

Portugal during the 2nd half of the 19th Century



Summary

What caused the crisis in Portugal in the first half of the 19th century?

In the first half of the nineteenth century, Portugal was impoverished (very poor): the **French invasions** (1807-1811) and the **civil war** (1832-1834) caused many deaths, great destruction and high expenses. Agriculture and industry were still underdeveloped and trade was greatly weakened after **Brazil's independence** (1822). To cope with various problems, Portugal had to borrow several other countries.

Regeneration - period between 1851 and 1868 (date of a popular revolution), characterized by a situation of peace, political stability and some economic development.

From the mid-nineteenth century, Portugal lived in peace and political stability. Then began a period of modernization of the country, known as "**Regeneration**", for which it was necessary to borrow more.

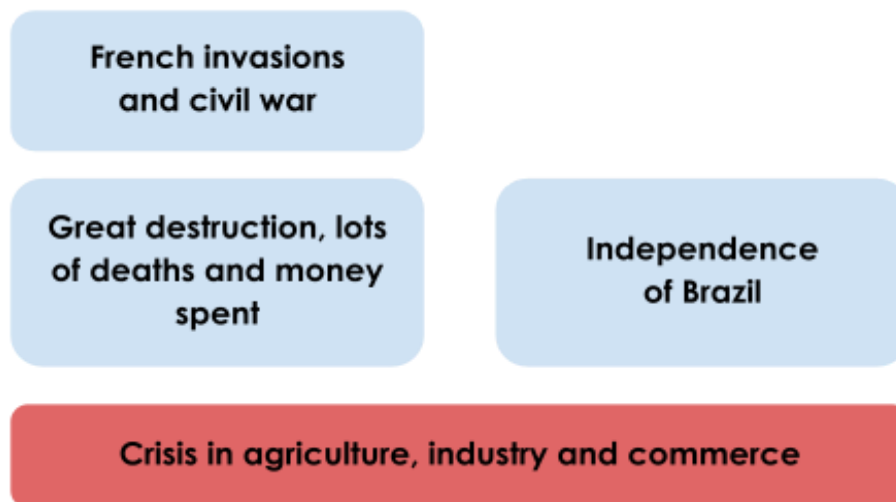


Image 1 - Crisis in the first half of the 19th century

What problems existed in agriculture?

Most Portuguese worked in agriculture. In the North, **subsistence farming** was practiced, which served to ensure the survival of the farmer and his family and which was carried out on small farms (smallholdings). In the South, most properties (latifundium) were large and usually belonged to the high nobility and clergy. Agriculture was in a very difficult situation: the population was mostly illiterate; the cultivated area was very small; there were few roads and few means of transport; and, the techniques and instruments used were very simple and outdated.



How was agriculture modernized?

The liberal governments took several steps to modernize agriculture to increase production:

- They withdrew property from the nobility and clergy, selling it to new owners, mainly the bourgeois;
- They gave the land to the peasants, who cleared it and cultivated it;
- They ended the law of the *morgadio*, making all children heirs. In this way, the number of owners increased;
- The first agricultural machines, crop shifting, chemical fertilizers and selected seeds were introduced.



Image 4 – Modernization of agriculture in the second half of the 19th century

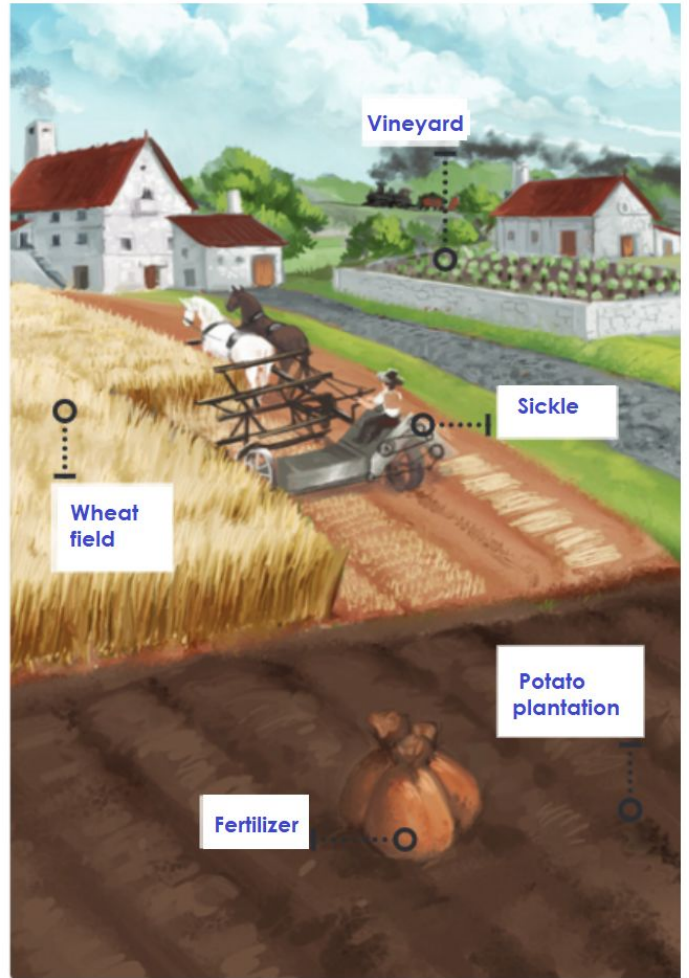
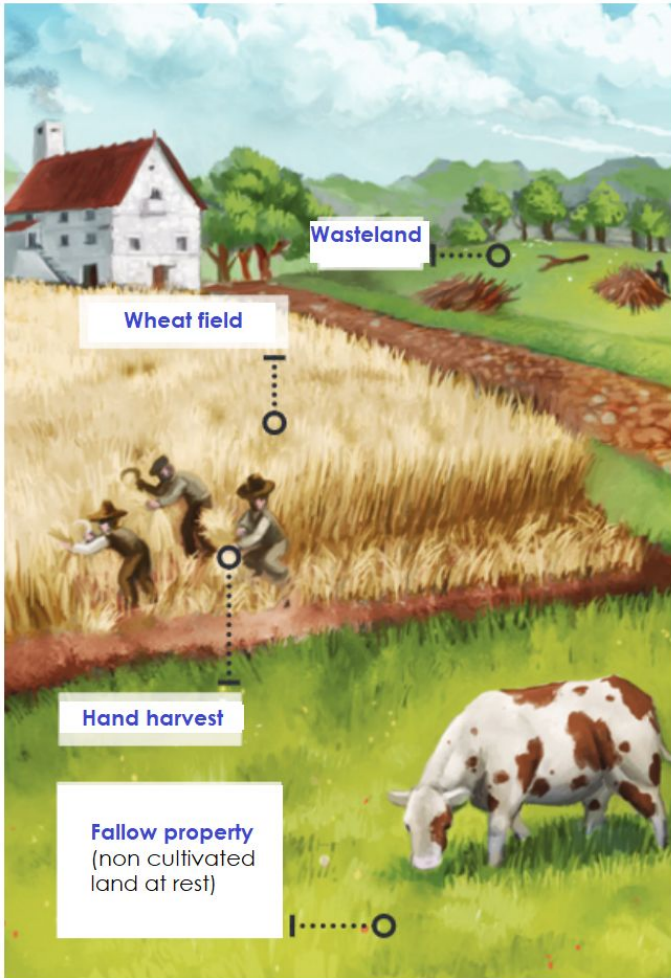


Image 5 - Agriculture up to the 1850's | image 6 - Agriculture after the second half of the 19th century

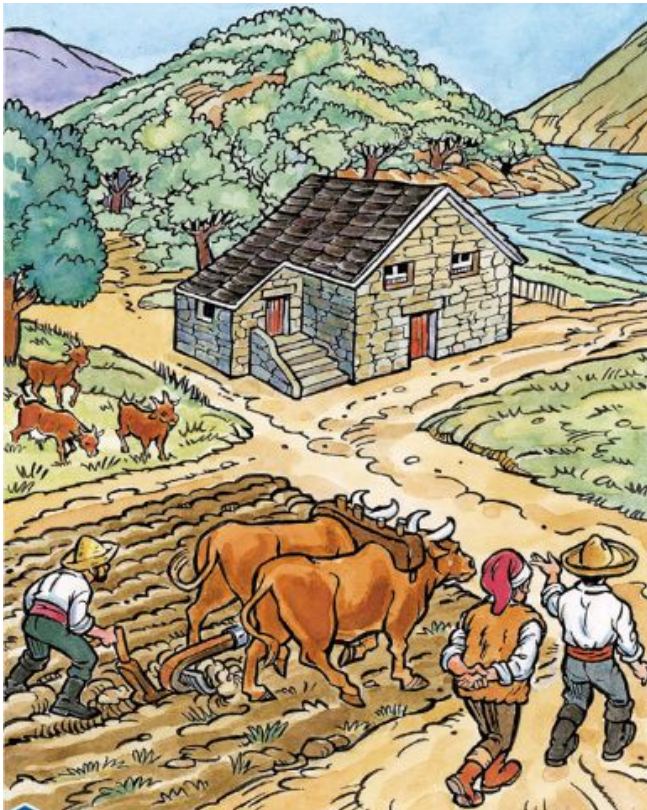


Image 5 - Agriculture up to the 1850's

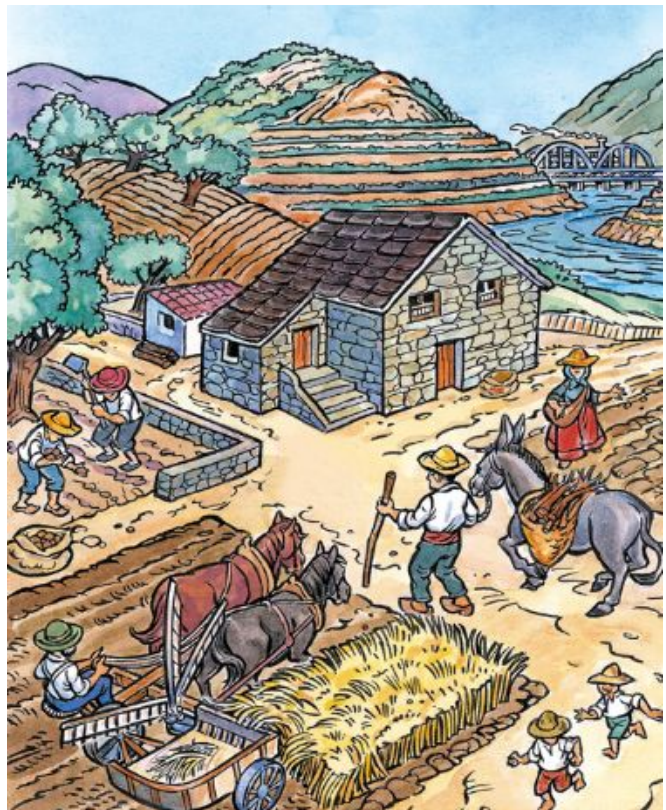


Image 6 - Agriculture after the second half of the 19th century

What was craft production?

Throughout the time, products have been made in a handcrafted manner. Craftsmen worked in their workshops, performing all tasks with simple tools.

They mainly used human force, although they could also use the force of wind, water and animals.

In the 18th century, in Portugal, machines powered by different energy sources were already used. The production spaces became larger and had more workers than the craftsmen's workshops. Therefore, more was produced and with a superior quality. It turned into a manufacturing industry.



Image 9 – Handcrafted manufacturing of shoes

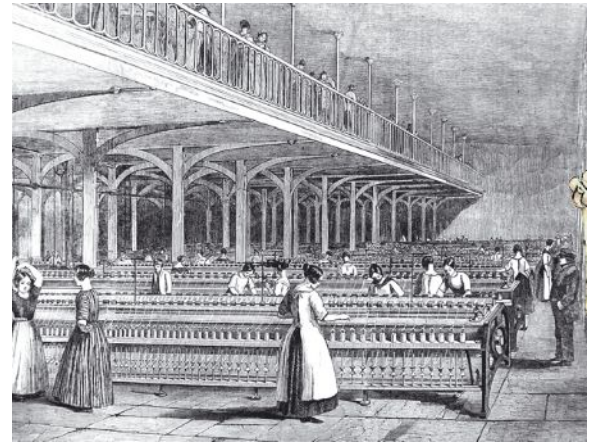
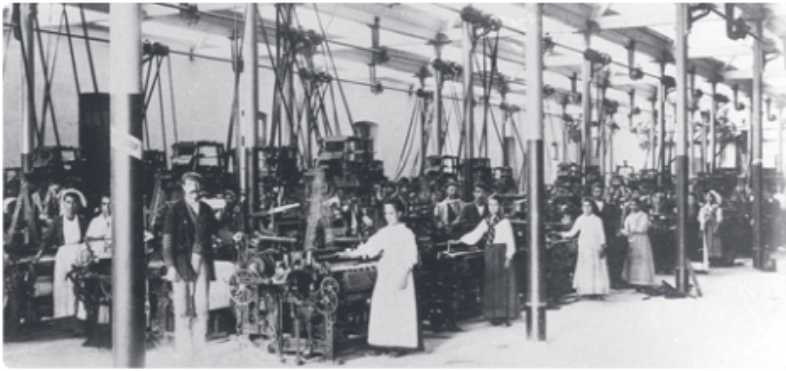
How did the industry change?

The great change in industry started in England in the 18th century with the invention of the **steam engine**, which used a new source of energy: **coal**.

The first factories were then created, with many workers. The workers and the machines worked at a fast pace, producing parts which were all the same and in large quantities. As a result of this increase in production, product prices fell. Products became cheaper.

In Portugal, it was in the second half of the 19th century that the use of the steam engine and industrial factories intensified. In the northern region (Porto, Braga and Guimarães areas), for example, fabrics and clothing were produced, while in the southern region (Setúbal, Seixal and Lisbon areas) it was the chemical and metallurgical (metal) industries.

However, Portugal remained a largely rural country, where agriculture and livestock were the main source of work for a large part of the population. Many products continued to be bought abroad.



Images 10 and 11 – Factories

Handcrafted Production

Mechanical Production

Workshop, where the craftsman would create his products

Factory, with many workers, each one specialized in a specific task.

Simple tools

Steam engine, which made many other machines work.

A small amount of products were made, all different and expensive.

Lots of products were made, all similar and cheaper.

What transformations did the country's urban landscape undergo?

Because the major industries were located on the coastline, the ports were upgraded. These were quite important for the maritime transportation of raw materials and goods. The landscape of the big cities changed, with the building of factories with very tall chimneys. Smoke and noise from the machines caused air and noise pollution, which harmed the health of city populations.



Image 13 – Urban landscape changes



Image 14 e 15 – Industrialized regions in Portugal in the second half of the 19th century.

How was transportation improved?

For centuries, the lack of transportation and communication networks made the country's economic development difficult. During Regeneration, new ways of communication were built, others were improved and new means of transportation were introduced.

In 1849, the construction of a network of paved roads began, which progressively reached various regions of the country. For example, mail carriers (also known as stagecoach) and later the automobile (car).

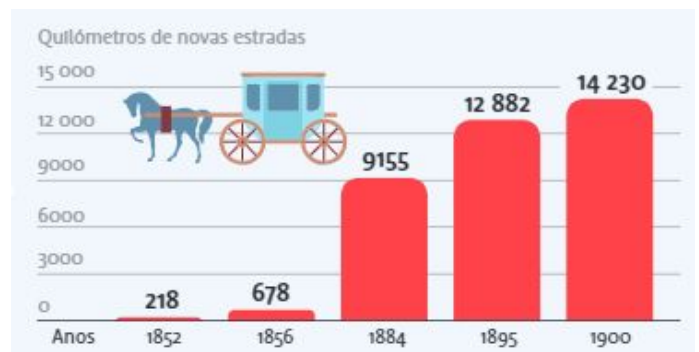


Image 16 – Mail carrier and automobile Image 17 – Paved roads built by the liberal government until the 1900.

What happened to other transportation and communication means?

The **train** was one of the greatest innovations of the 19th century. The first section of the railway was inaugurated in 1856, between Lisbon and Carregado. At that time, sailboats were being replaced by steamboats. Ports were upgraded and many lighthouses were built along the Portuguese coastline, as well as several bridges and viaducts.

In the post office, the first stamps, postcards, postmarks and postmen appeared. The number of newspapers and magazines (printed media) increased and the first **telephone** company appeared in 1882 in Lisbon. The telegraph was already widely used.

It was the government of Portugal that was responsible for the modernization of the country, thanks to Minister **Fontes Pereira de Melo**.



A. H. de Oliveira Marques e J. J. Alves Dias (esculpção)



Image 18 e 19 – Railway evolution

What were the benefits and costs of the work performed?

All these improvements made the circulation of products and people and the exchange of ideas and information easier. Transportation of goods became faster, with larger quantities and at lower costs, benefiting agriculture, industry and

commerce.

To carry out these tasks, the state had to ask various loans from other countries, which were paid through tax increases and new loans. Between 1890 and 1892, a serious financial crisis hit Europe, with repercussions in Portugal: no access to foreign money, which soon made them unable to pay debts.

Development of transportation and communication



development of agriculture, industry and commerce



Portugal spent too much money and was in dept with different countries



Image 20 – Transportation and communication first half of the 19th century vs second half

What has changed in education and justice?

In the first half of the 19th century, about 90% of the Portuguese population was illiterate, that is, they could not read or write. So, the liberal governments built more primary schools so people had access to education and could learn how to read, write and count.

High schools were also created, where students attended secondary school, and agricultural, industrial and commercial schools, to prepare them for agriculture, industry and commerce. Despite these measures, the majority of the population remained illiterate.

According to liberal ideas, there was a greater humanization of justice: the death penalty, which still exists today in several countries, was abolished in Portugal in 1852 for political crimes and in 1867 for civil crimes (in which case our country was a pioneer). Corporal punishments were also prohibited. In 1869, slavery was abolished in all Portuguese territories.

Year	Illiterate men	Illiterate women	Total illiterate
1864	-	-	88.3%
1878	75%	89.3%	82.4%
1890	72.5%	85.4%	79.2%
1900	71%	84.9%	78.6%

What was the "iron architecture"?

Some of the constructions made in the second half of the 19th century, iron, glass and tile were used, which allowed the development of the so-called "iron architecture". Large covered areas emerged: train stations such as Rossio in Lisbon, and exhibition halls such as the Crystal Palace in Porto (meanwhile demolished). Iron bridges were also built to make the links between railways, especially the Maria Pia and Luis I bridges over the Douro River, which connect Oporto to Vila Nova de Gaia.

The architecture of this period was also influenced by the styles of the ancient Greeks and Romans, as well as by the Manueline era, from the time of the Discoveries. Other examples include the Pena Palace in Sintra and the D. Maria II Theater in Lisbon.



Image 23 – Maria Pia Bridge, Porto

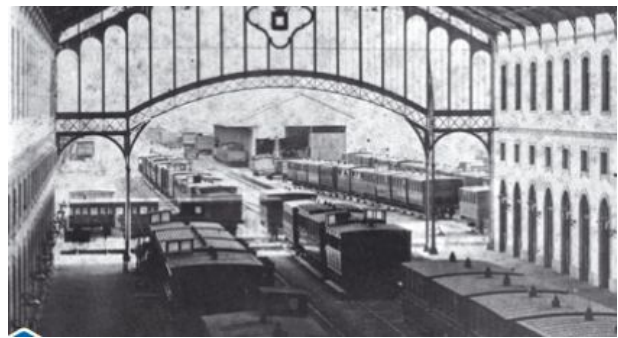


Image 24 – Santa Apolónia Train station

Which Portuguese writers and projects stood out in the nineteenth century?

In the Portuguese literature of the 19th century, there were several authors: Alexandre Herculano (*Eurico, O Presbítero*), Almeida Garrett (*Viagens na Minha Terra*), Antero de Quental (*Odes Modernas*), Camilo Castelo Branco (*Amor de Perdição*), Eça de Queirós (*Os Maias*), among others. As well as famous international authors like Tolstoy (*Anna Kerenina* and *War and Peace*), Mark Twain (*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*) and Herman Melville (*Moby-Dick*).



Image 25 - Great Portuguese authors

What allowed population growth?

As you know, during the second half of the 19th century, there was progress in agriculture and some development of industry. The population started to eat better and there was more labor offers (jobs). On the other hand, during the second half of the 19th century there were no wars in Portugal and lots of advances in medicine and hygiene were made. All of this contributed to fewer people dying. Thus, the population grew. Between 1864 and 1900, population growth exceeded one million people.

Year	Continent	Islands	Total population
1864	3 829 618	358 792	4 188 410
1890	4 660 095	389 634	5 049 729
1900	5 016 267	406 865	5 423 132

How was the population distributed?

The population increase was not the same across the country. Most people lived in or around large cities, such as Lisbon, Oporto and Braga. Along the coast there was fertile land, good communications, transport and growing industries, which also attracted many people. With the growth in population and the mechanization of agriculture, many peasants became unemployed and others received wages. Desiring to improve their living conditions, many left for large cities looking for work in factories, construction and services. This movement of people is called **rural exodus**.



Image 26 - Distribution of population in 1864

Where did the emigrants go?

At the same time as this rural exodus took place, **several Portuguese emigrated**, especially to Brazil. With the abolition of slavery, the former Portuguese colony needed many workers. Other Portuguese preferred to move to the Portuguese lands in Africa, although in smaller numbers.

Some Portuguese became wealthy in Brazil, eventually returning to Portugal. They were the "**Brazilians**". They dressed luxuriously and displayed signs of wealth. In their native lands, they built large houses, supported local institutions, and became influential people. However, other emigrants remained poor and never returned to Portugal.

What changed in society?

Despite the progress described above, the Portuguese economy remained very dependent on agriculture, and society remained essentially rural, as it was in the fields that a large part of the population worked.

However, it was with the Liberal Monarchy that important changes took place in Portuguese society when compared to 16th century society.

After the Liberal Revolution of 1820, the clergy and the nobility lost privileges, and the bourgeoisie began to hold important positions in the government. Many bourgeoisie enriched, especially the owners of factories, banks and lands. However, most of the population continued to experience difficulties.

Nobility	Clergy	Bourgeoisie	People
Lost privileges and importance. Started to pay taxes.	Lost privileges and importance. Religious orders were extinct and their lands, convents and mosques were owned by the government.	Became the most important social group. Many became rich because of industry, commerce and agriculture.	Even though the laws were the same for everyone, both country and city people continued to live with lots of difficulties.

What was the peasants' life like?

Most of the peasants worked on land owned by the nobility and the bourgeoisie. Their day to day life was rather hard, working "from sun to sun" on harvest, for example, and receiving very little in return.

The peasants' houses varied from region to region, depending on the weather and the existing materials. These were generally very poor, small and had little furniture. The lighting was done with oil lamps and wax candles. Their clothing, made of cotton, linen or wool, was simple, also varying from region to region. Normally the peasants had no shoes.



Image 27 - Peasants

What did they eat and how did they have fun?

The peasants' diet was poor and didn't vary a lot. It was based on bread, wheat or corn, and soup, including some codfish, salted sardines, and olives. Meat was only eaten on festive days. They also drink wine regularly.



Tasting dinner (*Provando o jantar*), by Roque Gameiro

- 1 Food produced by peasants
- 2 Oil lamp that lit the house
- 3 Firewood for cooking and heating the house in winter
- 4 Clothing was simple and produced by peasant women, when it was worn it was patched
- 5 Container to fetch water from the fountain
- 6 Clay bowl. It could be used to wash dishes, knead bread or bathe.
- 7 Bread baking oven

Image 28 - Peasant housing and objects

Leisure time was usually connected to farm work and religious festivals. Peasants got together in the harvests, in which they danced and sang for the challenge ahead. Processions, masses, marriages, baptisms and pilgrimages were other moments of distraction. Market or fair days, traditional games (knit, fito), bull races and balls were important moments of socializing and fun.

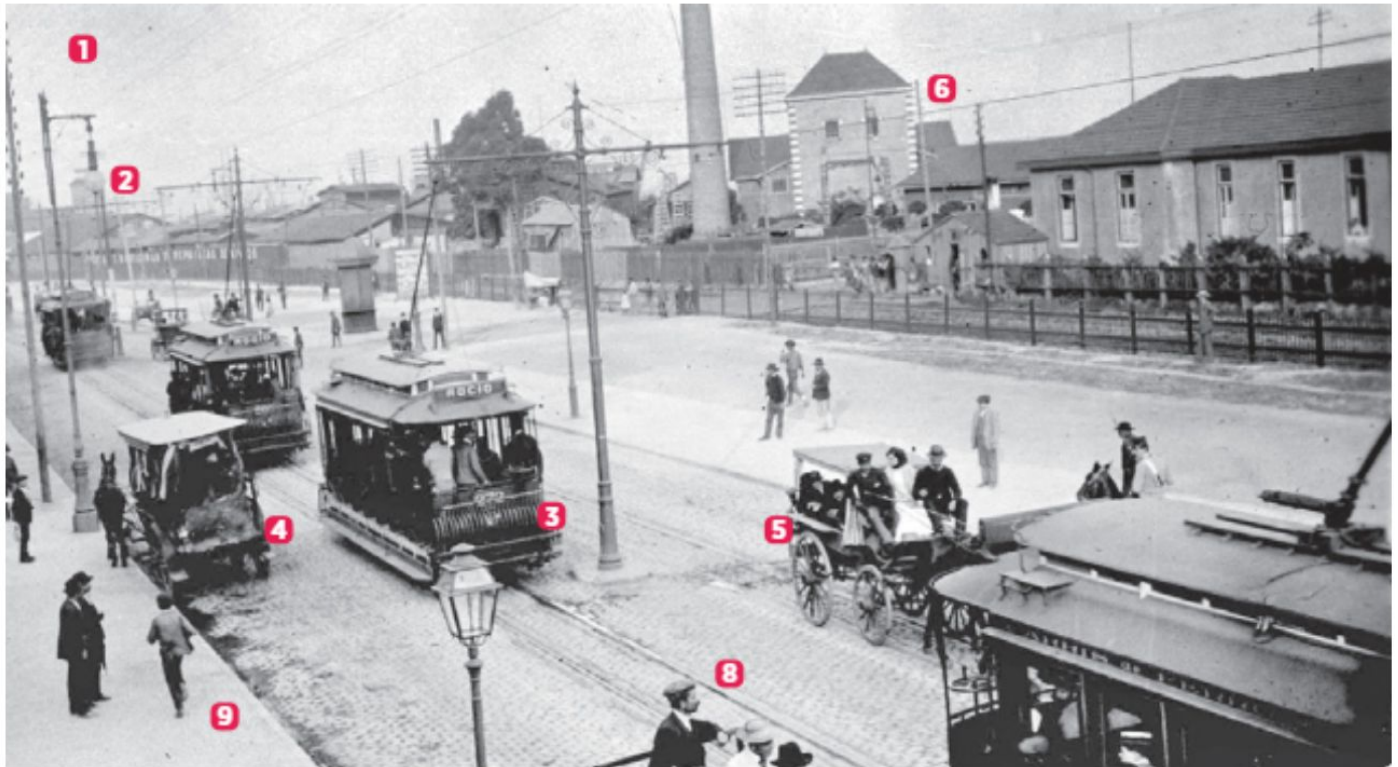


Image 29 - town ball

How did the cities modernize?

In the second half of the 19th century, the great Portuguese cities, in Lisbon and Oporto, modernized. Collective transportation was organized and the first electric cars appeared. Piped water and garbage collection services were also organized. The streets began to be illuminated with gas lamps and later (1878) in Lisbon, electricity. Many streets were paved, sidewalks, avenues, squares and public gardens were built.

Hygiene conditions, public health, safety and mobility of the population continue to exist today. All of these were called urban public services.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Telephone lines | 5 Horse drawn cart |
| 2 Electric lamp, these lamps started to replace gas lamps | 6 Factory |
| 3 Electric car, public transport | 7 Factory chimney, too high to prevent smoke and stench to affect the population |
| 4 Car | 8 Paved floor |
| | 9 Paved sidewalk |

Image 30 - Modernization of Lisbon

What was the city life like for the bourgeoisie?

As mentioned before, the bourgeoisie became very influential. By this time, the upper bourgeoisie included bankers, factory owners, wealthy merchants, and doctors. They lived in flats or in luxurious residences, decorated in the image of the nobility's mansions. Their clothing also imitated the nobility, the ladies wore long skirts, gloves, hat, parasol and fan. The men wore suits, vests, high hats, ties, and canes. Both imitated the fashion of Paris.



Image 31 - Bourgeoisie fashion

The food of the bourgeois was varied. They had a lot of fun: they lived in restaurants, cafes, and clubs; they went to the theater and the opera; watched fireworks; walked in the public gardens; practiced sports; and organized parties.

How did the people live in the cities?

Most of the cities' population were people. They were clerks, servants, street vendors, construction workers, and factory workers.

The latter were men, women and children who worked in factories and were progressively asserting themselves as a new social group the proletariat (working people).

Their living and working conditions were very difficult: they had long working hours, no protection in the event of an accident, and received low wages; they dressed very simply; they ate bread, sardines and vegetables (rarely ate meat); they lived in poor neighborhoods, without piped water, without sewage and without security. To fight for better conditions, they organized themselves into workers' associations and made the first strikes.



Image 32 - women working in a factory