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History

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## Lecture 7: Early 19<sup>th</sup> 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