

## Class 25: Nanotechnology Revolution?

*Reading:*

- G. Cross and R. Szostak, *Technology and American Society*, Ch. 4: *Origins of Industrialization*

We want to consider nanotechnology as a revolution and ask these general questions:

1. Will nanotechnology be a new industrial revolution?
2. Is it different from prior revolutions?
3. If nanotech is a revolution, how can we speed it up/help it get going?

In the introduction, Cross and Szostak (CS) talk briefly about what a revolution is. How do they define it?

Do you agree?

What is the primary explanation CS give as to why Britain was the first country in the world to industrialize?

What are some supporting, but disregarded, reasons?

What made America, though initially backward, receptive to the industrial revolution?

How did labor scarcity and resource richness in America play a role?

How can the combination of environmental factors and capitalism hinder a country's competitiveness? (Think water power in the US and coal in England.)

What does understanding the industrial revolution that started in the 1800s in Britain suggest about fostering a possible nanotechnology revolution in the US today?

Is nanotechnology a new industrial revolution or is it just a continuation of the revolution started 250 years ago?