**SUMMARY**

The industrial revolution is a process that consists on the substitution of the medieval rules with a system of free competition and developed from 1760 to 1890. It is an important fact for Europe and England that brought to the development of to systems of thought: Economic Science and Socialism ( the antithesis).

The main important facts of the industrial revolution are the growth of the population and the positive decline of the rural population, thanks to the Enclosure act. With the Enclosure act common field are destructed, there was the enclosure of common and waste lands and the consolidation of small farmers into large. The consolidation of large farms reduced the number of the farmers. Moreover are introduced new agricultural techniques:

* Introduction of the rotation of crops
* The breed of cattle is improved
* Invention of steam-plough

Also in textile industry are introduced new techniques and inventions:

* Spinning-jenny
* Water-frame
* Crompton’s mule
* Self-acting mule

One of the most important engineer of the industrial revolution was James Watt, that built the steam engine. Moreover, Watt and Boulton built and engine for the machines of the textile industry.

The introduction of the machines in the industries signed the passage from a domestic system to a factory system; in the factory system the work is made by people that have no property in the goods they manufacture. At the beginning, the machines have increased the salary of the workers thanks to the development of the commerce. In a short the new capitalistic class made enormous fortunes, and the factory system increased the poverty of the working class, the decrease of the salary, the rise of the price of breed and the conflicts between the workers and the capitalistic class.

The inventor of the spinning mule Samuel Crompton has a statue in Nelson Square, England.

In Birmingham there is the statue of Matthew Boulton, James Watt and William Murdoch that are discussing an engineering drawing. The steam-engine is revolution by the diffusion of the pit-coal and there was:

* The application of the steam engine to the blast furnaces
* Invention of the smelting by pit-coal

During the 18th century also the society is changed. People moved to new countries where there were industries to work and in a short time are constructed the “mushrooms towns” for the workers.

The labours lived in a conditious of extreme poverty and they worked many hours a day, every day. Also children and women worked in the industries, because the capitalists could pay them less than the men and they easier to control. The life expectancy of the poor inhabitants of the industrial cities was only twenty years.

The industrial revolution signs the first social revolution and it creates the main issues of the 20th century; the industries become the elements that mark the power of a country. The industrial revolution proves that free competition may produce wealth without producing well-being,

William Blake and the victims of industrialisation:

William Blake was born in London in 1757 and died in 1827 in London and was a poet, an artist and a prophet. Blake loved the Bible and criticized the English Church. His convictions are influenced by the romantic movement , that was developing in that period.

Most important Blake’s works are Songs of experience and Songs of innocence that are collections of lyrical verses and the Marriage of Heaven that instead is a prose work.

Blake’s poems present a very simple structure and a highly use of symbols.

Blake had a vey important rule for the development of the modern concept of imagination, in the Western culture.

Blake supported the abolition of slavery and shared the intellectuals’ enthusiasm for the principles of the French revolution. Then he focused his attention on the problems of the industrial revolution , that caused a materialistic attitude and the commercial exploitation of human beings.