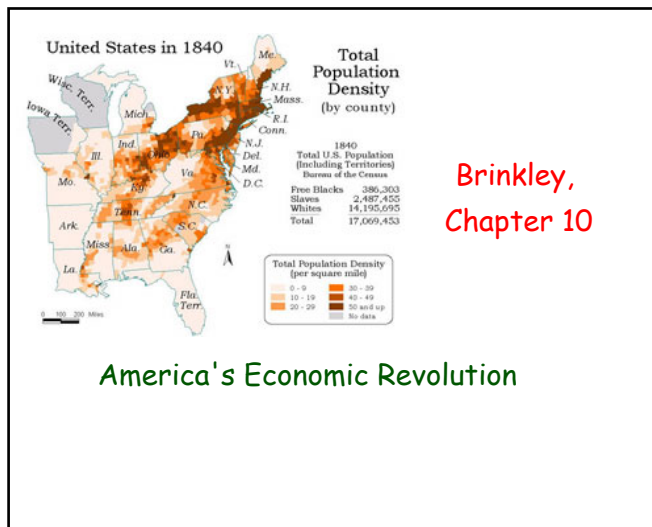


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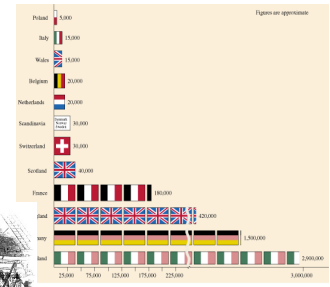
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America's Economic Revolution

Population Trends

Three trends characterized the American population between 1820-1840:

1. Population reached 17 million by 1840
2. African American population increased more slowly than whites due to the abolition of the slave trade
3. Immigration from Ireland and Germany surged



Immigration and Urban Growth 1840-1860

Growth of cities accelerated dramatically between 1840-1860

Major cities in the West rose: Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville

Immigrants moved to cities: New York City, Chicago, and Milwaukee

Overwhelming majority of immigrants between 1840-1860 came from Ireland and Germany

Most Irish became part of the unskilled white labor force.
Largest group of Irish were young single women who worked in factories or in domestic service.

Germans usually arrived with some money and settled in the Northwest where they became farmers or small businessmen.

Rise of Nativism

Democrats eagerly welcomed immigrants

Others viewed immigrants with suspicion and alarm. Argued immigrants were racially inferior or corrupted politics by selling their votes. Protestants worried the Irish Catholics would increase the power of the Catholic Church.

Secret societies formed to combat the "alien menace."

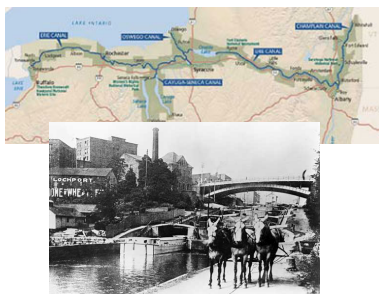
The first was the Native American Party who wanted to ban Catholics from holding public office, enact more restrictive naturalization laws, and establish literacy tests to vote. The order adopted a strict code of secrecy and the group became known as the "Know-Nothings"

Canal Age

Canals were increasingly built to connect other major sources of water.

Financing canals fell upon the states. New York created the Erie Canal that connected the Hudson River and Lake Erie.

Erie Canal was the greatest construction project Americans had ever undertaken. Canal itself was basically a simple ditch 40' wide and 4' deep with towpaths along the banks for horses and mules that were to draw canal boats.



Impact of the Erie Canal



It was cheaper for western farmers to ship their crops east. Small farmers in the Northeast were unable to compete.

Ohio built canals to connect Lake Erie and the Ohio River

Increased white settlement to the Northwest because it was easier for migrants to make the westward journey and to ship their goods back to eastern markets.

Cities who could not build canals began to build railroads.



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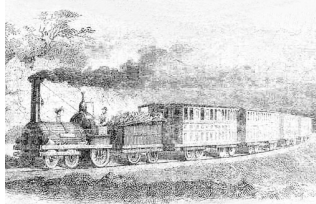
Early Railroads

Railroads became the primary transportation system as well as sites of development for innovations in technology and corporate organization.

Railroads emerged from a combination of technological and entrepreneurial innovations: the invention of tracks, the creation of steam-powered locomotives, and the development of trains as public carriers of passengers and freight.

The first company to begin operations was the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O).

Construction required large amounts of capital: some from private sources, but most from federal government.



Railroads gradually replaced canals and crossed rivers via iron bridges. Chicago eventually became the rail center of the West.

Triumph of the Rails

Railroads weakened connection between the Northwest and the South.

Where railroads went, towns, ranches, and farms grew up rapidly along their routes. Areas once cut off from markets during the winter found that the railroad could transport goods year round.

A trip from Chicago to New York that once took 3 weeks by lake and canal took less than two days on rail.



R.R.s were the breeding ground for technological advances - key to the nation's economic growth & the birthplace of the modern corporate form of organization.

The Telegraph

Virtually all long distance communication relied on the mail which traveled first on horseback and then by railroad.

1832 Samuel F.B. Morse experimented with sending signals along electric cables.



Morse realized that electricity itself could serve as a communication device - pulses of electricity could become a kind of language - eventually known as **Morse Code**.

1843 Congress spent \$30,000 for the construction of a telegraph line between Baltimore and DC. Polk's election was the first communicated via telegraph.

Western Union

By 1860 more than 50,000 miles of telegraph lines connected the country.

Wires often ran alongside railroad tracks. Telegraph allowed railroad operators to communicate directly with stations in cities and warn about delays and breakdowns. Helped prevent accidents as well.

New Forms of Journalism

Another beneficiary of the telegraph was journalism.

The wires delivered news in a matter of hours.

Growth in mass circulation papers

[New York Sun](#)

[New York Herald](#)



Expansion of Business 1820-1840

Innovations in management allowed businesses to expand

Corporations could combine resources of a large number of shareholders - developed in the 1830s.

Looser state laws allowed corporations to form easily. They did not have to get a charter from the state, but pay a fee

Had **limited liability** - individual stock holders only risked losing the value of their investment and not the losses of the corporation as a whole.

Most profound economic development in the mid-19th century was the rise of the factory.

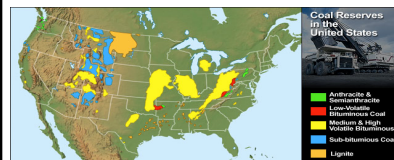
New England textile manufacturers began using new water-powered machines that allowed them to bring their operations together under a single roof.



Between 1840 - 1860 manufactured goods was roughly equal to that of agricultural products. The Northeast produced more than 2/3 of all manufactured products.

Advances in Technology

Machine tools - tools used to make machinery parts
Interchangeable Parts

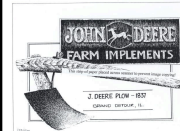


New sources of energy - Coal in Pittsburgh, replaced wood and water power and made it possible to locate mills away from running streams and permitted wider expansion of industry

New Agriculture Techniques

Increased production in the NW came as a result of new technology

Cast-iron plow had replaceable parts



1847 John Deere - steel plows

Jerome Case - thresher



Cyrus McCormick - reaper

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Recruiting a Native Workforce

2 systems of recruitment emerged to bring a new labor supply to the expanding textile mills.

1. Mid-Atlantic States: whole families moved from farms to work together in the mill.
2. Massachusetts: enlisted young women, mostly farmers' daughters in their late teens or early 20s. Lowell system.

Many women in the Lowell system worked for several years, saved their wages, and then returned home to marry.

Labor conditions in the early years were hard but better than what they would become. Women were well fed, carefully supervised, and housed in clean dorms. Wages were relatively generous for the time.

Women found the transition from farm life to factory difficult. Lived among strangers in a regimented environment. But, they had few other options.



Immigrant Workforce

Increasing supply of immigrant workers after 1840 was welcomed by manufacturers

New workers had less leverage than women because they were unskilled, displaced from their home country, and were vast in numbers

Even lower pay, poorer working conditions

Factories becoming large, noisy, unsanitary, dangerous



Factory Girls Association

Paternalistic factory system did not survive long. Manufacturers found it difficult to maintain high living standards and wages. Work days lengthened, wages declined, and dorms deteriorated.

1834 Mill workers formed a union - Factory Girls Association to protest a 25% wage cut, then later protested a rent increase.

Both strikes failed and virtually destroyed the organization.

8 years later, Sarah Bagley created the Female Labor Reform Association. Wanted a 10 hour day and improved working conditions.

By then, though, many girls were moving into other occupations such as teaching, domestic service and homemaking. Textile manufacturers were turning to an immigrant workforce: cheaper labor

Factories and Artisans

Factories replaced artisans & independent craftsmen - represented the "old vision" of the yeoman farmer (Jefferson)

Some artisans made successful transitions into small-scale industry, but others were unable to compete with mass produced, cheaper goods.



1820s and 1830s craft societies began to combine on a citywide basis and set up trade unions. 1834, delegates from 6 cities founded the National Trades' Unions

Commonwealth v. Hunt

As workers created unions and tried to improve their lot they were met with much resistance from factory owners.

Greatest legal victory came in Commonwealth v. Hunt that declared unions were lawful organizations and the strike was a lawful weapon.

Virtually all early craft unions excluded women so they began to form their own. But, they had relatively little influence over their employers.

Many factors combined inhibited effective labor resistance: immigrants who worked for lower wages, ethnic divisions, sheer strength of industrial capitalists (economic & political power)

Highly Unequal Distribution of Wealth

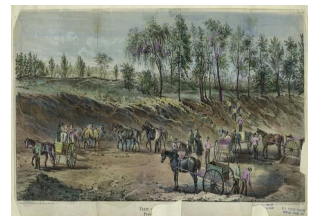
The Industrial Revolution was making the US more unequal

Commercial and industrial growth of the US greatly elevated the average income of the American people, but unevenly.

Slaves, Indians, landless farmers, unskilled workers, women, children had very little to show for the growth.

Wealthy in the large cities created private clubs and lived in neighborhoods of high opulence.

Construction of Central Park was from pressure of high society to have a place to co-mingle and relax



Most urban poor were destitute. Relied on charity or crime to survive. Many starved to death or died from disease or exposure to the elements.

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The Urban Poor

Called "paupers"

Worst victims were free blacks or escaped slaves. Had access to menial jobs at best, could not vote, attend public schools, or use public services available to whites.

Some were recent immigrants, widows, orphans, alcoholics, mentally ill, physically unable to work, or victims of prejudice

Social Mobility

Relatively little class conflict

Life, in material terms, was at least better for most factory workers than before

Significant mobility helped limit discontent. A few workers managed to move from "rags to riches". More workers moved up one "rung of the ladder."

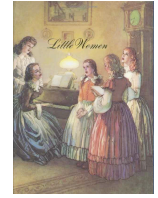
↳ Term coined by Horatio Alger in 1868

Some (although not many) had geographical mobility - could move west to farm. Most moved from one industrial town to another to find better job opportunities.

Middle-Class Life

The fastest-growing group was the middle class.

Economic development opened many more opportunities to work in shops or businesses, engaged in trade, enter professions, and administer organizations.



Once commerce and industry became a source of wealth, rigid class distinctions of inherited aristocracy broke down (wealth passed down through large swaths of land)



Home of Louisa May Alcott (1860)

Expanding Middle Class

Solid and substantial middle-class houses lined city streets, larger in size and more elaborate in design.

Far less lavish than the wealthy

Middle-class women usually cared for the household, although many could afford to hire domestic servants

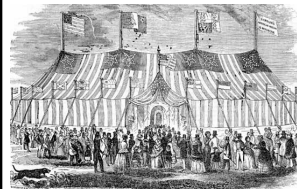


Cast-iron stove: hot, clumsy and dirty but safer than cooking over an open fire.

Diets improved: expansion and diversification of agriculture

Interior Design: Victorian style homes - bigger rooms, rugs, curtains, dark colors, furniture

Leisure Activities



Leisure was scarce for all but the wealthiest of Americans.

Holidays took on special importance: 4th of July

Public culture emerged: theaters, Shakespeare, Minstrel shows (ridicule of African American culture), sports (boxing, horse racing), Circus (P.T. Barnum)

For urban America leisure was something to be seized in any free moment. Men gravitated toward drinking and game playing. Women gathered in others' homes for conversation and cards.

Northeastern Agriculture

Agriculture in the Northeast after 1840 declined. Could not compete with new and richer soil of the Northwest.

1840 Agricultural and cattle raising leaders: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Northeastern farmers responded to changes by moving west or moving to mill towns.

The Old Northwest

Before the Civil War experienced steady industrial growth

Some areas of the Northwest were not yet dominated by whites. Indians were the most numerous in the region.

Typical citizen of the Northwest was not the industrial worker or the urban poor, but the owner of a reasonably prosperous family farm.

Rapid Expansion of Farming

Industrialization in the US provided the greatest boost to agriculture. The growth of factories and cities in the Northeast caused the market for farm goods to increase.

Growing national and worldwide demand for farm products resulted in rising farm prices. For most farmers, the 1840s and early 1850s were years of increasing prosperity.

Expansion of agricultural markets had profound effects on sectional alignments in the US. The Northwest sold most of its products to the Northeast and became an important market for the products of the eastern industry.

A strong economic relationship emerged that was profitable to both. The South looked upon this with growing isolation.