

Alex Smetana

09/15/2022

CIS303

## Automobiles

Since the beginning of civilization humans have needed a way to get from place to place. In just the short span of over 150 years, the invention of the automobile has drastically changed human transportation. The automobile drastically speeds up the time it takes for an individual to get anywhere. An individual can be across the country in hours to days in comparison to months by other means. Many jobs delivery jobs such trucking industries require some mode of transportation to get products from one place to another. Two-day delivery services would be nonexistent without the existent of automobiles. Groceries would take a long time to get delivered. Even a simple job, such as a standard pizza delivery boy is dependent on the use of his vehicle to make his deliveries in a short amount of time. Automobiles also solves the issue of navigation. Most modern cars have GPS built into themselves allowing for individuals to have smooth navigation. Although cars might be frustrating and not always the most efficient, individuals won't be lost. Finally, it solves the issues of entertainment. Many individuals' use cars as hobbies. People may enjoy taking apart cars and racing them, destroying them, or collecting them for fun. Modern cars a built into the backbone of American society. Cars provide a huge amount of entertainments for a small group of people in America. Even the whole NASCAR sport is based on making cars go as fast as they go. Most importantly, without a vehicle (in the U.S) it is almost impossible to get anywhere in a short amount of time.

There are many notable inventions support the automobile to create the industry relevant today. Firstly, roads are needed to supplement cars. An automobile industry is theoretically possible without roads, however, would be very unstable. An organization of roads with clearly labels signs, a safety precautions, allow people to be interconnected and get to their destination seamlessly. Secondly, the parts inside the automobile that working together make the machine possible. For example, the car battery, engine, breaks, are all components in making sure that a car is car. There are many different parts that vary from vehicle to vehicles, which are very complex. These parts allow for a car to become car while also including safe and reliable features in modern cars. Finally, the petroleum industry makes the fuel possible. Without any sort of fuel source, a car would get nowhere. Most notably, the entire petroleum and oil industry surrounds cars, however, electric cars are becoming more of a popular choice. Overall, there many parts that go together for a car to function, while being very societal dependent.

The automobile had many ancestors to predate it. Firstly, was human transportation. Before any inventions humans had to get place to place by foot. Transportation on feet is slow, inefficient, and tiring. This was predominantly done during the hunter gathering phase of human existence before humans were able to understand agriculture. However, the one perk that this has over any other mode of transportation is that it is free. Eventually, humans were able to adopt other animals a means of transportation such as horses, camels, and donkeys. Most notably, horses. Horse travel was a big part in American history up until the invention of the automobile. Although inefficient by today's standards, it was much more efficient than walking on foot because horses can walk/run at a must faster pace than humans. Finally, with the invention of the bicycle, humans were able to get places in the city at a much quicker rate than walking. This was very useful during the industrial revolution when Americans moved to the cities. Eventually the

invention of the train and the railway system helped Americans get across the country alongside automobiles. Eventually, automobiles started to take over as Americans primary mode of transportation. They require very little work to get from place to place and would give the driver a feeling of independence. In just a single vehicle an individual can transports one to many peoples anywhere with the convenience of anytime.

Standard cars have enormous potential to become obsolete in the U.S. When comparing America to Europe, Europe is much less car dependent. Any sort of alternate transportation to get to work would make cars obsolete. If America was able to adopt some of Europe's policy, the U.S has the potential to become a much less car dependent society. For example, Europe has the European metro, a train system that spans across Europe. In some parts of Europe, it is much more efficient to take a train rather than to use a car. In the Netherlands, they have invested greatly into bikes and have a whole system to bike around their country. The development of more trains and development of sidewalks/bike lanes could put many leads to a lot less car use. The issue of climate change has been a huge concern in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which could drastically change the way that we use cars. Cars are becoming more and more like computers. Electric cars are the new thing going forward. Recently, California has passed legislation banning the sales of Gasoline cars by the year 2035. However, it is very unlikely for cars to go away, while instead, cars will most likely evolve. For example, modern car looks nothing like the automobiles from 100 year ago. Even a car from 2022 is completely different than a car from 2002. The amount of technology that is put into a car is enormous, which include many features such as, adaptive cruise, GPS, voice controls, and more. Self-driving cars might be a possibility in the future, making regular cars obsolete. It is safe to assume that cars will continue to evolve or possibly go

obsolete in the future. Overall, to make the automobile obsolete, it would take an enormous shift in the U.S economy.

## Citations

Group, Mercedes-Benz. "Beginnings of the Automobile: The Predecessor Companies (1886-1920): Mercedes-Benz Group." *Mercedes*, <https://group.mercedes-benz.com/company/tradition/company-history/1886-1920.html>.