SOCIAL & POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY

A. Thomas Carlyle’s “Signs of the Times” (1829)

B. Five components of the “Mechanical Age”
   a. Uniformity and standardization
   b. Work becomes more regimented
   c. Speed
   d. Time-orientation
   e. The idea of progress

C. Conclusion: these ideas form essential elements of what is now referred to as “modernity,” the modern world view of things.

D. Questions:
   a. Did mechanization deskill workers?
      i. Workers no longer own their own tools (see Smith and Clancey, pp. 182-83)
      ii. See McGaw’s argument in S&C, p. 160
   b. Were workers “anti-technology”? (cf. S&C, p. 162)
   c. What accounts for the absence of class consciousness in the Berkshire paper industry as opposed to its presence at Lowell and Harpers Ferry? (see S&C, pp. 151, 162-63, 184)
   d. Was “quitting” or “leaving” a form of worker protest? --“to better myself” (cf. pp. 159 and pp. 148-50)
   e. What about gender differences?
      i. Women’s work and women’s pay (cf. p. 152 [re. Waltham]; p. 166 [re. Berkshires])
      ii. Working conditions in the Berkshire Mills versus those in Lowell?