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# 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES : SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISSEMINATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY<sup>1</sup>

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Similarly to what was happening in Europe, many industrial societies and associations were established throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Portugal. Acting as spaces of scientific, cultural and economic sociability, most of these institutions aimed primarily at promoting learning and disseminating the advances of science and technology in such a way as to make the most of the country's natural resources and to meet the needs generated by the industrial progress.

This paper will discuss the dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge carried out by the industrial societies through publications, reading rooms, exhibitions and museums and the programmes and actions undertaken to the benefit of Portugal's industrial progress.

## THE GOALS OF THE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Although the first scientific societies that aimed at promoting the common good date back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the liberal revolution of 1820 created the political and social conditions that favoured the establishment of patriotic and civilizing societies, which prompted the country's material development. Among other objectives they hoped to encourage the teaching and the dissemination of useful scientific knowledge. Liberalism also allowed the return of a new "intelligentsia" who had completed its scientific and professional training in exile, and whose learning legitimized sound ambitions to key posts in

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