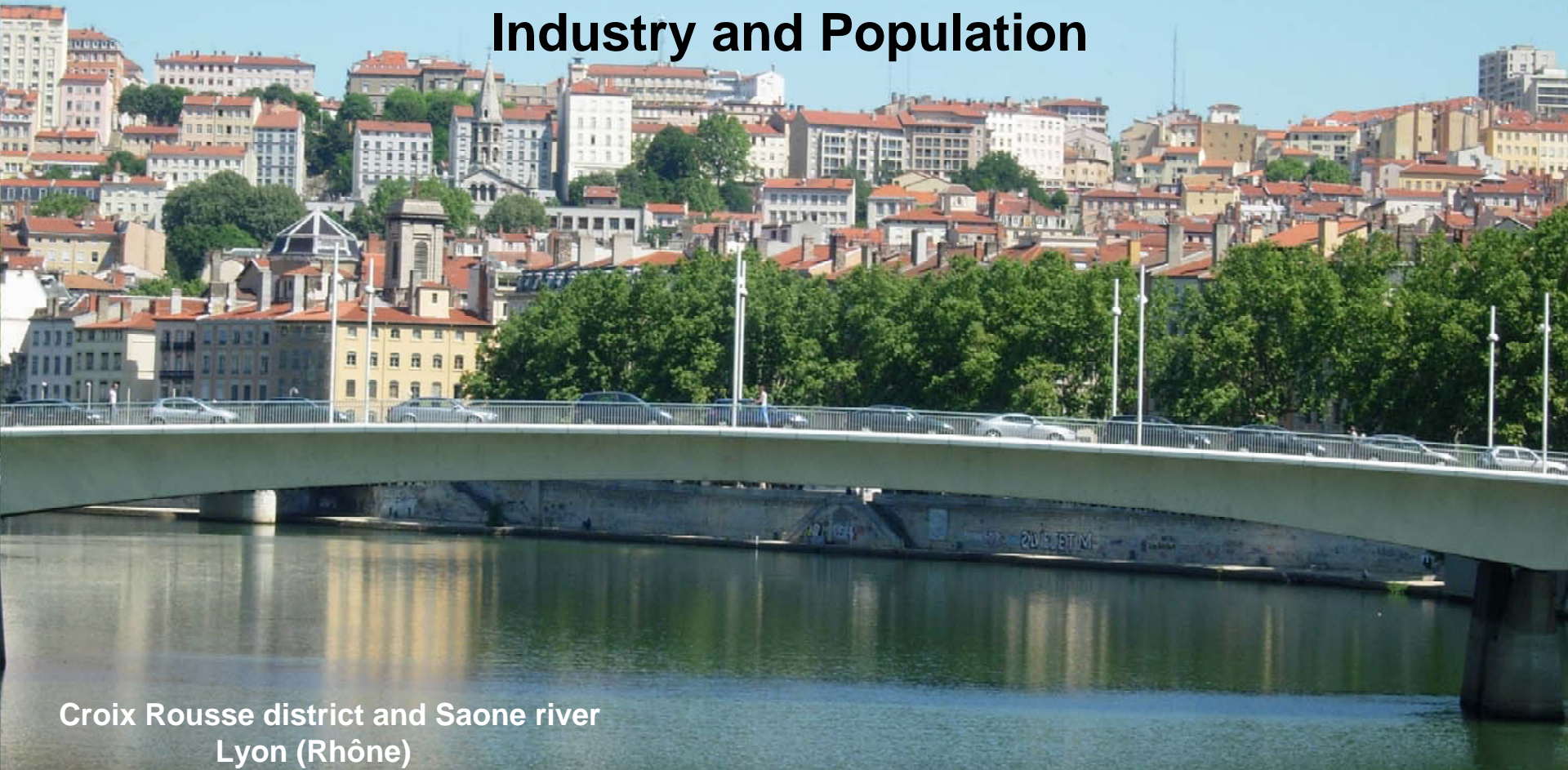


History B357-Spang

# Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

22 September 2008

## Industry and Population



Croix Rousse district and Saone river  
Lyon (Rhône)

# How to think about French society and economy in the period 1800-1850?

“Dual revolution” model: France has a political revolution but not an industrial one

Proto-industrialization and de-skilling  
example of Lyon silkwormers (*canuts*)

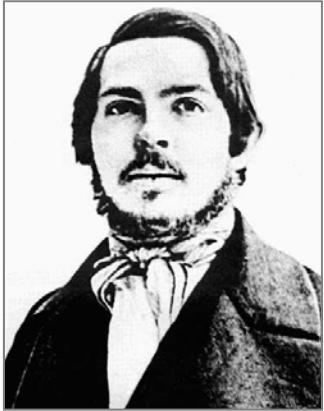
Cultural construction of “class” as a category



# The Dual Revolution\* in Western Europe

Great Britain: industrial revolution

France: political revolution



The first proletarians were connected with manufacture, were engendered by it... The production of raw materials and of fuel for manufacture attained importance only in consequence of this industrial change. We shall find...that the degree of intelligence of the various workers is in direct proportion to their relation to manufacture, and that the factory hands are the most enlightened as to their own interests... ... the factory hands, eldest children of the industrial revolution, have hence from the beginning to the present formed the heart of the Labor Movement.

Friedrich Engels [1820-1895], *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1845).

## Population of Manchester

1770	25,000
1800	75,000
1850	350,000



\* Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution* (1963).

# The French Revolution, Political Equality, and Economic Liberalism

1789-1792     Constituent and Legislative Assemblies endorse economic reforms first attempted under the monarchy: “free” trade in grain; abolition of guilds; creation of integrated national economy by removing internal barriers; active/passive citizens

Aug.-Sept.  
1792     National Convention elected by  
by universal male suffrage

*libre* (“free”)     liberty     liberalism  
nineteenth-century “liberals” want:  
free trade; legal equality;  
liberty of the press; education

Sept. 1793     responding to demands of Paris workers (*sans-culottes*), Convention debates declaring “Terror is the order of the day”—though they do *not* pass such a declaration, they do introduce wide-ranging economic measures: General Maximum (wage-and-price ceiling) and progressive income tax

late 1794-  
1799     to distance themselves from Robespierre, St. Just, and other “terrorists,” the Convention and Directory free most political prisoners and revoke economic/social measures; runaway inflation in 1795-1796 contributes to widespread popular misery

# Royal patronage and the production of luxury goods in eighteenth-century France



Jean-Henri Riesener, drop-leaf desk, 1783



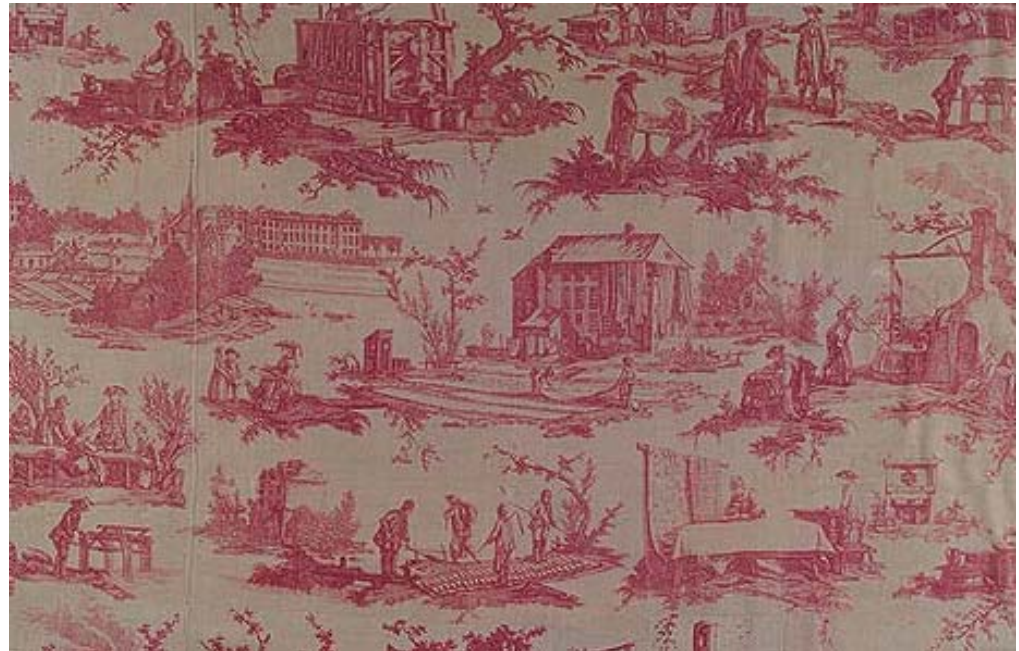
Gobelins tapestry



Sevres porcelain bowl, 1787



St. Gobain Glass and Mirror Manufacture



printed linen and cotton fabrics (*toiles de Jouy*), Oberkampf Manufacture, 1784



# Paternalism and French Industry: example of Le Creusot



statue of Eugène Schneider



Theodor Chasseriau, *Ironworks at Le Creusot* (1836)

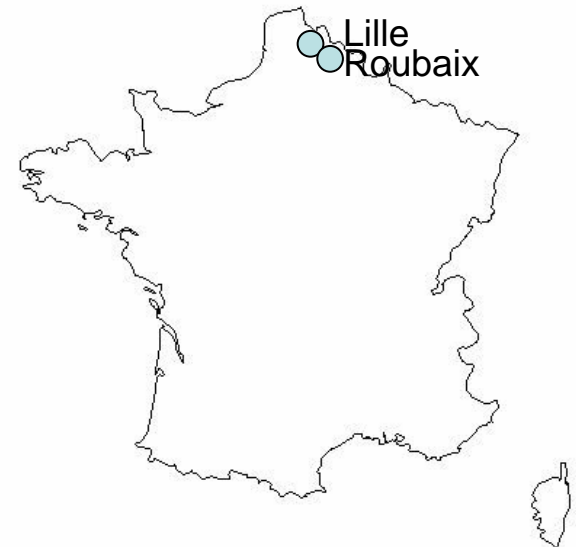


# Is France backward?

Industrialization... is at the heart of a larger, more complex process, often designated modernization...

In the period of the Industrial Revolution,... industry moved ahead faster, increased its share of national wealth and product, and drained away the labor of the countryside. The shift varied from one country to another... [While] it was the most extreme in Britain... it was slowest in France, a country of small landowners, where a more gradual introduction of industrial technology combined with high tariffs on food imports to retard the contraction of the primary sector

David Landes, *The Unbound Prometheus* (1969).

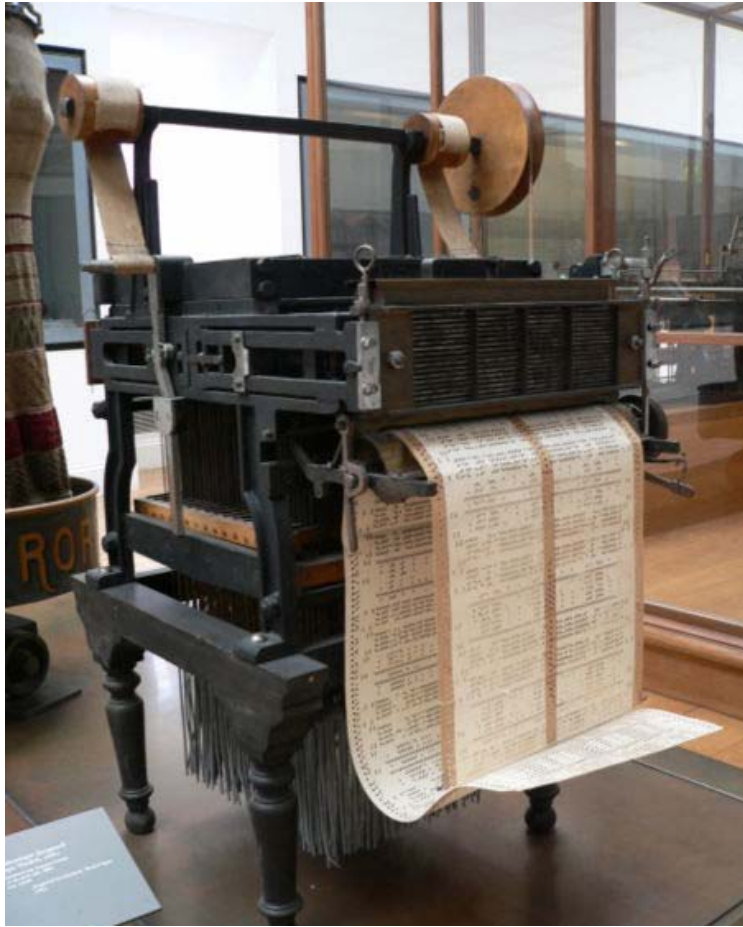




“The Partridges”—furnishing silk; designed and made in Lyon, used for palaces in Paris and St. Petersburg



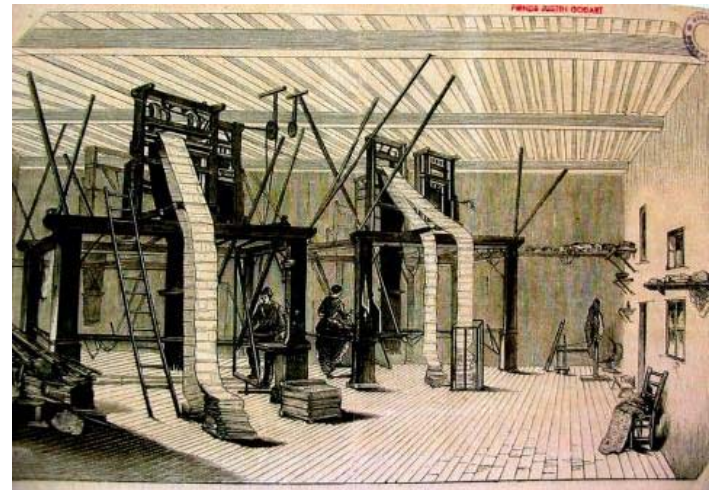
French dress silk, 1770s  
images from Metropolitan Museum, NYC



Jacquard loom  
Centre National des Arts et Métiers, Paris

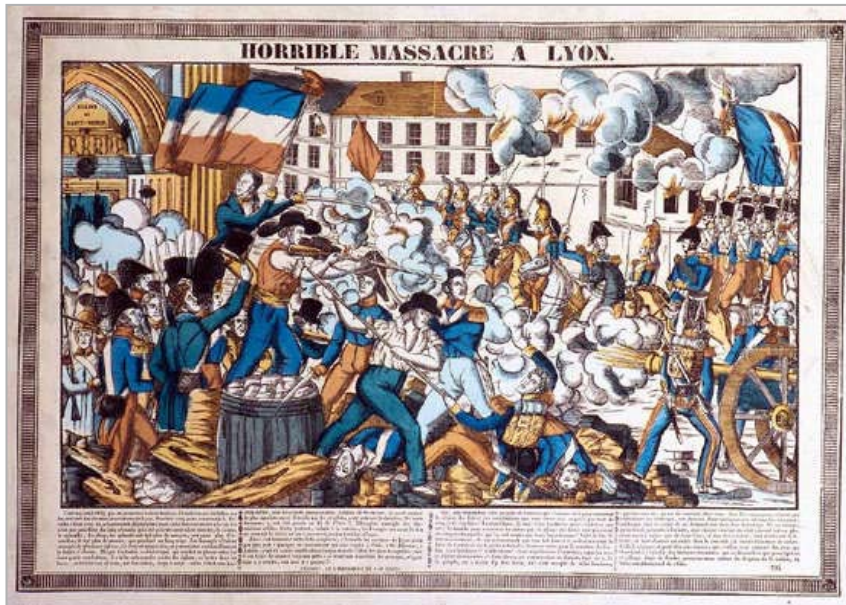


Jacquard punch card and fabric

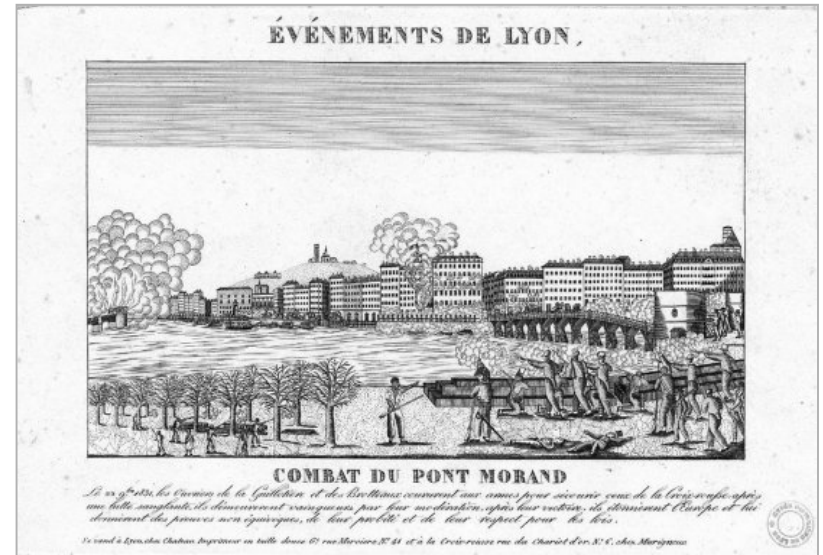


## Protests by Lyon silkwormers (*canuts*), November 1831 and March-April 1834

“They had recourse to arms to assist their fellow workers. ...By their moderation after their victory, they surprised all of Europe and gave clear evidence of their honesty and respect for law”



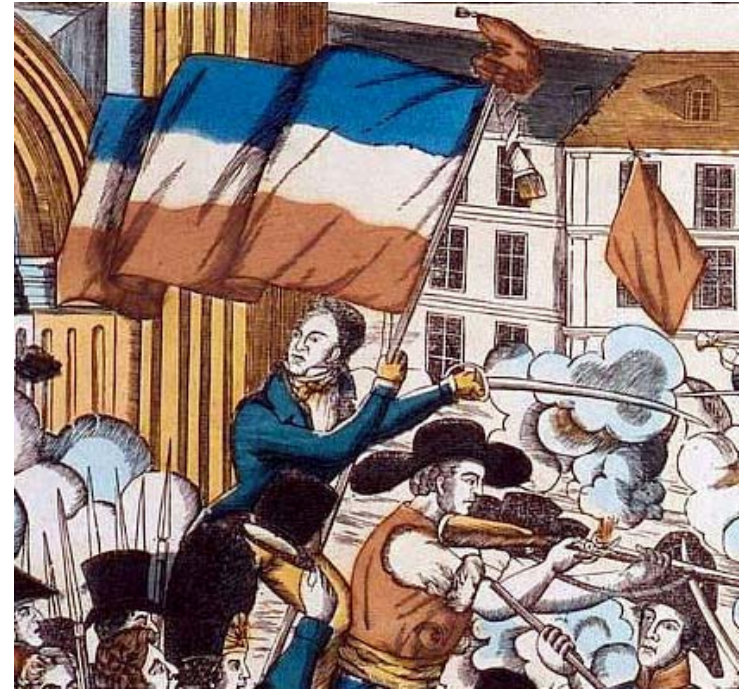
“Horrible Massacre in Lyon” (1834)



“Events in Lyon: Fighting on the Morand Bridge” (1831).

“The Insurgents took over several churches, ... and even though the church officials tried to come between the two parties, it was finally necessary to shut the doors and fight in the nave, among the pews, on the altars—a terrible brawl and shocking butchery. ... this scene was repeated in Paris, in St Etienne, ... even in the most tranquil cities—so easy is it to find people who have nothing to lose, and everything to gain, by such disorders. And what did this handful of thugs, who armed themselves to challenge the laws and the constitution, actually want? The Republic!”

“The Republic? What does that mean to them? It’s the anarchy of ambition for some... freedom to pillage people’s property for others. Landowners! Republicans of bygone days... remember the regime that took your harvests, ... the army that took your carts and would only give them back to you for *écus* [gold and silver coins] and not for *assignats* [paper money issued 1790-95].... It is this regime, or maybe even worse, that they demand... Friends of law and order, let us rally around the flag of the nation and the constitutional throne of 1830.”



Honoré Daumier,  
“The Rue Transnonain, 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 1834”  
(lithograph, 1834).



“the cholera victim,” woodcut after a drawing by Daumier, 1841

Cholera epidemic deaths (1832)  
Paris approx. 20,000  
France overall 100,000

The cholera is in our midsts. Yesterday a man died of it in the rue Mazarine... All the persons stricken by it are members of the lower classes... they are cobblers and makers of woolen blankets. They live in the narrow, dirty streets of the Cité and Notre Dame districts.

*Journal des débats* (28 March 1832).



D.A. Raffet, “Barbarism and Cholera enter Europe”  
*La Caricature* (1831).