

The historical process of the birth of the bourgeoisie and its role in the industrial development process of the West

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Original Article Main Object: Interdisciplinary Scope: UK, Italy, France, Germany</p> <p>Received: 09 March 2023 Revised: 17 April 2023 Accepted: 19 April 2023 Published online: 22 May 2023</p> <p>Keywords: bourgeoisie, commercial capitalism, feudalism, industrial capitalism, mercantile economy.</p>	<p>The formation of industrial capitalism by a dynamic force in the West became an approach that divided history into the period before and after the industrial revolution. Various social, political, economic, cultural and technical causes and phenomena have been effective in the occurrence of this event, which have become the basis for the birth and growth of industrial capitalism in a complex and multiple relationship and none of them can be ignored or underestimated in explaining this issue. In this article, which uses Weber's historical sociology as a method and theoretical framework, the author seeks to answer the question of what stages were confirmed the formation of industrial capitalism in Europe and what factors were formed its foundation. In addition to economic-social and political factors, the transition from subsistence economy to industrial economy in the dictionary of the concept of development has been the result of the action of a part of the bourgeoisie in Europe, which after organizing commercial capitalism and providing the conditions for capital accumulation, with the transition from the speculative economy of capital foundations established an industry. Therefore, the main bearers of the industrial world in Europe were the trade sector, who, by changing from the speculative spirit and defeating the flag bearers of this spirit, provided the grounds for industrial capitalism in Europe.</p>

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Extended Abstract**Background**

Europe in the Middle Ages, from the end of the 5th century to the middle of the 17th century, under the banner of feudal lords had a subsistence economy and depended on the land due to its specific political and economic conditions. Feudal bio-economics in this period was based on agricultural economy with the most limited amount of production dependent on the geography under the control of a feudal lord, and economic exchanges were ultimately limited to a few feudal regions in the form of clearing. Gradually, from the beginning of the 11th century AD, with the establishment of cities by the bourgeois, the ground was provided for the production of industrial goods in the form of small factories and the development of commodity exchanges in the markets. With the growth of diversity in the composition of goods and the expansion of commercial exchanges following the crisis in the feudal system and the struggle for the independence of the cities in the 13th and 14th centuries AD, and as a result of the territorial unification, the necessary platforms for the birth of industrial capitalism in the West were provided. Every thinker tried to elaborate on this phenomenon and explain the causes of the birth of industrial capitalism in Europe based on his attitude and epistemological tradition. By examining the existing literature about the industrialization of the West, it is clear that most of the existing works in this field rely on one of the factors (technical, political, social and economic) and single-caused the grounds for the birth of capitalism in the West. Durant (1989) focuses on the ideological aspect of the transition from the feudalism era to the renaissance era and does not deal with the objective and material factors of the transition and does not take into account the formation of the early bourgeoisie and the early accumulation. Hobsbawm (2008) searches for the causes of the industrial revolution outside of England. Mojel et al. (1998) only pay attention to the political factors that caused the industrial revolution. Davidar (2006), Kemp (2000), Beshler (1984) and Dobb (2012) paid attention to capital accumulation as the main driving force of industrial capitalism in their works and compared the ideological factors and intellectual fields. They did not pay attention to the direction of capital towards industry. What has made this article important is the rejection of monocausal views.

Aims

The main question in this article is what factors caused the conditions for the emergence of new economic forces in the West and what stages and conditions did these forces go through in order to establish industrial capitalism in the West?

Methods

This research is based on a multi-causal view and political, economic and social factors together, the historical process of the birth and movement of the bourgeoisie and their role in the development of the

West is considered. Weber's historical sociology is used as a theoretical framework and research method.

Results

With the collapse of feudalism and the collapse of the subsistence economy, the second arena for the birth of the capitalist economy was provided. Capitalist economy needed its proper geographical space, which the emergence of cities provided the necessary conditions for. Small workshops, which are the seeds of industrial capitalism, were formed along with cities. With the formation of cities, institutions such as the market, money, contracts and financial institutions, etc., which are specific to the capitalist economy, were formed. The formation of these institutions drastically changed the form and nature of economic relations and provided the necessary platforms for the birth of capitalism. With the transition from the medieval world and the union with the kings, the mercantile spirit gradually dominated the productive economy of the factory. The acquisition of commercial monopolies and the patronage of kings greatly accelerated the process of capital accumulation, so that the professional economy was considered a parasite on the commercial economy. What caused the superiority of the commercial sector over the production sector was the rich and easy profits from the exchange of goods.

Conclusion

The rich and easily collected profits from the trade sector made a part of the bourgeoisie conservative and for years this sector created restrictions on the production area so that they could set their desired price on the limited goods. But in the last stage of the transition, with the accumulation of capital, the conditions for the transition to industrial capitalism were provided, and the bourgeoisie who benefited from the accumulation of capital began to flow capital in the direction of industry. The struggles and efforts of the middle classes and a part of the upper class of the bourgeoisie to remove monopolies and overcome the speculative spirit were able to remove the economic and political obstacles in the end. This part of the bourgeoisie fought against monopolies by gaining political privileges and gaining access to government institutions, and by marginalizing the proponents of speculative economy, they opened a way to the industrial world.

Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed to the original idea, study design.

Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or

falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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