



Universität des Saarlandes  
Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft sowie  
Übersetzen und Dolmetschen

## Unit 8

# Industrial Revolution

Some notes on Britain in the “long” 18th century

Introduction to Culture Studies (UK & Ireland)

6th July 2017 (“New Style”; from 1752) / 23rd June 2017 (“Old Style”; New Year was 25 March)

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## 18th-century icon James Watt

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**Figure:** James Watt (1736–1819), Scottish (re-) inventor of the steam engine

## 18th-century icon David Hume



**Figure:** David Hume (1711–1776), essayist, economist, historian and philosopher of the Scottish Enlightenment, advocate of empiricism and skepticism; Immanuel Kant claimed that it was Hume who had wakened him from the ‘slumber’ of ‘dogmatic’ metaphysics and set him on the path toward critical philosophy

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## Atheist icon Thomas Aikenhead



**Figure:** Thomas Aikenhead (c. March 1676 – 8 January 1697), medical student in Edinburgh, the last person to be executed for blasphemy in Britain

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# Scotland's empty coffers

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**Figure:** The Darien Chest, which contained the documents and money of the Company of Scotland for the Darien Scheme (1698–1700)

# The scheme that bankrupted Scotland

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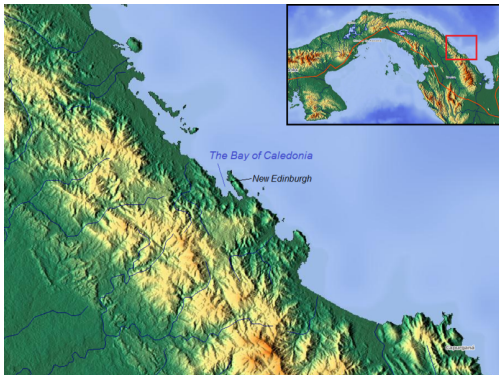
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**Figure:** New Edinburgh on the Isthmus of Darien (Panama), Scotland's failed attempt to become a global trading power (1698–1700)

# The Union Flag

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**Figure:** Union Flag, initially used by English and Scottish ships at sea (1603[+3]–1707) and then later as the flag of the Kingdom of Great Britain (1707–1801) after the Acts of Union (1707)

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**Figure:** William Hogarth: Beer Street (L) vs Gin Lane (R), 1750-1751. Intended to show the evils of drinking gin, rather than good old English beer. (Source: Wikimedia Commons; public domain.)



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# Timeline of Kingdoms

- 1603 'Personal Union' of **England** and **Scotland** (two kingdoms, two parliaments, but one monarch)

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- 1760 **George III** (grandson of George II)



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- 1820 **George IV** (son of George III)



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- 1820 **George IV** (son of George III)
- 1830 **William IV** (younger brother of George IV)



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- 1830 **William IV** (younger brother of George IV)
- 1837–1901 **Victoria** (daughter of younger brother of William IV)



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- 1803–1815 **Napoleonic Wars**

- Stanley Kubrick (1975) *Barry Lyndon*

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- Stanley Kubrick (1975) *Barry Lyndon*
- Nicolas Hytner (1994) *The Madness of King George*

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- Jacob Bronowski (1973) *The Ascent of Man* [8] 'The Drive for Power'

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## The Agricultural Revolution (ca. 1750—)

- Patterns of land use had been changing since the 1300s in England.

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# The Agricultural Revolution (ca. 1750—)

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  - Movement towards single-commodity, export-orientated production:

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- From 1750: application of science to agriculture and livestock raising

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- Patterns of land use had been changing since the 1300s in England.
  - Movement towards single-commodity, export-orientated production:
  - Flax, wool for export to Flanders.
- Scottish landlords had been bankrupted ca. 1700.
  - Switch to wool production
  - Tenant farmers evicted
- From 1750: application of science to agriculture and livestock raising
  - Population increased to levels of Roman period or 1300 or 1650.

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- Great Britain, Prussia, Hanover, Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, Iroquois Confederacy, Portugal, Hesse-Kassel, Schaumburg-Lippe

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- Much of the wealth accumulated in the first years of the Industrial Revolution was produced by exploiting young children, and Black African slaves.
- One of the leading figures of the Industrial Revolution, Josiah Wedgwood, the maternal grandfather (and grandfather-in-law) of Charles Darwin, was a leading figure in the anti-slavery movement.

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## Am I not a man and a brother?



**Figure:** “Am I not a man and a brother?” – a porcelain brooch mass-produced by the Wedgwood family and worn by supporters of the anti-slavery movement. A judgement by Lord Mansfield in 1772 established that any slave who set foot on the soil of Great Britain automatically became free. The *Slavery Abolition Act 1833* abolished slavery throughout the British Empire.

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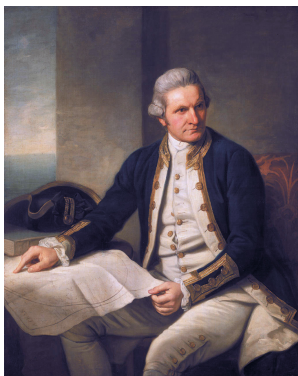
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# Captain James Cook, R.N.



**Figure:** Captain James Cook (27 October 1728 (O.S.) / 7 November 1728 (N.S.) – 14 February 1779), R.N., navigator, curer of scurvy, and first European to discover the coast of eastern Australia

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# Thomas Spence – “Spence’s Plan and a Full Belly!”

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**Figure:** Thomas Spence (1750–1814), the leading English revolutionary of his day; advocated common ownership of land, freedom of the press, and children’s rights

## Thomas Paine – maker of revolution in America and France



**Figure:** Thomas Paine (1737–1809), English writer and revolutionary; central instigator of the American Revolution; member of the French *Convention nationale*; “Without the pen of the author of *Common Sense*, the sword of Washington would have been raised in vain.” – John Adams, 2nd president of the United States

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