

Antebellum Economy and Society

The Westward Movement

- The rise of Andrew Jackson, the first president from beyond the Appalachian Mountains, exemplified the westward march of American people.
- By 1840, the demographic center of the American population map had crossed the Alleghenies.
- Life in the west was harsh, as it came with diseases, depression, loneliness.

Shaping the Western Landscape

- As a result of American's exploration, natural resources have been exploited.
 - Barren land caused by tobacco growing
 - Fur trapping business caused beavers to dwindle
 - At sea, the whalers roamed even-farther in search of new resources
- Thus, some Americans started to urge the preservation of nature
 - George Catlin proposed the creation of national parks
 - Powerful conservation movement

The March of the Millions

- American population has grown significantly in the 19th century.
 - Domestically, they have multiplied at an amazing rate, almost doubling every twenty-five years

- Original thirteen states have grown to thirty-three
- Immigration
 - The immigrant influx has tripled in the 1840s
 - Cause 1: Europe was running out of room
 - Cause 2: Political Persecution
- By-products of the population boom
 - Smelly slums, inadequate policing, impure water etc.
 - Cities like Boston and New York pioneered the sewer system

The Emerald Isle Moves West

- Around 2 millions of Irish immigrants moved to US between 1830 to 1860 due to famine in Ireland
- Most Irish settled in big cities such as Boston and New York
 - Forced to live in slums
 - Hated by protestant Bostonians & natives/black people
- Irish began to participate in politics and dominated police departments

The German Forty-Eighters

- Around 1.5 million German immigrants were present in America around 1850
- Unlike Irish, the Germans often possessed some sort of wealth and settled in the west
- Very influential to American culture
- Liberal, against slavery

Flare-ups of Antiforeignism

- In fear of the immigrants (just like modern days), "nativists" were hostile to the new comers
- Roman Catholics
 - Catholics used to be a minority in US
 - The arrival of German and Irish catholics made Catholics one of the most powerful religious groups
 - Catholics established a separate public school education system in fear of the protestants
- Protestant Disapproval
 - Know-Nothing party, which agitated for rigid restrictions on immigration and naturalization
 - Mass violence against catholics

Creeping Mechanization

- In the 1750s, Industrial Revolution began in Britain
- America only embraced the revolution in the 1840s, when there were more manpower thanks to immigration
- Britain was anxious to hide its secret to its competitors

Whitney Ends the Fiber Famine

- Samuel Slater brought the textile machine to US
- Eli Whitney invented *cotton* gin that was way more effective than the handpicking process
 - The machine greatly impacted the Southern economy, as the southern planters were soon tied down to cotton
 - In a way, it also impacted slavery and American politics
- New England was the center of factories
 - Textile mills were exclusively employed by young women

Marvels in Manufacturing

- American Industry flourished prior to the civil war
- The principle of interchangeable parts
 - Inspired modern days assembly-line methods
 - Produced a lot of firearms
- Numerous new inventions
 - There were 28000 patents by the end of 1860s
 - Sewing machine
 - Morse's telegraph (a.k.a "talking wires")
- Limited Liability
 - Individual investor, in case of bankruptcy, risk no more than his own share of the corporation's stock
 - Protect & legalize individual investors in organizations

Workers and "Wage Slaves"

- Workers were being exploited during the start of the industrial revolution
 - Bad working conditions
 - Long hours
 - Low wages
 - Child labor (children under 10 years old!!)
 - No worker union
- Protest of the workers
 - Strike
 - Ten-hour day for workers
 - *Commonwealth vs Hunt*: labor unions were not illegal

Women and Economy

- "Factory Girls"
 - Work six days a week, 12-13 hours a day
 - Low wages
- Opportunity for women to be economically independent is still scarce

Western Farmers Reap a Revolution in the Fields

- NO NOTES

Economic and Social History (Review Guide Notes)

Economic History

Beginning of a Market Economy

- Market Economy
 - Old: Subsistence economy
 - Made possible by cheaper transports
 - Made people more interdependent
 - Boom-and-bust cycles
 - Market economy is more prone to change
- Eli Whitney
 - Cotton gin

- Made the cotton seed removing process much more efficient
- Demands of cotton went up
- The South became more dependent on **slave labor** because the labor-intensive work
- Interchangeable parts
 - Gave birth to machine-tool industry
 - Inspired assembly line production

The North and The Textile Industry

- Textile machine (designed by Samuel Slater)
- Lowell System
 - Caused by the shortage of labor
 - Guaranteed employees housing, wages and participation in cultural and social events

Transportation: Canals, Railroads, Highways, and Steamships

- National Road from Maryland to West Virginia
- Erie Canal
 - Linked the Great Lakes region to New York
 - Very successful, lucrative for merchants
- Steamships
 - Replaced sailing vessels
 - Made long-distance traveling much easier and more convenient
- Railroads
 - Before the civil war, the railroads were much more common in the North

- Telegraph
 - Allowed communication through Morse Code

Farming

- Despite the rapid growth of American industry, agriculture remained to be extremely important
- Northeast (New England area) area was not very suitable for farming
- Mid-western area became the chief source of grains
- Southerners mainly focused on cash crops such as cotton and tobacco

Westward Expansion

- Manifest Destiny
 - The belief that Americans had a god-given right to the western territories
- Texas
 - Originally was a part of Mexico
 - American explorers settled there and eventually declared independence from Mexico
 - Admitted to the Union in 1845
- California & Oregon Territory
 - Many settlers heading along the Oregon trail ended up in California
 - Gold Rush also compelled a lot of people to settle in California

Economic Reasons for Regional Difference

- **Sectional Strife**
- The North
 - Becoming industrialized
 - Technology advance
 - Commercial center of the country
 - Farming became a less important role
- The South
 - Remained agrarian
 - Anxious to protect slavery
- Western
 - Varied economic interests