# Chapter 53 Industrialized Societies

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# Abstract

The industrial and political revolution of the late eighteenth century initiated a process of profound economic and social transformation of European countries and, successively, of other parts of the world. Demographic aging and the transition from infectious diseases to chronic diseases as major drivers of population health were some of the relevant long-term outcomes. The spread of chronic diseases was closely linked to the expansion of health-adverse lifestyles resulting from societal modernization. Additional large-scale societal changes became apparent that go along with chronic stressful experience, in particular with the processes of social disintegration and social isolation. Moreover, far-reaching changes in the nature of work and employment occurred, with significant improvements for working people, but equally so with new challenges of stressful work environments. While industrialized societies benefit from substantial human progress, substantial threats remain to be addressed, not the least, man-made disasters and persisting social inequalities in health.