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History

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Lecture 7: Early 19th century Transformations

Industrialization, 1790-1860:

- One of most major economic shifts in US
- Shift is driven by technological innovations in machine tools
 - Makes production of products faster, advancement of technology
 - Example: 1794, Eli Whitney invented cotton gin → processes cotton (separating cotton from seeds) for you, don't need to do it by hand, machine makes things faster
- Factories
 - Instead of working at home
- Reorganizing work routines
 - No longer working at home, schedule is more rigid
- Exploitations of natural resources
 - A lot of these are water powered, horse powered, just getting into steam → not quite there yet
- More goods faster and cheaper = more profit
- New England Textile Industry
 - Previously, women processed cloth, fabric *at home*
 - Now, young women going to factories and working on power looms
 - Mechanical are weaving cloth at a faster rate than ever → more profit
 - Can pay people who had not worked out of the home, can pay them less because they are women, earn more profit

Impacts of Industrialization:

- Change in nature of labor
 - Most people before this own very small farm, grow
 - Just worried about survival, not worried about putting money in the bank
- As industrialization develops → people shift to food and goods to be sold
 - Don't need power loom if you are making cloth for your family!
- Shifting towards Commercial purposes
 - Some people are still subsistent, especially in
- Threatens skilled labor
 - Something makes your products twice as fast → could put you out of a job
- First early labor unions in the US → skilled laborers banding together to make sure their skills aren't put to waste
- Economic booms

- Saves time! → machinery makes things faster, ex. don't have to spend that time separating cotton from seeds that cotton gin could do significantly faster
- This equals more money, more goods available to buy, and more free time

Societal Impacts of Industrialization:

- Shifting the way that life works
- Creating more structure
 - Schedules have to change
 - Working on a farm → natural rhythms, get up with the sun, eat at noon, etc.
 - Working in a factory → less natural rhythms, have to get up at 6am to go work at the factory
 - Clocks were less important before this, but now people actually have to show up at a certain time
- Greater independence for women
 - People employing women because they can pay them less
 - First time these women are working outside the home
 - Women are making some of their own money → making decisions about what you buy, what you do → sense of independence
- Economic interdependence (between north and south of US)
 - Increase of slavery
 - Most textile factories are in the North
 - But cotton is coming from South
 - Greater demand for cotton because of increased output from factories
 - Southern plantations have to expand to keep up with this → growth of southern plantations is a result of existence of factories → Plantation owners need more slaves for their plantations
 - Northern manufacturing is influencing growth of slavery, even while the North is trying to get rid of slavery

Transportation Improvements:

- Started as small colonies, more things that expand inward, more we need transportations
- Expansion of roads (1800-20)
 - Hacking down trees, clearing paths
 - More development of roads means you can sell your goods faster
 - Federal government will benefit → if they have a way to travel between states, it makes interstate commerce easier
 - Gov regulates interstate commerce
- Shifting to canals, 1820s
 - Would not have to carry goods (take them off of a boat and place them on another one), they can just build canals and not take them off the ship
 - Steamboats → flat bottomed, so didn't matter how deep canal/river was
 - Movement of goods cheaper + faster
- Railroads, 1830s-onward
 - Between 1830-50, US built 30k miles of railroad track
- Effects
 - Connects communities → doesn't take as long to go see other people

- Movement of goods, getting things you would not have access to earlier
- For factories + banks → increases profit and expansion
- Makes it easier to move westward → settlement is encouraged as you don't have to walk through wilderness anymore, transportation makes things easier
- Transportation is FASTER, CHEAPER, EASIER

Urbanization:

- Industrialization facilitates growth of cities (urbanization)
- Cities growing
 - Through factories → people are needed to work there
 - Through transportation hubs → people are needed to work at railroads
- Provides job opportunities to people who no longer have to farm/cannot farm
 - If you can buy all your food, you don't need to farm
 - Daughters are sent to work in factories, sons might be sent to work in transportation
- Percentage of population living in cities doubles between 1820-40
 - Concentration of people in east coast cities
- Urbanization being influenced by immigration from Europe

Immigration:

- People didn't stop just because of Revolution
- In 1800: 5 mil, 1820: 10 mil, 1850: 20 mil
- Irish → immigrate because of potato famine of 1845
 - About 2 mil Irish leave Ireland because of this
 - Most of these people are young, uneducated, Catholic, desperate so they are willing to work any job (low-wage)
 - Go into factories because they provide unskilled labor
 - Most of the US doesn't like Catholicism
- Germans
 - Upheaval of Germany
 - Educated professionals, skilled craftsmen
 - Not going into factories
 - Mixed: Protestants, Catholics, Jews
- British
 - Professionals, independent farmers, skilled labor
 - Not likely to go into factories
- Scandinavians
 - Mostly from Norway + Sweden
 - Midwestern farmers
 - Create their own little communities
 - Even now, large Scandinavian communities that immigrated
 - Mostly coming as families
 - Completely skip the east coast

Nativism:

- Resentment by nativists (people born in the US, doesn't include Native Americans!) towards people that immigrated
- Lots of fears:
 - Fears of Catholicism (does your loyalty lie with US or Pope?), competition (might be out of a job because Irish people will work for less), foreigners
- Native American Party, 1843
 - Know Nothing Party
 - Want to stop Irish people's political influence (don't stop them from immigrating)
 - Want to ban Catholics from holding office
 - Want to extend waiting period for immigration from 5 years to 21 years
 - gain lots of influence in NE
 - divided over slavery (if people don't agree on this, there are issues) → not very influential

Heading West, 1830s-40s:

- slow trickle to rapid expansion
- specifically to Oregon territory
 - Joint US-British occupation → people moving there
 - Very fertile soil → agricultural opportunities, can go be a farmer there
- Called Oregon Fever
 - Some divert to California, which is still Spanish
- Government gives 160 acres of "free" land if people farm for 4 years
- 1840s masses of wagon trains
 - People traveling on Oregon trail
 - Hundreds of thousands of people marching through indigenous people's land
- Caused increased tensions with indigenous people
- Renewed tensions with British
 - They shared the land, but dumping large amounts of American people there
- Manifest Destiny
 - God-given right and duty to expand country to Pacific Ocean
 - Changes how you interact with people