In the age of 20th-century powered flight, they could see for themselves the natural contours and man-made features they had approximated on maps. Starting in the 1700s, the steam engine enabled growth of the railroad, which, like the bicycle, presumably would have come near the top of a comparable survey a century ago. Except for the atomic bomb, breakthroughs in weaponry matter less than the culture and temperament of human conflict. Any collection of 50 breakthroughs must exclude 50,000 more. Please stop to think about this: Outside of the sciences and technology, and apart from the legacies created in each family, humanity is struggling today for a sense of cumulative achievement. Are today’s statesmen an improvement over those of our grandparents’ era? Select Text Level: 3rd Grade 5th Grade 6th Grade 7th Grade 9th Grade 10th Grade 12th Grade. It has been said that the Industrial Revolution was the most profound revolution in human history, because of its sweeping impact on people’s daily lives. The term “industrial revolution” is a succinct catchphrase to describe a historical period, starting in 18th-century Great Britain, where the pace of change appeared to speed up. This acceleration in the processes of technical innovation brought about an array of new tools and machines. It also involved more subtle practical improvements in various fields. A technological revolution is a period in which one or more technologies is replaced by another, novel technology in a short amount of time. It is an era of accelerated technological progress characterized by new innovations whose rapid application and diffusion typically cause an abrupt change in society. A technological revolution generally increases productivity and efficiency. It may involve material or ideological changes caused by the introduction of a device or system. Some examples of its impacts include modernization and development. The Industrial Revolution was a major event in history which had an enormous impact on the way the world functioned. It began in Great Britain in the mid-18th century and spread to other European countries, including Belgium, France and Germany, and to the United States. The driving force behind the Industrial Revolution was the inventions and innovations which continuously fueled the event by providing better and better means to increase productivity, develop new processes and enhance distribution. To name a few, Richard Arkwright’s spinning jenny and the power loom, which increased production, the Bessemer process for steel production, and the introduction of the assembly line for mass production. Rapidly developing technological innovation and mass production have become such hallmarks of our industrialized world that we may fail to consider the events and individuals that laid the groundwork for our many conveniences today. Beginning in Europe in the mid-18th century, the Industrial Revolution continued growing and spreading as innovators around the world began modifying old machinery and methods for production or creating new ones. This lively volume profiles a number of the minds behind some of history’s greatest industrial advances, including Robert Fulton, Margaret Knight, Thomas Edison and many others. Chicago Hollar, Sherman. ed, Pioneers of the Industrial Age: Breakthroughs in Technology. Chicago: Britannica Educational Publishing, 2012.