

# CHAPTER 14

## The National Economy, 1790–1860

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1. **Westward Movement (pp. 287–289)** At the end of this section, the authors refer to the “heedless exploitation of the West’s natural bounty” while going on to say that Americans “revered nature and admired its beauty.” \*\*\* Can these two seemingly contradictory statements be reconciled?

To a certain point yes; if they didn’t admire or revere nature then they would have avoided it. But at the same time, if they enjoyed it that much then they would have left nature to be its own environment.

2. **Immigration and Urbanization (pp. 290–297)**
  - a. The population chart on p. 290 shows that, due to a high birth rate and immigration, the country in 1860 was roughly 20 times bigger than it was in 1790. If the population today is about 275 million, it is approximately 10 times bigger than it was in 1860. Also in this first section, the authors describe the squalid conditions in the new booming urban centers. \*\*\* Can you think of any similar city in the world today where growth is much too fast for the basic services (“infrastructure”) to catch up?

Las Angeles. That place has skyscrapers stacked so close and so high, and there just isn’t enough room for everybody moving in from other states because of the nice weather

- b. Briefly list a few distinctive characteristics of the Irish and the German immigrant groups.

### IRISH

Very Rowdy

Known for pubs

Had secret group “Maggie Maguires”

### GERMAN

Smart

Innovative, and also less needy than Irish, The Germans were avoiding a political/economic crisis, not a food crisis

- c. The Protestant majority was concerned about the growing influence of Catholics (a religious denomination), which in the 1840s developed its own separate educational system. The American or “KnowNothing” Party began about 1849 centered around the concept of anti foreignism. (Note how America’s love/hate attitude toward immigrants constitutes a recurring theme.)

3. **Industry and the Factory System (pp. 297–304)**

- a. List two reasons cited by the authors that the Industrial Revolution didn’t hit America until the 1830s and 1840s, much later than it did in Britain.

- (1) Having already been a nation for so long, Britain was a much more developed country, ripe for a technological advancement

- (2) their natural resources such as coal allowed for labor-reducing machines to be built

- b. What do the authors mean on p. 303 when they say that Eli Whitney gave a boost to slavery “and perhaps made inevitable the Civil War” but at the same time “helped factories to flourish in the North,” thus contributing to the ultimate Northern victory?

- (1) “...Civil War inevitable”- He gave a way for the north to flourish without slaves, but the south still had to rely on slave power to thrive

(2) “...ultimate Northern victory”- the fact that the north didn’t need the slaves showed that they were a more independent and powerful group than the south.

c. What is distinctive about the new “limited liability corporations (p. 304)”? \*\*\* Can you guess why this form of business organization was so important to industrialization?

I think this was important because if investors could lose more than they put into a company, then people would have been more hesitant to invest in the first place, which would have slowed the industrial revolution

4. Workers and Women (pp. 304–309)

a. \*\*\* What do you think would be the main differences between working in a craft shop (illustration p. 305) and the more efficient factories illustrated on pp. 307 and 309?

(1) Craft shop: The craft shop was a much more intricate, detailed process. People were working at a slower pace, but I think they would have more finesse at what they did; they would be specialized and more skillful

(2) Factory: Much quicker pace of work, probably also a lot more dangerous to work in. Long hours, good technology but very dulling

b. Regimented factory jobs, such as those at the first big water-powered textile mill at Lowell, Mass., were seen by many single girls as a way to escape the farm. Besides factory work, the “caring professions” open to women included nursing, and domestic service. Upon marriage, most women left the workforce. How do the authors define the “cult of domesticity (p. 307)”? \*\*\* What is your reaction to this view of women’s role in family life?

(1) Definition: The cult of domesticity was basically a sexist outlook on how and what women should be doing things. It stated a woman couldn’t handle the same type of work a man could

(2) Reaction: I agree to a physical extent, but women are capable, and by no means less important. Their contributions to the industrial revolution were key to the success of textile mills

5. Transportation (pp. 309–317) (Note: In 1800, the biggest obstacle to national development was that people, goods, and even letters could not move faster than animals could walk, rivers could flow, or the wind could blow. Revolutionary developments, primarily the steamboat and railroad, would change that fast.) The first major wagon road west, the National or Cumberland Road, was started in 1811. The revolutionary steamboat, invented by Robert in 1807, allowed people and goods to move upstream as well as down. The first big western canal, the Erie Canal, pushed through in 1819 by Governor DeWitt Clinton, benefited its Atlantic terminus at New York City at the expense of cities like Boston. The first American railroad appeared in 1850’s and soon superseded the canal system in terms of importance. Look at the railroad map on p. 313. By 1860, the Midwest was sending its agricultural products and raw materials mostly to the North (North or South), enabling that region to specialize in manufacturing and shipping. The South had to continue specializing in its cash crops such as Tobacco (its biggest cash crop), which it sent out via its navigable waterways. This new regional specialization will provide a big advantage to the North (North or South) in the eventual Civil War. (Note: *Without these new transportation links, the South might have expected closer ties with the Midwest because Midwestern waterways all drain out through New Orleans.*)

6. Market Revolution (pp. 317–318) In this section, the authors summarize the drastic change from the home as a self-sufficient economic enterprise to the home as a refuge from more specialized, market-oriented work outside. They also point to the growing gulf between rich and poor that caused class warfare in many European countries. What two reasons do they give for the relative absence of class conflict in America, despite these wide disparities between rich and poor?

(1) Rich people were allowed to create their own companies without legal issues after the laws of free incorporations, which gave poor people the opportunity to have a job.

(2)

## CHAPTER 14 TERM SHEET

### The National Economy

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#### Pages 287–289

Natty Bumppo (James Fenimore Cooper)- James Fenimore Cooper, *The Leatherstocking Tales*. Man living between wilderness and civilization and between native american and european culture.

Captain Ahab (Herman Melville) - Captain of Pequod in "Moby Dick". Obsessed so he sacrificed himself, his crew, and his boat

“Rugged individualism” - The belief that all individuals, or nearly all individuals, can succeed on their own and that government help for people should be minimal. Popularly said by Hertbert Hoover.

“Rendezvous system” -The basis for the American fur-trapping industry, many traders ventured to the Rocky Mountains each summer to trade with fur-trappers and Indians for pelts in exchange for manufactured goods.

George Catlin - painter and student of Native American life who was among the first Americans to advocate the preservation of nature; proposed the idea of a national park.

#### Pages 290–297

Urbanization -the social process whereby cities grow and societies become more urban

Immigration (first wave) -The massive immigration of the Europeans to America inflamed the prejudices of American nativists.

Irish potato famine (1840s) -the "Black Forties," many Irish came to America because of the massive rot that came upon the potato crops, inducing a famine. Most of the Irish were Roman-Catholic.

“Biddies” and “Paddies” -nicknames for the irish

Ancient Order of Hibernians -  
Group established to aid Irish immigrants

“Molly Maguires” - Members of a secret Irish organization located in Pennsylvania

Tammany Hall - Traded food and shelter with poor Irish immigrants in exchange for votes

European democratic revolutions (1848) - Spring of Nations, Springtime of the Peoples<sup>[3]</sup> or the Year of Revolution, were a series of political upheavals throughout Europe in [1848](#).

American or “Know-Nothing” Party (1849) - [nativist](#) American political movement of the 1840s and 1850s. It was empowered by popular fears that the country was being overwhelmed

Pages 297–304

Industrial Revolution - Machines were invented which made mass production easy, causing the creation of factories, the change from an agricultural to an industrial society and from home manufacturing to factory production

Factory system - Samuel Slater- "Father of the Factory System"

Samuel Slater (1791) - Considered father of American industrial revolution because he brought British textile technology, rather illegally, to America

Eli Whitney - Inventor of the cotton gin, interchangeable parts, and the milling machine

Cotton gin - Invented by Eli Whitney, made separating seeds from cotton monumentally faster, requiring less slave labor for more cotton

Interchangeable parts - interchangeable parts caught on by 1850 and it became the basis for mass-production.

Elias Howe (1846) - invented the sewing machine in 1846.

Isaac Singer - inventor, actor, and entrepreneur. He made important improvements in the design of the sewing machine and was the founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

“Limited liability” corporations - The idea that a company cannot lose more than was invested in it

Samuel F. B. Morse (1844) -Contributor to invention of one-wire telegraph, co-inventor of morse code

Pages 304–309

“Wage slaves” - Factory workers were forbidden by law to form labor unions to raise wages.

Ten-Hour Day (1840) – children under the age of 14 could only work for a certain amount of time under the labor union laws

Trade unions - organization of workers that have banded together to achieve common goals

“Factory girls” - Women were forbidden to form unions and they had few opportunities to share dissatisfactions over their harsh working conditions.

Lowell mills - Francis Cabot Lowell invented the first factory system

Catherine Beecher - Encouraged other women to work as nurses, school teachers, and maids

“Cult of domesticity” - Also called “Cult of True Womanhood” by detractors Piety -

women should be religious and spiritual than men

Purity - pure in heart, mind, and body  
Submission - women should be subordinate to men, who should make all decisions  
Domesticity - men should be out working to gain money for the family, and women should remain in the home caring for the estate and the children

“Women’s sphere” - The husband had to be out in the public sphere creating the wealth, but his wife was free to manage the private sphere, the "WOMEN'S SPHERE."

John Deere (1837) - produced a steel plow in 1837 which broke through the thick soil of the West.

Cyrus McCormick (1830s) - Designed McCormick reaper, which was horse drawn and was used to cut and harvest ripe crops with ease

“Cash-crop agriculture” – agriculture based on crops that were easy to produce, cheap to harvest, and relatively high selling prices like tobacco

Pages 309–317

Lancaster “turnpike” (1790s) -hard-surfaced highway that ran from Philadelphia to Lancaster; drivers had to pay a toll to use it.

National/Cumberland Road (1811-1852) - went from Cumberland, in western Maryland, to Illinois. Its construction was halted during the War of 1812, but the road was completed in 1852.

Robert Fulton (1807) - Inventor of the first American steamboat

Erie Canal (1817-1825) - connected the Great Lakes with the Hudson River in 1825; the canal lowered shipping prices and decreased passenger transit time.

DeWitt Clinton - Governor of New York, responsible for construction of Erie Canal

Railroad (1828) - The first one appeared in 1828. Railroads were at first opposed because of safety flaws and they took away money from the Erie Canal investors.

Cyrus field (1858) - [American](#) businessman and financier who, along with other entrepreneurs, created the [Atlantic Telegraph Company](#) and laid the first [telegraph cable](#) across the [Atlantic Ocean](#) in 1858.

“Clipper” ships - Built by Donald Mckay, clippers were fast and long ships that dominated the seas in the 1840s and 50s

Pony Express (1860) - Very fast mail service which used horse back riders who switched off at select posts so that mail could be delivered without stop

Pages 317–318

John Jacob Astor - smuggling [opium](#). In the early 19th century he diversified into [New York City real estate](#) and later became a famed patron of the arts.

“Social mobility” - common political discourse, social mobility can refer to both horizontal mobility