

THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER 1745-1845

Homework 1 [Advanced]

Frame-Breaking in Nottingham

A letter sent to London from a magistrate describing the situation in Nottingham in February 1812.

Nottingham Feb, 6, 1812

Sir

We mentioned some frames to be removed today from 10 miles off. They came totally unmolested. The soldiers did not go near the village, and the constables had no interruption whatever. We have been concerned to see these instances of removing frames because it must leave some of the country people without the means of work, but it will at the same time open their eyes to the consequence of their own proceedings. For some time before these troubles broke out, in many places a fifth of the frame workers were out of employ, and this naturally induced some hosiers (not perhaps of the first reputation) to give them particular kinds of work at reduced prices; and the hosiers who were giving the higher prices found themselves undersold in certain articles at the London Market.

TASKS

1. According to the letter, how were the knitting frames being protected from damage?
2. How was this affecting the country people?
3. Was unemployment a problem before the frame-breaking began?
4. How did this affect the wages of those in work?
5. Make a list of the causes of the frame-breaking in the Nottingham area at this time. Which do you think was the most important cause of the frame-breaking?
6. Make a list of the consequences of the frame-breaking in the Nottingham area. How do you think the frame-breakers justified their actions?

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Homework 1 [Standard]

Wanted: Luddites

TASK

The year is 1811. Design a government poster for the capture and arrest of Luddites. Decide what your main heading will be e.g. 'STOP LUDDITE FRAME BREAKING!', give reasons why the Luddites should be stopped and what reward the government is offering. You may want to also include the names of some of the Luddites and what they have done.