

The Dynamics of Growth

- Northeast industrial revolution
- West agricultural empire
- South cotton and slavery
- Internal improvements

Agriculture and the National Economy

- Commercial and urban outlook replaced agrarian outlook

Cotton

- Spread of textile mills
- **Mulberry Grove** in coastal Georgia was the birthplace of cotton industry
 - **Cotton gin invented by Eli Whitney**
 - New use for slavery
- Cotton became immediate export commodity
- South supplied north with both raw materials and markets for manufactures.
 - **Cotton became crucial element in national economy**
- Westward flow of planters

Farming the West

- Fertile land drew farmers from New England
- New land law of 1820 reduced price of land
 - Westerners agitated for further relaxation of land laws
 - **They favored preemption: right of squatters to purchase land at the minimum price**
- **Congress responded with two bills**
 - **Preemption Act of 1830:** squatters could stake out claims ahead of the land surveys and later get 160 acres at the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre.
 - **Graduation Act of 1854:** prices of unsold lands were to go down in stages until the lands could sell for 12.5 cents per acre after 30 years.
- **Jethro Wood** improved iron plow with separate replaceable parts. Assisted cultivation of new lands
- John Deere's and John Oliver's steel plow
- Seeding became mechanical
- **Cyrus Hall McCormick's grain reaper in 1831;** as important as cotton gin; increased productivity
- **Agricultural products soared, prices dropped, income rose, standard of living improved**

Transportation and the National Economy

New Roads

- Travel was difficult at best, despite new roads
- Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike gathered momentum for pavement

Water Transportation

- River steamboat, canal barge
- Steamboat > flatboat
- Villages in strategic trading points along the streams developed into centers of commerce and urban life
- **Impact of the Erie Canal, completed in 1825**
 - Major economic and political consequences
 - Tied together West and East—isolated South
 - Brought a “river of gold” to New York City
 - Engineering marvel
 - Reduced travel time and cost
 - Prompted construction of other canals in other states
 - Ohio River Valley entered New York economic sphere

Railroads

- Travel on railroads was risky
 - Dangerous
- Water travel was more comfortable
- **Railroad was gaining supremacy over water travel, however**
 - Cheap, quick, reliable
 - **Encouraged new settlement and farming expansion**
 - **Reduced freight cost also helped manufacturers**
 - Year-round availability

Ocean Transportation

- **Start of regularly scheduled passenger service was more important change**
- **Black Ball Line**—weekly transatlantic service
- 1845 first clipper ship, *Rainbow*—built for speed
 - Clipper boom was prompted by lure of Chinese tea—required quick transport (perishable)
 - However, they lacked cargo space

The Role of Government

- Transportation improvements were **a result of state and private ventures**
- The national government bought stocks in turnpike and canal companies
 - Also extended **land grants to West** for supporting canal projects
 - Congress provided for railroad surveys **and reduced tariffs on iron**
 - 1850 grant set precedent for other bounties

A Communications Revolution

- Turnpikes, canals, railroads, steamships, and **telegraph** generated communications revolution
- Mail began to be delivered “express”

American Technology

- **Joseph Henry**: research in electromagnetism → **Samuel Morse’s telegraph**
- Houses could be larger, better heated, better illuminated

- Wealthy: indoor plumbing, central heating, gas lighting, bathtubs, iceboxes, sewing machines
- Lower class: coal-burning stoves
- Sewage systems
- Newspapers, clocks, watches, machine-made clothing
- **Charles Goodyear:** process for vulcanizing rubber (making more flexible)
- **Elias Howe:** design for sewing machine, improved by Isaac Singer
 - Sewing machine slowed the factory progress—**putting-out system was adopted nationwide**
- **The telegraph**
 - People could learn about events and exchange messages instantaneously
 - National networks were consolidated in mid-1850s
 - Entire continent was wired in 1861
- **Steamboats, canals, and railroads helped unite the western portion of the country with the East, boost trade, and open up the west for settlement.**

The Industrial Revolution

- Technology altered the economic landscape and gave rise to factory system

Early Textile Manufactures

- Putting out system → factory system
- Great Britain's industrial production got a head-start due to invention of steam engine there by **James Watt (1765)**.
 - British restricted proliferation of their machines
 - **Sam Slater** brought ideas from Britain—cotton yarn
- **Thomas Jefferson's embargo had stimulated domestic production**

The Lowell System

- Factory system sprang up in Massachusetts under Boston Manufacturing Company and Boston Associate **Francis Cabot Lowell**.
 - Their plant was the first factory in which process of spinning and weaving were under one roof
 - Founders of the enterprise sought to establish an industrial center compatible with the republican values of plain living and high thinking
 - They located their mill in the countryside to avoid crowdedness of the city
- **Lowell factory were mostly young women from New England farm families**
 - Dexterity
 - accepted lower wages than men
 - surplus of women in New England—many men migrated West
 - women's desire to escape farm life and earn cash
 - **they were reassured with toleration, prepared meals, comfortable housing, education**
- **Booming growth transformed Lowell experiment in industrial republicanism—rural areas became manufacturing towns**
- **Conditions deteriorated. Relation between workers and managers deteriorated due to drop in prices and wages**
 - Stress placed on efficiency and profit over community values

- Women organized strikes to protest deteriorating conditions
- Family system/Rhode Island system: whole families were hired

Industrialization and the Environment

- Running water could not be converted to private property
- Rise of water-powered textile industry challenged those regulations
- Entrepreneurs bought rights to water by purchasing land—water became a commodity independent of land
- **Water: societal resource → private commodity**
- Ecology was affected—dams aroused local resentment
 - Angry farmers, loggers, fishermen tried to destroy dam in New Hampshire

Industry and Cities

- Growth of cities
- Four great Atlantic seaports: **New York**, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston—largest cities
 - New Orleans—also prominent but neglect imports caused it to lag behind
- Pittsburg was center of iron production
- Cincinnati meatpacking center
- Louisville trading center
- Great Lakes cities—water transportation centers
 - Chicago became hub of water and railroad transportation
- St. Louis fur trade
- **Before 1840 commerce dominated the activities of major cities, but early industry often created new concentrations of population at places convenient to waterpower or raw materials.**
- **During 1840s and 50s, stationary steam engine and declining transportation costs offset the advantages of such locations and enhanced attraction of older cities—pools of experienced labor, capital, warehousing, trade services, city life**
- **Urbanization was a consequences of economic growth**

The Popular Culture

- More indulgence in recreation
- New forms of leisure and entertainment

Urban Recreation

- Social drinking
 - Transcended all classes, races, regions
- Bloodsports—cockfighting, dog-fighting → boxing

The Performing Arts

- **Theaters were most popular form of indoor entertainment**
 - Women were discouraged from attending
- Blackface minstrel show
 - Whites dressed up as blacks
 - **Stephen Foster**—music composer; “Oh! Susanna!”
 - **Inaccurate melodies**

Immigration

- Abundant land, scarce labor = immigrants
- New arrivals rose after War of 1812
 - 1845 to 1854 saw greatest population influx
 - 15 percent of total population in 1845 was immigrant
 - **Largest groups were Irish, Germans, British**

The Irish

- **Onset of prolonged depression prompted Irish to emigrate**
 - Epidemic of potato rot
 - Better life in America
 - Evenly apportioned by sex; German immigrants were mostly male
 - Most congregated in eastern cities and worked in construction
- **Anti-Irish sentiments**
 - Anti-Catholic prejudices
 - Characterized as ignorant, filthy, clannish
 - Competed with African Americans for low jobs—Irish voted against rights for African Americans
- **Irish voters were drawn to Jackson/Democratic Party**
 - Jackson himself was Irish
 - Jackson had defeated British at New Orleans
 - Irish loathed aristocracy
 - **Irish became first minority group to exhibit considerable political influence**
- **Greatest achievement was their stimulating growth of the Catholic Church in the United States**

The Germans

- Large number of learned, cultured, professional people
- They brought opinions on laissez faire, religious preferences, Jews
- **More Germans settled in rural areas than in cities, unlike Irish**
- **They migrated in groups instead of individually, unlike Irish**
 - Their language was better sustained
- Tended to return back to Germany

The British, Scandinavians, and Chinese

- British were also mainly professionals and skilled workers
 - Brought British factory technology to America
- Norwegians and Swedes gravitated to Wisconsin and Minnesota (reminded of climate back home)
- **Chinese** were attracted by California
 - Like Irish, they **did work in construction**

Nativism

- Not all Americans welcomed the flood of immigrants
 - **Irish and German Catholics aroused Protestant hostility to “popery”**
 - Fear that German communities were fomenting political radicalism and that Irish were forming voting blocs

- **Unfamiliar religious practices**
- **Lyman Beecher:** anti-Catholic sermons, incited mob attack
- **Nativist groups claimed to prove their patriotism by hating foreigners**
- **Order of the Star Spangled Banner**
 - formidable third party known as American Party
 - members pledged never to vote for any foreign-born or Catholic candidate
 - “Know-Nothings” almost got major party status
 - Demanded exclusion of immigrants from office
 - Demanded extension of naturalization period

Organized Labor

- Skilled workers operated within a guild system
- Workers in several of the skilled trades formed their own professional associations
 - Organized by trade
 - Local societies intended to promote the interests of the members
 - **Pressured politicians for tariffs to protect them from foreign import, to provide insurance benefits, to draft regulations to improve working conditions, to ensure quality control, to provide equitable treatment of apprentices and journeymen**
 - **Sought to control number of tradesmen in their profession to maintain wage levels**
- Controversy over use of slaves as skilled workers
 - Southern journeymen opposed—slaves would be unnecessary competition
- **Artisans could not match low prices of factory-made goods—decreasing status of skilled workers**

Early Unions

- Early unions faced serious legal obstacles—accused to conspiracies
- **Commonwealth v. Hunt:** court ruled that forming a trade union was not itself illegal, nor was a demand that employers hire only members of the union, right to strike
- Early unions were confined to the locality and to one specific trade
 - From 1827 to 1837 larger scale began to take hold
 - **National Trades’ Union:** set up to federate the city societies
 - Economic collapse of 1837 negated national organization

Labor Politics

- **Workingmen’s Party** in Philadelphia gained balance of power in city council
 - Reformist groups devoted to interests of labor, but **faded quickly**
 - **Inexperience of labor politicians**
- Labor party followers turned to radical Democratic party—**Locofocos**
- **Labor parties succeeded in drawing attention to their views, promoted free public education, abolition of imprisonment for debt, 10-hour work day became more commonly accepted, limits to militia system, abolition of licensed monopolies, abolition of child labor**

The Revival of Unions

- Decline in 1837, revival in early 1840s

- **Shoemakers at Lynn and Natick walked out after their requests for higher wages were denied—spread through New England**
 - **Stood out for its size and because workers won**
 - Employers agreed to wage increases
- Rise of importance of unions as bargaining agents

The Rise of the Professions

- Social changes → new professions
- More high-status jobs
- Epitome of democratic ideal: reward for hard work, ambition, and merit
- Workforce was broadened and diversified due to rapid expansion of new communities, public schools, institutions of higher learning, new technology
- Henry Day: “The Professions”—social functions of modern life were professional skills

Teaching

- Teaching was one of the fastest growing occupations
- Teaching was a convenient first job—alternative to farming
- Liberal arts were emphasized in church and civic organizations

Law, Medicine, and Engineering

- Teaching was a stepping-stone to become lawyer
- Many attorneys because lack of formal training system and law schools
- Physicians also had lack of formal education
 - Medical practice without regulation
 - Quackery was abundant
- Engineering was largest professional occupation for men
 - Specialized expertise needed for building
 - Engineering schools

Women’s Work

- Primarily domestic work
- Nursing, teaching—low pay
- Religious work
- Rarely physicians

Jacksonian Inequality

- Enterprising self-made men were successful—John Astor,
- Those that started out poor seldom made it to the top
- **the age of the common man seems actually to have been an age of growing economic and social inequality**
 - **white population of America was generally better-off than European populations**
 - **New frontiers raised level of well-being**
 - **Religious and political freedom**

