LATE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Name

Course

Tutor

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Late industrialization and social change

Critical Review of John Walton's Theory of Research and Industrialization

**Introduction to critical review**

The essential process of analysis is the process of weighing a piece of writing on scales to determine the suitability or appropriateness of the findings in addressing the concerns in question. The task of reviewing a piece of paper is a careful and deliberate attempt to look at the contents of an article with a view of establishing the rationale for the reasons of the authors and the impact that these pieces have on the society as a whole. At the foundation of industrialization in many western powers, some authors came out and conducted studies and presented papers that were meant to explain the process of industrialization and the impacts of these processes on the society as a whole. John Walton was one of the pioneer writers on the subject of industrialization and the social aspects that were involved. Why is Walton against the position of the earlier position of social theories on industrialization? These are some of the questions that this review would address. The primary concern of Walton's paper is the examination of industrialization as a social phenomenon and the manner in which this idea is exhibited in the social construct. In this review, the author takes a close examination of the assertion that industrialization is a principal agent of change in the society.

**Industrialization as an agent of change**

Walton introduces his work by alluding to the fact that industrialization plays a very crucial role in the society. However, it appears that the functions of industrialization in these contexts are still ambiguous. I am entirely in agreement with the assertion by Walton on the importance of industrialization in the communities. Modern and developed societies are today examined in the line of the level of development that it has contributed to the nations. Evidently, the course of the contemporary societies is shaped by the occurrence of industrialization. Without industrialization, it would be particularly difficult to classify an organization as modern. Borrowing from Hobsbawm, Walton seeks to buttress his views on the development of industrialization in the societies and the place of industrialization in well-ordered communities. Hobsbawm said that the beginning of industrialization market a new dawn for the history of human beings (Walton, 1987). It the present days, it is inconceivable that society would exist without the presence and benefits of the process of industrialization. Owing to these fundamental issues involved in the process of industrialization, I am inclined to agree with the assertions of Walton that Industrialization was one of the best events to have happened to the human race.

In the first chapter of his presentation, Walton argues that an investigation of the current sociological theories reveals that the modern sociological approaches have failed to address the issues surrounding industrialization, with specific attention to the historical aspects of the matter (Walton, 1987). In this discussion, Walton opines that the first sociological theories of industrialization which is the classical liberal theory concerning the division of labor and finally the critical theory of uneven distribution of labor. While it is true that these theirs were suitable for the generation in which they were formulated, a lot has changed in the succeeding generations, making the works unreliable in the understanding of the modern trends. On this matter, I think Walton weighed a lot of things. Labor is one of the primary drivers of industrialization. In that regard, it was important that the scholars of the time to examine in details the fundamental labor issues that were in forces at the tome and the manner in which they related with the society (Walton, 1987). The reliance on this aspect alone is not sufficient in the understanding of the modern industrial dynamics. During the time of Max and Durkheim, the utilization of machines was not as advanced as they are today. At the time, most of the activities in the industries were done by human effort and the papers of the time were developed with specific attention to the realities of the season.

In the recent years, however, my observation, like that of other scholars, is that there is a tremendous shift from the use of human labor and replacement with machines. In this regard, when sociologists attempt to examine the social place of industrialization, it becomes incredibly necessary to make provision for machines as critical points of analysis. In respect of this reality, the sociologists find themselves at the disadvantage when they attempt to rely on these traditional theories in the analysis of modern industrialization.

The presentation by Walton in this paper seems to be moving in a particular direction. One of the most critical ideas that he describes is the fact that industrialization is a process that is conducted from one step to another. Over the years, the evolution of the process of industrialization did not happen as some big bang. It occurred as a process of careful attention and creativity by different players. Walton suggests that it is the forms of the organization rather than the events that happen in the daily lives of people that are responsible for the process of industrialization (Walton, 1987). Above all, Walton indicates that wit is the force behind industrialization.

In total agreement with the findings of Walton, I am compelled to agree that the previous theories are not suitable for the determination of the most critical and essential aspects of industrialization. The current state and creativity of the organizations are responsible for the growth of industries across the world. In that regard, for the society to experience the robust development records, it is incredibly vital they put in place the necessary prerequisites for the industrialization process. The reliance on the traditional theories may not help much in the understanding of the industrialization process. It is essential for communities to work within the provisions of their environments, provide an enabling atmosphere and exercise creativity. Without these elements, it would be impossible for societies to experience industrialization.

In the current industrial order, it is difficult to discuss industrialization without talking about the technological aspects of the environment. Throughout the paper, Walton has examined the various levels of technological developments in the industrialization process. The pioneer industries utilized incredibly poor forms of technology in their operations. However, over the years, the progress has been so phenomenal that technology has taken over operations in most sectors of the industrial development of countries (Walton, 1987). Walton indicates that technology does not operate in isolation. For the technology to be productive, it has to be linked with the needs of the organizations and matched with the appropriate human labor. The sociological explanations need to play a pivotal role in the establishment of different forms of technology in institutions.

In agreeing with the position of Walton on the matter, I am tempted to express that the backbone of the modern industrialization is technology. Without the various forms of technology, it would be difficult to achieve the level of industrial development that is witnessed in the contemporary communities. However, it is also necessary to note that the utilization of the forms of technologies did not entirely do away with the roles of human beings in these organizations. Even in the most advanced ways of technology, the presence of human beings must be necessary. In that respect, the issues and principles of division of labor, the conditions of work and authority still apply to the organizations. It is notable that Walton has affirmed the long-held belief that the development of institutions cannot exist outside the confines of the traditional principles of industrialization.

Furthermore, I am in perfect agreement with regards to the role of societies and culture in the industrialization process of a country. In any economic environment, some social issues develop which play critical roles in the development of a framework which offers mediation in the face of the many problems that may arise. Instructively, there is nothing like a perfect environment. In any organization, there are some factors that may be brought up due to the diversities of the employees and the leaders of the agencies. The existence of community and culture provides a basis through which the challenges may be addressed.

Finally, Walton suggests that there is and globally accepted format that should guide the process of the interaction of the various forces that are at play in the creation of industrialization. However, research should be conducted from time to time to establish the best suitable mechanisms to conduct the affairs of the organizations. Due to the ever-changing nature of the commercial environment in most countries, it is incredibly necessary to come up with continuous research activities to determine the best practices to suit the demands of the companies. Besides, I also agree with Walton that due to the difference like the needs of the business, it is essential for organizations to develop the mechanisms that would address the needs of the organizations. In this regard, research should be conducted on the levels of the organizations so that the practices of the organizations should be in line with the unique needs of the institutions.

In the next phase of this discussion, I would like to present personal thoughts and possible suggestions concerning the work of Walton. Firstly, I would like to submit that I am in total agreement with the proposition of Walton that the traditional sociological theories of industrialization are not sufficient in explaining the modern trends of industrial development. Notably, in the current environmental framework, it has become incredibly difficult to rely on the traditional theories to guide the activities of industries in the modern production era. The primary reason for this is that over the years, there has been an immense change in the field of production and that has a tremendous influence on the manner in which industries conduct their affairs. The ever-changing technological environment plays a critical role in the way in which companies approach their operations.

Concerning the nature of the evidence that Walton presents to support his ideas, it is evident that Walton has given sufficient evidence to support his claims. In the first case, from the beginning of the paper, Walton quotes the presentation by Hobsbawm and indicates the various ways in which the presentation of the author have been used to support some of the contemporary theories of industrialization. Besides, Walton has relied significantly on the Durkheimian sociology as well as the teachings of Karl Max to present his views on a wide range of social matters. From the beginning, Walton indicated that the primary centers of his analysis are the two major theories of sociology and their approaches to industrialization.

In conclusion, the manner in which Walton has organized his ideas from one concept to another flawlessly and coherently. From the introduction to the end, Walton has made sure that all the concepts are arranged in ways that are easy to follow. Each of the points builds from one level to another, and that has made it easy to understand the various conclusions that he develops. In the long run, the presentation by Walton is one of the most robust analyses of the changes that have occurred in the industrialization across different societies in the world.

References

Walton, J. (1987). Theory and research on industrialization. *Annual Review of Sociology*, *13*(1), 89-108.