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The Industrial Revolution and movement of peoples (1750–1900)

Student research guide

History | Year 9

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This guide is designed to help you discover items on the Industrial Revolution that you can access on site, from your school or home.

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- [Become a member](#) of State Library of Queensland (it's free!).
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- Complete the [Student research with State Library](#) module for a guide to navigating State Library's resources. Or visit the [One Search help page](#) for tips & tricks for searching One Search.
- You can search our catalogue for [all items on the Industrial Revolution](#) or begin exploring by clicking on some of the featured items contained in this research guide.

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History • Growth and industrialisation

Growth and industrialisation

In the aftermath of World War II, Australia underwent a significant transformation, transitioning from a primarily agrarian economy to a more diversified and industrialised nation. The second half of the 20th century saw the expansion of manufacturing, mining, and services, propelling the country into a new era of economic growth and prosperity.



SummaryFeatured Articles

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Introduction

Factors driving economic growth

Impact of growth and industrialisation on society

From boom to bust – economic downturn of the 1970s and 80s

Conclusion

Introduction

During World War II, Australia's economy was heavily geared toward war efforts and burdened with debt. Once the war ended, the government began an ambitious program of reconstruction, implementing policies that stimulated economic growth and development. Over the following decades, Australia saw a shift from an economy heavily reliant on primary production to one focused on manufacturing, industrialisation and later, services. While agriculture remained important, the post war era saw a rise in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, mining, steel production and textiles.

Factors driving economic growth

Several key factors contributed to Australia's industrialisation and growth. Globally, the end of the war brought about a massive demand for goods and infrastructure reconstruction, providing a stimulus for growth and a wealth of market opportunities. Domestically, the Australian government's commitment to major infrastructure projects, such as the iconic Snowy Mountains Scheme, not only met critical needs for irrigation and electricity but also demonstrated the nation's industrial ambitions and capabilities. The 'populate or perish' immigration policy was central to the nation's economic transformation. New migrants arriving from war torn Europe brought skills, bolstered the workforce, and increased domestic demand for goods and services, further fuelling economic expansion.

Featured Articles

History • Growth and industrialisation



Industry policy: The rise and fall of Australian manufacturing and Covid19

News Weekly | 01 May 2020

Geoff Crittenden

Journal Article • Intermediate • pp. 16-17



Memories of the factory: The extraordinary war stories of some 'new Australians'

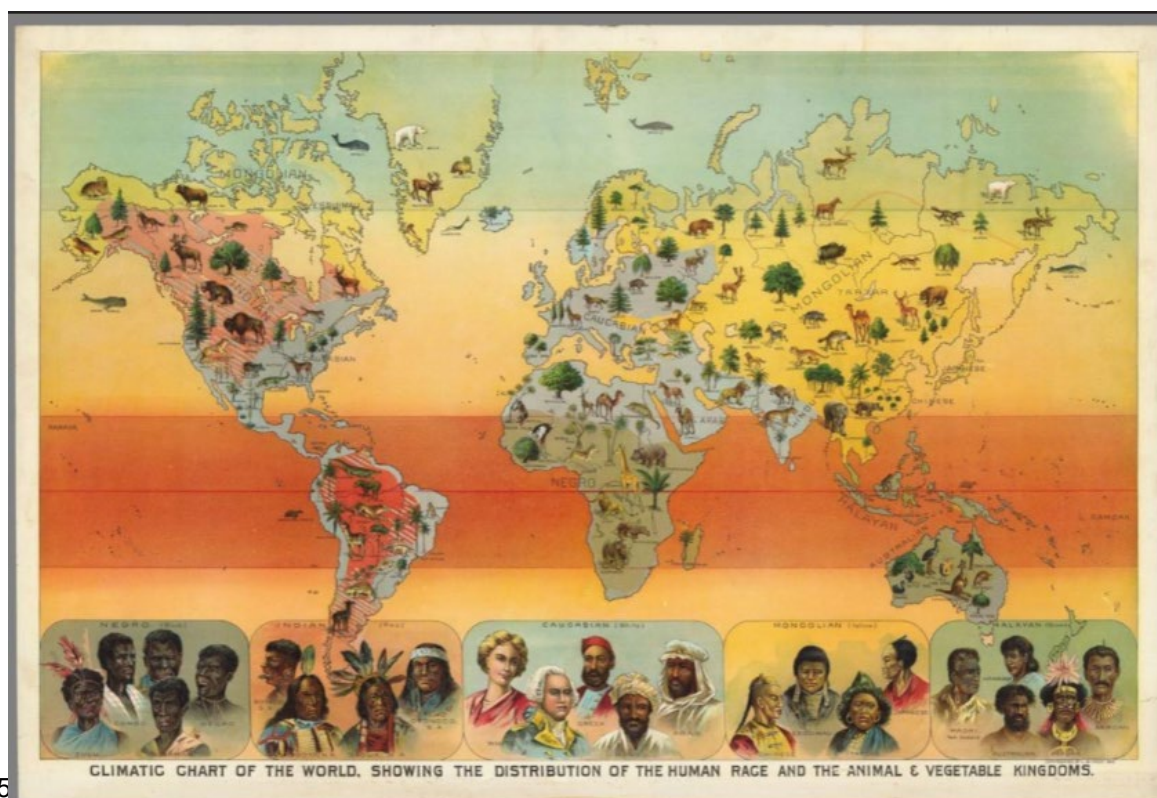
The Australian Rationalist | 01 Jun 2021

Reg Naulty

Journal Article • Basic • pp. 41

Maps

State Library provides access to a series of historic online [maps showing world population between 1750 and 1900](#).



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Newspapers

State Library provides access to archives of Australian and international historical newspapers covering events during the Industrial Revolution.

Australia

[Trove Newspapers \(1803-1954\)](#)

Britain

[The Times Digital Archive \(1785-2014\)](#)

[British Library newspapers \(1732-1950\)](#)

[The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003](#)

More research

Search the catalogue

Continue searching for more on the Industrial Revolution using these subject searches:

[Industrial revolution -- Great Britain](#)

[Great Britain -- Economic conditions--1760-1860](#)

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