Unit 6 LEQ #6

Discuss and analyze how mechanization and the factory system impacted/changed families and Family Economy.

Contextualization: During 1700s to the late 1800s, the Industrial Revolution affected Europe’s economy greatly.Originating in England, the Industrial Revolution introduced mechanization first to the textile industry moving this industry out of people’s homes and into factories creating factory systems. Before the Industrial Revolution, however, the family economy, where all members of the family contributed to work as a family unit, predominated. Thesis: As the Industrial Revolution progressed, the family economy began to change as families began to work in factories. Because of mechanization and the factory system, the family economy was greatly impacted. Argument: Although the family unit still contributed to the family’s income, the family economy was never truly the same ever again.

Body 1: The family economy was impacted due to mechanization.

- Evidence: The Spinning Jenny and flying shuttle were two pieces of technology that became part of the family economy, but with the invention of the water frame, production moved to factories.
- Analysis: The first two inventions were able to be used inside the home, so the family was able to work together at home. However, because the water frame was larger and required the use of water, factories were established.
- Evidence: Women required less skills to be employed at the factories because of the machinery being used in comparison to the factory work done by men.
- Analysis: Originally, the family economy fostered more equality between the husband and wife because of the lack of machinery being used. However, the machinery decreased the skill levels needed from women lessening the women’s importance. Not only that, women would end up contributing less to the family income in comparison to the family economy because unskilled labor could be given low wages.

Body 2: The factory system also affected the family economy.

- Evidence: The wage economy resulted from the factory system with people being paid for their labor, and whole families would be employed in factories.
- Analysis: Because of the wage economy, money could be sent over long distances which could cause separation in families if the children, for example, worked farther away from their parents. At the same time, children could also be encouraged to stay with their parents longer than they would have in the family economy because of the wages they are earning from the factory if the family settled in a city.
- Evidence: The factory’s long hours of labor for the families often distanced the family members from each other because of the lack of time in the day.
- Analysis: Because many workers were forced to work for over ten hours a day, there was little time for children to spend time with their parents or get an education. In contrast, the family economy allowed for their parents to interact more with their children since they are together at home and are able to control their hours of labor. In the factory system, hours of labor were controlled by the employer preventing workers from choosing their hours.

Conclusion: The family economy was greatly impacted due to greater amounts of mechanization and the factory system being implemented. Family units were not as close as they use to be, and women’s roles in the family income was diminished as a result. Synthesis: Another revolution that occurred in Europe was known as the Agricultural Revolution. The Agricultural Revolution saw many innovations in agriculture that increased crop yields allowing for more families to be fed increasing the population in many countries. As a result of this revolution, less people were needed in farming allowing for people to specialize in order forms of labor, such as factory work in the cities. Not only that, both the Agricultural and Industrial Revolution caused women to lose importance in the economy. The mechanization involved in both revolutions became a man’s role instead of a woman’s, for example the plow or skilled factory work.