Chapter 14
Forging the National Economy, 1790–1860
I. The Westward Movement

- Age of the population
- Westward movement of the population
- Life going to and in the West
- “Self-Reliance/Individualism
- exceptions
II. Shaping the Western Landscape

• Exhaustion of the land in some areas
• “Kentucky bluegrass”
• Fur-trappers>rendezvous>impact on the environment
• “Ecological imperialism”
• But, reverence for nature
• George Catlin
III. The March of the Millions

- Population growth
- Increase in number of states
- Urban growth and accompanying problems
- High birthrate > population growth
- Immigration and its impact on the population - Who were they. Where did they come from?
- Why were people leaving Europe or relocating?
- Why America?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Nonwhite</th>
<th>Percent Nonwhite</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>3,172,000</td>
<td>757,000</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3,929,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>4,306,000</td>
<td>1,002,000</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5,308,000</td>
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<td>1810</td>
<td>5,862,000</td>
<td>1,378,000</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7,240,000</td>
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<td>1820</td>
<td>7,867,000</td>
<td>1,772,000</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>1830</td>
<td>10,537,000</td>
<td>2,329,000</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>1840</td>
<td>14,196,000</td>
<td>2,874,000</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17,070,000</td>
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<td>1850</td>
<td>19,553,000</td>
<td>3,639,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23,192,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>26,922,000</td>
<td>4,521,000</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31,443,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>Germans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1831–1840</td>
<td>207,381</td>
<td>152,454</td>
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<td>1841–1850</td>
<td>780,719</td>
<td>434,626</td>
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<td>1851–1860</td>
<td>914,119</td>
<td>951,667</td>
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<td>1861–1870</td>
<td>435,778</td>
<td>787,468</td>
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<td>1871–1880</td>
<td>436,871</td>
<td>718,182</td>
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<td>1881–1890</td>
<td>655,482</td>
<td>1,452,970</td>
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<td>1891–1900</td>
<td>388,416</td>
<td>505,152</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3,818,766</td>
<td>5,000,519</td>
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IV. The Emerald Isle Moves West

- Irish immigration - Why?
- Where did they locate primarily?
- Initially, what was life like for the Irish? What jobs did they hold?
- Irish resentment of African-Americans. Why?
- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Molly Maguires
- The Irish improve their lot. How so?
- Tammany Hall
- Cultivating the Irish vote
V. The German Forty-Eighters

- German immigration by the numbers
- Who were they? Why come to America?
- Characteristics of German immigrants
- Where did the Germans settle?
- Were the Germans politically potent?
- German contributions to American culture
- German culture-How did it conflict with Puritan beliefs?
VI. Flare-ups of Anti-foreignism

- Anti-foreign sentiment - Why?
- How did Catholics respond?
- Catholicism firmly established.
- Know Nothing Party - What was it based upon? What was their agenda?
- Maria Monk’s *Awful Disclosures* as example of anti-foreign propaganda.
- Mass violence
- “Pluralistic” society
- Why were episodes of violence not more frequent?
- Immigrant impact on the economy/Industrial Revolution
VII. Creeping Mechanization

• The Industrial Revolution in Britain—textiles, steam engine, factories, etc. > transformation in agriculture, communication, transportation.

• Why was industry relatively slow to develop in America? a.) cheap land b.) labor scarce c.) shortage of investment capital d.) lacked high quality goods and a reasonable price e.) British monopoly on textile and other industrial technology
VIII. Whitney Ends the Fiber Famine

• Samuel Slater- “Father of the Factory System”-escape to America.
• Eli Whitney and the cotton gin by the numbers.
• The impact of the cotton gin
• New England becomes American industrial center. Why?
IX. Marvels in Manufacturing

- War of 1812 spurs industry in U.S.-“Buy American”, “Wear American”, wave of patriotism and nationalism helps American manufacturers
- Britain dumps surplus goods into U.S. following War of 1812-encourages people to buy on credit
- Protective Tariff of 1816 helps
- Firearm manufacturing
- Eli Whitney’s system of “interchangeable parts”
- Samuel Colt
continued

• Colt gives North a military advantage perhaps
• Whitney’s invention helps perpetuate slavery
• Elias Howe invents the sewing machine. Isaac Singer perfects it-the foundation of the ready-made clothing industry.
• The number of patents increases dramatically during the period.
• Concept of “limited liability”
• Investment capital companies-Boston Associates as example
• Laws of free incorporation
• Samuel F.B. Morse invents the telegraph and its impact on U.S.

• London World’s Fair in 1851 showcases American products-McCormick’s reaper; Morse’s telegraph; Colt’s firearms; Goodyear’s vulcanized rubber
X. Workers and “Wage Slaves”

• The impact of industry on labor? Did everyone benefit in this new economy?
• Exploitation of children in the workplace
• Some improvements for adult workers. Why?
• Demands of the working class
• Producers criticisms of those demands
• Labor organizes-strikes-organized workers v. immigrants
• Depression of 1837 and its impact on organized labor
• Commonwealth v. Hunt
XI. Women and the Economy

- Textile mills undermine the cottage industry
- “Factory Girls” and their workday
- What other jobs were available to women—Catharine Beecher
- “Cult of Domesticity”
- Changes for women and attitudes
- The average family?
- Decisions to have fewer children/ Birth control?
- Impact of fewer children?
- Child rearing
XII. Western Farmers Reap a Revolution in the Fields

- The “breadbasket” emerges. Where?
- Corn
- Cincinnati-“Porkopolis”
- Transporting goods from the Midwest
- More land put into cultivation
- John Deere
- Cyrus McCormick’s reaper
- Subsistence farming becomes food production for domestic and foreign markets-need for transportation to the east and west.
XIII. Highways and Steamboats

- Lancaster Turnpike in Pennsylvania (1790’s)
- Obstacles to Western road building
- National Road/Cumberland Road
- Robert Fulton and the Steamboat-The Clermont>huge success. Why?
- *Sultana* incident!
- *Impact of the steamboat*
XIV. “Clinton’s Big Ditch” in New York

- The Erie Canal—What did it link? Why did the state of N.Y foot the bill? How long was it? When was it begun and completed?
- Economic impact? How did it work?
- Social and political impact?
XV. The Iron Horse

• Describe the emergence of the railroad in the U.S.
XVI. Cables, Clippers, and Pony Riders

- Cyrus Field - the greatest wire-puller in history-trans-Atlantic cable.
- The clipper ship and its impact. Why was its glory relatively brief?
- Stagecoaches
- Pony Express > telegraph
The PASSENGER and BURDEN TRAINS of this Company,

ARE NOW RUNNING,
DAILY, BETWEEN

Baltimore & Wrightsville,
The termination of the Philadelphia & Columbia Rail-Road: connecting with that Road and with the Pennsylvania State Canals at Columbia.

This Line of Rail-Road is constructed in the most permanent and substantial manner, with the heaviest Rail used in the United States. The Cars and Locomotives are of the best quality.

The Hours of Departure and Arrival

Of the PASSENGER TRAINS, at present, are as follows, viz:

Leaves BALTIMORE 4 P.M., 2 P.M., 1 P.M., 10 A.M., and 7 A.M. Leaves WRIGHTSVILLE at 1 A.M., at 2 A.M., and at 3 A.M. Leaves YORK, at 3 P.M., 7 P.M., 11 P.M., and 12 M. M. Leaves BALTIMORE, at 9 P.M., 12 M. M., and 1 A.M. In the forenoon Mornig, at 8 A.M., and at 10 A.M.

Leaves YORK at 7 A.M., 10 A.M., 1 P.M., and 4 P.M. Leaves WRIGHTSVILLE, at 12 M. M., and at 3 P.M. Leaves BALTIMORE, at 7 A.M., and at 10 A.M., In the forenoon Mornig, at 8 A.M., and at 10 A.M.

PASSENGERS going West, by leaving Baltimore at 9 o'clock A. M., arrive at Harrisburg the same Evening—and take the Canal Boats the next day.

The PRICES LIST of Travelers, Luggage, &c. &c. to be had of the Baltimore & Susquehanna Railroad Co., at their Office in Baltimore, and at the Stations, and at the Agents in the Line.

D. C. H. BORDLEY, Superintendent.

Transportation Office, Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Co.,
Baltimore, May 18, 1849.
Map 14-4 p301
XVII. The Transport Web Binds the Union

• The “transportation revolution” > a national economy.
• Steamboat and its impact
• Decline in Mississippi R. traffic. Why?
• NYC becomes the seaboard queen of the nation.
• A continental economy develops-regional economic activity.
• The political and military implications of the new economic pattern
XVIII. The Market Revolution

• Transformation of a subsistence economy to a national network of industry and commerce. How will it work? What is government’s role? Who should own the means the technologies and networks that made the American economy work?

• Roger Taney becomes Chief Justice and opened up entrepreneurship.

• Self-reliant households became a part of the market economy

• New manufacturing and transportation brought more prosperity
• Millionaires become more common. John Jacob Astor leaves estate of $30,000,000.
• Extreme economic inequality, especially in the cities. So, was there upward mobility?
• Did America provide more opportunity than the Old World?
• Overall improvement of the standard of living was real! Mass conflict avoided.
CHRONOLOGY

ca. 1750  Industrial Revolution begins in Britain

1791  Samuel Slater builds first U.S. textile factory

1793  Eli Whitney invents cotton gin

1798  Whitney develops interchangeable parts for muskets

1807  Robert Fulton’s first steamboat Embargo spurs American manufacturing

1811  Cumberland Road construction begins

1817  Erie Canal construction begins

1825  Erie Canal completed

1828  First railroad in United States

1830s  Cyrus McCormick invents mechanical mower-reaper

1834  Anti-Catholic riot in Boston

1837  John Deere develops steel plow

1840  President Van Buren establishes ten-hour day for federal employees

1842  Massachusetts declares labor unions legal in Commonwealth v. Hunt

ca. 1843–1868  Era of clipper ships

1844  Samuel Morse invents telegraph Anti-Catholic riot in Philadelphia

1845–1849  Potato famine in Ireland

1846  Elias Howe invents sewing machine

1848  First general incorporation laws in New York Democratic revolutions collapse in Germany

1849  American, or Know-Nothing, party formed

1851  London World’s Fair

1852  Cumberland Road completed

1858  Cyrus Field lays first transatlantic cable

1860  Pony Express established

1861  First transcontinental telegraph

1866  Permanent transatlantic cable established