

1 | Guiding Question

- In what respects was American discovery of technology used to rationalize inherent American superiority (sui generis) as a people?
- What social and political conditions in America allowed the proliferation of the discovery and implementation of technology in the antebellum period?

2 | Argument

American technology, instead of being an accidental process that naturally helped propagate American-centrism, is actually a calculated attempt for growth and serves as a by-product of American Expansionism in the antebellum period.

2.1 | The development of American technology was not much of an accident

Technology, and the **smuggling** thereof, created the basis of American tech scene. The process of value production, unlike that pictured in American popular culture — which is one of celebrating the grassroots sense of people in their victory — actually fairly devoid of intellectual independence.

2.2 | The Pace of the early patents set up animosity between inventors and scientists

Patent office was designed such that it originally granted all patents. When proponents instead of allowing the rapid pace of development, Congress is painted as the villain of inventors as they were sluggish to act to improve upon the patent office, which really came an argument between the inventor/technologists — who wants their inventors protected — and the scientific man — who wants to guarantee the uniqueness and scientific rigor of patents. This is directly in antithesis to the spirit and energy of early antebellum, where the conditions allowed the implementation of new ideas and change rapidly: a result of the idea of the universal "advancement".

2.3 | Pace of Development is Visible!

2.3.1 | The telegram rapidly increased the pace of development in America (Telegram would spark Action)

A now-fundamental part of America — parties — is developed through the telegraph: political parties could not be possible w/o the telegraph. According to one newspaper right before the war, the the Telegraph is an the agent of action.

2.3.2 | Transportation, Communication, and the Economy

As part of the increased route network, the building of new tech. (roads) created an economic proliferation. The creation of road networks also shifted American perspective towards the West, proliferating the country westwards. The Telegraph as the deliverance of political news: purported to be very fast and delivers "factual?" information.

2.4 | ...because they were avoiding a fundamental fear

2.4.1 | The (slow) pace of pre-telegraph communication actually made America possible (Telegram would spark Inaction)

Speed of communication caused unnecessary damage — that even after rev. technically ended people are still fighting. This lead-time actually caused the formation of the revolution in the first place, that the cause of the American revolution may have not happened were communication be more rapid.