Industrial America: The Market revolution and the Rise of Factories
HIS 141 United States History I, Charles Becker, Pima Community College

The United States Around 1848

Timeline
• 1790 Slater’s textile mill opens
• 1793 Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin
• 1798 Whitney begins on interchangeable parts
• 1804 Richard Trevithick (England) invents steam locomotive.
• 1807 Fulton’s Clermont begins service on Hudson
• 1813 Waltham system established
• 1816 Second Bank of United States chartered
• 1818-1825 Erie Canal constructed
• 1820 Missouri Compromise enacted
• 1825 George Stephenson constructs Stockton to Darlington Railway
• 1830 Baltimore and Ohio rail service begins
• 1837 John Deere invents and markets steel plow
• 1844 Samuel F.B. Morse sends first telegraph message

Growth of a Domestic Market
• Before the War of 1812 the American economy was tied to Europe
• Spurred by the War of 1812
  – Textile manufacturing boomed
  – The “New Nationalism”
• New Nationalism
  – Government aid for internal improvements
  – Second Bank of the United States 1816
  – Protective Tariffs (Tariff of 1816)
• American were quickly preoccupied with material goods

Travel Times
The Cumberland Road and Canals

The Canal System 1825 -1855

Transportation
• Cumberland Road is built in 1810
  – Stagecoaches, wagons, and flatboats
• Erie Canal is built (1818-1825)
• 1807 Fulton introduces steamboat on Hudson
• A trip down the Mississippi
  – Louisville to New Orleans
  – From 90 to 8 days (90% cost savings)
  – By 1855 727 steamboats

Railroads
• 1830 Baltimore and Ohio Railway
• Railroads come to dominate transportation
  – 1850 about 9000 miles, 1860 30,000 miles
• Railroads after 1839 driving economic force in America
• Money was made available through Federal land grants
• Railroads built small towns
• Allowed commercial agriculture

Railways

Farming and Life
• Growing use of factory-made machinery
• 1819 - Jethro Wood patented iron plow
• 1833 John Deere patents steel plow
• 1834 McCormick Reaper patented
• 1837 a practical threshing machine is invented

The Telegraph

The Rise of Factories
• Before 1815 manufactures were “put out” or created by guild artisans
• After 1815 Factories start to take over
• In 1793 Samuel Slater builds first successful water powered textile mill Most all employees were children
  – Formed “company town”
  – Strict work rules, long hours, and no benefits
• In 1798 Eli Whitney built firearms factory

Eli Whitney’s Musket

Lowell Massachusetts
• The Lowell Factory, created in 1820, was novel in its use of young women
  – 7am to 7 pm 6 days a week
  – Wages were good
• The Lowell factory was harsh on the environment
  – 7 supporting canals
  – Lawrence boasted the largest dam in America
• Factory goods were not finished or elegant
• For most shoemaking ceased to be a craft by 1825
• 1834 came the National Trade’s Union
• American Fur Company (started 1808)
An Emerging Material America?
• Household manufacturing disappeared by 1860
• Work by clock under harsh rules
• Pay was low, no insurance
• An emerging middle class
  – Businesspeople, shopkeepers, professionals, clerks, supervisors etc.
  – Material goods equaled success
• Most managed to get up a rung or two
• Average per capita income almost doubled

America at 1850
• Northeast turned urban with
  – 1/3 living in cities,
  – 1/10 of the south’s population lived in cities
• Farmers farmed to provide for distant markets
• Regional specialization
  – South cotton and stable crops fro export
  – West was the new breadbasket
  – Eastern farms shifted to fruits, vegetables, and dairy products
• Typical American “has no root in the soil”