1. **Summary of the Industrial Revolution (pages 182-185)**

The Agrarian and Industrial Revolution reshaped the social and political background of Britain, which changed from a mainly farmer country to an industrial one.

The Industrial Revolution was encouraged by a great increase in population, which required a quicker and more efficient production. It implied new technologies and inventions, the development of the factory system, new sources of power and of transport. The most important inventions regarded machinery for cloth-making, such as James Hargreaves’s ‘spinning jenny’ and Richard Arkwright’s ‘water frame’. But the need for more energy brought the development of the steam engine, patented by James Watt in 1475. As a result of the introduction of the steam engine, new factories were built, allowing Britain to manufacture cloth more cheaply than elsewhere. Indeed, good were getting cheaper thanks to the improvement of transports.

The Industrial Revolution profoundly influenced agriculture, since both used technological inventions. Agriculture changed thanks to the use of the new machines, to the ‘enclosure’, new farming techniques and so on.

This caused a shifting in population from the rural areas to the industrial cities, which were becoming even overcrowded and dangerous and hosted lots of workers. Women and children were also exploited for the factory work since they could be easily controlled and paid less. But work conditions were not easy even for the male workers, who had to bear long working hours in the factories. Life expectancy was extremely low for terrible conditions caused by toil, disease, strong use of alcohol, unemployment,…

1. **Postcolonial aspects of Exit West**

Exit West is a novel written by a postcolonial writer Moshin Hamid, therefore the intelligent reader expects to find in the novel some aspects which might hint at that current of thought.

First of all, the search for anyone’s **identity** is a fundamental topic of Postcolonial literature, since colonized had to revisit the previous theories about a single European identity expressed by the colonizers. The search for identity is particularly conveyed by the character of Saaed, who seems to be the one more attached to his roots and wants to bring his identity outside his country, getting some difficulties in getting integrated with other cultures.

On the other side, the process of integration seems to affect more Nadia’s character, who differently from Western stereotypes, is an Eastern woman who behaves like a Western one: she is open-minded, independent and accepts to share her culture with other ones different from hers. We call the process by which two or more cultures get into contact and mix each other **hybridity**, which is another important topic of postcolonial literatures.

Hybridity is connected to the concept of **otherness** , which hints at a sense of equality between different people, that is the ideology which was being developing in the colonized while getting into contact with the colonizers. There is no single culture, but lots of cultures which share the same place.

Even though, the thought seems not to be shared by Saaed, who represents another important aspect of Postcolonial literature: that is the **sense of displacement.** It is not only conveyed while the two are outside their country: the situation is shown whenever a person finds a culture strange and incompatible to his/hers. Saaed shows that sense of displacement particularly when they meet up with the group of Nigerians.

Last but not least, Moshin Hamid can be considered ‘postcolonial’ for his use of the English language which does not correspond to the standard English. The novelist indeed had used very long sentences (differently from English habits) and new narrative strategies, such as magic realism, which includes once again contradictions offered by colonized people’s point of view ( between real and magic).

1. **Summary of the document “The World is Shot Through With Crime”: Crime Fiction in the Postcolonial World**

The document wants to convey one of the most brutal and cruel aspect connected to colonialism in Africa and all over the world. Natives were compelled to work hard and suffer from terrible life conditions because they represented a danger to the colonists for their diversity.

In the document colonists are seen like ‘criminals in the undeveloped world’ and that was possible because Europeans were more technologically advanced and educated than natives and they exploited their knowledge to submit the others.

And even with the withdrawn of the colonial Empires, corruption and crimes still often prevail over postcolonial countries’ governments: the document provides the example of India and Pakistan trade in heroin.

So colonialism and post colonialism (and the whole human history in general I would say) are always linked to concepts of criminality and that aspect has become object of many scholars’ works as in Jon Thompson’s *Fiction, Crime and Empire,* Caroline Reitz’s *Detecting the nation: Fiction of Detection and Imperial Venture* and many others. All these novels belong to crime and detective fiction, but there are many novels which included criminal episodes, such as Exit West by Moshin Hamid. The text relies on mainstream Western assumptions about crime (refugees prone to commit crime,..)to move the plot.