

The Industrial Revolution

U.S. History until 1877

Growth and optimism

- 1790: 4,000,000
- 1860: 31,000,000

Cities 1790, all under 35,000

Cities 1860: 8 over 150,000

The “Transportation Revolution”

Erie Canal

Erie Canal

Erie Canal

Shipping

Steamboats: Robert Fulton, 1817

Railroads

Railroads

Travel Time, 1800

Travel Time, 1830

Travel Time, 1857

A Rage for Business

- National market
 - Samuel F. B. Morse invents telegraph, 1837
- Regional specialization
- Farmers: subsistence to market
 - Shift from local markets to distant urban markets
 - Competition with virgin land in the West
 - A decade of high yields with no fertilization

- Dropping agricultural prices force Eastern farmers to move west or to cities
 - Family farm more or less in crisis ever since

The Industrial Revolution

- English origins
- Water powered factories
 - The New England advantage
 - The South lags
- The role of government
 - Active state involvement and legal instruments
 - Education & the tariff
 - Constitutional protection
 - No internal tariffs
 - Pro-business Supreme Court

Lowell panorama 1840

Women at Lowell

Industrialization in a republic

- Social impact
 - Regional variation
 - Standard of living
 - Social stratification
 - Decline of the yeoman farmer
- Industrial republicanism
 - Challenge to republican ideals
 - Competitive individualism & free labor
 - Problem of factories: the Lowell system
 - Paternalism & women laborers

Women at Lowell