

# Unit 7

## Rostow's Theory of Industrial Development

### Human Geography

The following information corresponds to Chapter 26 in your textbook. Understanding history requires that you identify the causes of past events and determine their effect on history. Usually and event, an idea, or a situation results from several causes. Underlying causes are long-term, whereas immediate causes lead directly to an event. Walter Rostow, a twentieth century economic historian, discussed that every society develops according to a dynamic production pattern that consists of five stages.

#### How to Determine Cause and Effect:

1. Identify the main point of your study or reading.
2. Determine the underlying causes. For example, did new ideas cause people to act in a particular way?
3. Identify the immediate cause(s). For example, did Britain first industrialize because they had a surplus of workers from the countryside?
4. Formulate a conclusion about the significance of the causes and effects of the historical event(s).

#### Developing the Skill:

Economists often wonder why industrialization suddenly "takes off" at a particular time and place. Read the following excerpt from Walter Rostow's, *The Stages of Economic Growth*:

"Now, why Britain? Why not France? ... The French ... were too rough with their Protestants. They were politically and socially too inflexible, caught up ... in ... a caste society. The best minds and spirits of eighteenth century France ... had to think about

political, social and religious revolution rather than economic revolution. Moreover the French were committed heavily to ground warfare in Europe; and they cheated on shipping and naval strength ... when ships mattered greatly ...

Britain alone was in a position to weave together cotton manufacture, coal and iron technology, the steam-engine, and ample foreign trade to pull it off."

#### Applying the Skill:

Answer the following questions using the previous reading, your text, and the chart below:

1. What were the underlying causes for France's inability to industrialize?
2. What were some immediate and underlying causes for G.B. industrializing first? Include one for each: political, social, economic, ethic.
3. Discuss at least two effects on society through the process of industrialization.
4. Many nations are past Stage 5. Create your own column entitled *High Technology*, depicting the modern world. Use the chart below as a source.

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Characteristics	Stage One: The Traditional Society	Stage Two: Preconditions for Takeoff	Stage Three: Takeoff	Stage Four: Drive to Maturity	Stage Five: Age of Mass Consumption
<b>Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• largely agricultural (&gt;75%)</li> <li>• limited production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surplus of agr. &amp; capital</li> <li>• expansion of trade &amp; manufacturing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rapid expansion of industry</li> <li>• surge of technology</li> <li>• commercial agr.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technology extends to all sectors</li> <li>• labor-saving devices are made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more use and production of durable goods</li> <li>• service sector dominates (&gt;50%)</li> </ul>
<b>Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hierarchical social structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beginnings of a commercial class w/ some urbanization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasingly dominant entrepreneurial class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• urbanization</li> <li>• increase in skilled and professional workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new middle class</li> <li>• shift to the suburbs</li> <li>• population growth stabilizes</li> </ul>
<b>Political Power</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regionally-based in the hands of the landowners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• centralized national government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• powerful factions encourage modernization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• industrial leaders are highly influential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social welfare</li> <li>• more resources for military &amp; security</li> </ul>
<b>Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resist change, focus on old traditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rising spirit of progress and openness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased investment of capital for profit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasis on technology</li> <li>• expectation of progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased acquisition of consumer goods</li> </ul>