OUTLINE OF HISTORY
By H. G. Wells
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HILE the mechanical revolution that enabled a greater more or less ordered society to arise, and which had been brought about wasa great advantage to the human race, it also brought with it a change in the way of life which has been called the "industrial revolution." This is the period during which the power of the machine was made to work for the benefit of man. The invention of the steam engine marked the beginning of this new era. The factory system, with its division of labor and its complex machinery, was developed in the eighteenth century.

The Industrial Revolution

The invention of the steam engine by James Watt in 1769 marked the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The steam engine was a major technological breakthrough that allowed for the mass production of goods. This led to the growth of cities and the development of new industries. The Industrial Revolution transformed the way goods were manufactured and distributed, leading to significant changes in society and politics.

The effects of the Industrial Revolution were felt throughout the world. The expansion of trade and commerce led to the growth of new industries and the rise of the middle class. The Industrial Revolution also had a significant impact on the environment, as the expansion of industry led to pollution and the depletion of natural resources.

The Rise of the Working Class

The Industrial Revolution led to the rise of the working class, who were largely composed of skilled workers and unskilled laborers. The working class faced numerous challenges, including low wages, long hours, and poor working conditions. The labor movement emerged as a response to these challenges, with workers forming unions to demand better working conditions and higher wages.

The impact of the Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution had a profound impact on society, culture, and politics. It transformed the way goods were produced and distributed, leading to significant changes in the economy. The rise of the working class and the growth of labor unions also had a significant impact on politics, as workers and their allies gained political power and influence.

The Industrial Revolution also had a significant impact on the environment, as the expansion of industry led to pollution and the depletion of natural resources. The growth of cities and the expansion of trade and commerce also led to social and cultural changes, with new ideas and values emerging in response to these changes.

The Industrial Revolution continues to shape the world today, with the growth of globalization and the spread of new technologies. As we look to the future, it is important to consider the lessons of the past and to learn from the experiences of the Industrial Revolution.