In this chapter you have explored the Chapter Issue, *To what extent can classical liberalism impact a society?* You considered where the ideas of classical liberalism originated, how these ideas developed into the principles of liberalism, and some of the effects of liberalism on society in the 19th century.

In the first section of the chapter you were asked to consider the contributions of such individuals as Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Smith, and Mill. While many of their ideas are commonplace in society today, they were radical notions that met with much resistance during the era in which they emerged.

The examination of the French and American revolutions in the second section of the chapter provided you with an opportunity to consider how classical liberal theory could be applied to 18th century societies and how the ideas of classical liberal theory evolved into an ideology. Responses to classical liberalism resulted in new social, economic, and, specifically, political structures that significantly changed French, American, and other Western societies.

The third section of the chapter explored the social effects of classical liberalism through the Industrial Revolution and laissez-faire capitalism. While the conditions of the working classes during the Industrial Revolution were deplorable, the middle and upper classes accrued enormous economic benefits.

The Chapter Issue for Chapter 3 asks how classical liberalism can impact a society. What we will explore next (in Chapter 4) are the various responses to Classical Liberalism of the 19th century.

During the 19th century, classical liberals had achieved great success in implementing their ideas. Industrialization and laissez-faire capitalism had transformed many Western societies, but not everyone benefited equally from this transformation. Some people were excluded from the benefits of the transformation, and many were aware of injustices arising from the huge differences between the few very wealthy and the vast majority who lived in poverty. From a perspective of people who are underprivileged, classical liberalism was a failure. Some spoke of the benefits of pre-Industrial Revolution beliefs and values, while others felt that classical liberalism had resulted in a society that exploited the many for the benefit of the few. Life had changed for everyone, and life would continue to change in response to Classical Liberalism.

The opponents of liberalism flourished in opposition to the excesses of industry due to the Industrial Revolution and because of the lack of government intervention. Therefore, a number of new ideologies arose in opposition to classical liberalism.

In chapter 4 you will consider these new ideologies. They include Luddism, Chartism, Socialism (Utopian and moderate or democratic), Marxism, classical conservatism, welfare capitalism, the welfare state, and Keynesianism.