status. Their role is primarily as family members, with their husbands and children as the mainstay of their lives. Women are the ones who follow orders and are dominated. Women's spiritual independence is also a sign of their progress. The ability of women to resist backward thinking on their own is important for the development of society.

4. The connection between the British Industrial Revolution and women

4.1 The influence of industrial revolution on women's economy

The rise of the Industrial Revolution has destroyed the foundation of the family economy, and the handicraft industry is declining day by day. Machines are widely used and the factory system is improving day by day, employment opportunities are also increasing. A large number of middle and lower class women began to work. Women's economic independence and their contribution to the family economy have increased. It has had a positive impact on the advancement and further emancipation of women.^[2]

With the development of capitalism and the expansion of industrialization, Capitalists are increasingly feeling the shortage of labor. They are constantly looking for solutions. The great potential of the women's labor market was quickly recognized. Women workers are hard-working, lower employment costs, generally quite obedient, easy to train. They will soon become a skilled worker. In the long feudal society before the industrial revolution, women have always been engaged in domestic work. Under the home labor system, they are engaged in home textile and other manual

work under the command of their parents. At this time, women's wage income is one of the important sources of family economy. Women workers work in factories during this period. Their wages are taken home to subsidize the family. "They have certain limitations in their lives, but they realize their self-worth from their increased responsibility and ability to navigate their families."^[3] Most studies have shown that Industrial Revolution Period, the improvement in the living standards of many workers' families is mainly due to the migrant work of women and children, instead of raising the wages of male workers. In this period, socio-economic and female personal empowerment and value realization show complementary roles.

4.2 The rise of equality consciousness in the industrial revolution

With the improvement of women's economy, the education level of women in this period was also improved. The reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) coincided with the completion of the Industrial Revolution in England. In 19th-century England, society contributed money to build schools, and women were given far more educational opportunities than ever before. Under this condition, many girls' awareness of sexual equality began to awaken. This is reflected in literary works.

The three Bronte sisters who are well-known in English Literature, they live a lonely life on the cost of writing novels. Charlotte Bronte in the novel "Jane Eyre" openly defying the prevailing view of middle-class women' eager to seek independent and free personal existence. Charlotte Bronte declared through Jane Eyre that "I am not an angel. I will not be an angel until I die. I am myself."^[4] In her book, she also expressed the ideology of realizing women's social existence value and equal rights. The creation of middle-class female writers in this period not limited to reflecting the situation of women of their own class. They also have the unique insight of women, timely capture the major events that occurred at that time as its material. The works show the changes in British society caused by the industrial revolution.

4.3 The influence of British Industrial Revolution on women's marriage

During the British Industrial Revolution, women's marriage was the most illustrative of women's status, because it was not only related to marriage itself, but also related to its property rights, politics and other issues, which determined the important status of marriage in women's research. In this section, the author will focus on marriage to explore the impact of social change on women.

In the period of the British Industrial Revolution, the life of upper middle class women was very different from that of lower class women. The social exploitation of upper middle class women is also different from that of lower class women. The exploitation of middle and upper class women by social discourse mainly comes from the psychological aspect. "Marriage is the life goal set by the society for women and the prospect they have been educated to obtain since childhood... However, the society is more willing to obtain this goal through despicable means than through legitimate means... Generally speaking, wives are treated better than slaves, which I am not falsely denying; but no slave is such a slave in the pure sense as wives."^[5]

At that time, social moralists emphasized that the three most important responsibilities of women were: to spend time every day to make their husbands, parents, brothers and sisters comfortable; Women should keep chastity morally no matter they encounter disease, health, pain and happiness; Influence the society with their noble moral behavior. Middle and upper class women should educate the poor by enlightening their neighbors, become good examples in charity and serve the transformation of society.^[6]

However, women had the pursuit of freedom and equality, they were no longer willing to be slaves to their husbands at home. Women workers who have been to factories and tasted the benefits of economic independence have greater pursuit of marital status. Some women are bored with trivial

housework. The most obvious change in the status of women in the family is that the wife makes money to support the family and the husband does housework at home. Machines in some industrial sectors do not require much physical effort to use, such as the spinning industry. This can be seen from Engels' investigation of British factories: "There are only women in the mills using hydraulic spinning machines."^[7] The result is that the emergence of these industries suitable for women has led to the great dislocation of the traditional status of men and women.

In Song Yanping's article on the situation of female factory workers in Britain during the Industrial Revolution (History monthly, No. 9, 2003), the author believes that women's social activities have a certain passivity. The author believes that women's initial activities to get rid of the shackles of their families and enter the society are not for seeking their own economic independence, self-liberation and striving for the "lofty ideal" of equality between men and women, but forced by form and family, through these explanations, the women who were the first to go out of the house did not change their original situation because of going out. It can be seen that this is a new beginning. It is the starting point of the apparent equality between men and women. Although it also brings new challenges, it also marks the progress of society.

5. Conclusion

This paper focuses on the positive impact of the Industrial Revolution on women. The economic structures, literature and marriage patterns of this period can reflect the changes in women's lives and their interaction with society.

It was an important step in women's exploration of a new life. During the industrial transformation period, the way of life in British society changed, along with the further awakening of women's feminine consciousness, which brought a certain degree of positive influence to women under the same period. In England, where the industrial revolution first broke out, social change was accompanied by a change in people's outlook on life and the world. The economic prosperity of the time led to greater social stability, and women began to pursue their own literary creations. At the same time, the Enlightenment made women aware of their sense of oppression and humiliation, and some brave women took the lead and began to advocate. Many outstanding female representative writers emerged during this period.

In short, social development and women's development during the Industrial Revolution went hand in hand. These phenomena are still relevant and worthy of consideration today, reminding women that they should keep learning, think critically, and explore their own roles in society.

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