

## Chapter 14: Forging the National Economy (1790-1860)

- Huge westward expansion for land and for wealth
- Better technology and machinery moved with people in the westward expansion
- The global economy was becoming increasingly market-based

### The Westward Movement

- The West became thought of as “the most American part of America”
- Americans were generally young (half were under 30 years old)
- Center of population was gradually moving westward, became west of the Alleghenies (part of the Appalachian mountains) by 1840
- Life was very hard as a pioneer moving west, despite the good societal image of them
  - Society portrayed pioneers as “an army of muscular axmen triumphantly carving civilization out of western woods”
  - People often were very poor and lonely in their lives in secluded log cabins (or worse) without contact from other people
  - Many pioneering people got breakdowns got madness
  - Men had “no-holds-barred wrestling,” which was a free-for-all form of wrestling as entertainment; probably caused many injuries
- Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote “Self-Reliance” that many people could relate to
  - “Self-Reliance” was about the necessity of individualism and nonconformism, popular with very independent and adventurous pioneers
  - Literature began to move towards isolated hero figures
    - Men portrayed as heroes could not really sustain themselves completely independently; community of family and slaves very important for survival in the hard life, as well as governmental funding for infrastructure necessary for survival

*Settlement and Migration:* Americans began to shift West. Rather than staying the area of the original thirteen colonies and the adjacent territories, the Americans began to spread out to the West. This settlement, like most American expansion, was a voluntary action. This movement was characterized by the fervent Americans, many of whom were young, aspiring to become the imaginary heroes of the frontier. There was an image of grandeur in adventuring by oneself, and people sought to fit this stereotype of a frontiersman; similarly, “Self-Reliance” by Emerson encouraged the spirit of individualism. Therefore, it was this cultural shift and a want for economic gain that led to the physical movement of the Americans away from the old lands of the Eastern Seaboard and into the virgin lands of the West.

### Shaping the Western Landscape

- Arable land changed by pioneers
  - Tobacco farmers ravaged land and moved on, leaving pieces of impoverished land behind

- Pioneers in Kentucky burned high cane and allowed Kentucky bluegrass to thrive, which was good for pasture lands
- Pioneers overspent animal resources as well, so-called ecological imperialism of resources
  - Beaver trade was continued with rendezvous system, in which fur trappers swapped manufactured goods for beaver pelts in the north every summer
    - This nearly wiped out the beaver in the region
  - “Buffalo robes” and sea otter pelts were also common trading items
    - Both of these animals also nearly extinct in America after that
- Americans admired the West for its beautiful nature
  - America was unique with “the pristine, natural beauty of America, unspoiled by human hands and reminiscent of a time before the dawn of civilization” — wide untouched lands showed the purity of America
  - This admiration inspired art (literature and painting) and a conservation movement
    - George Catlin saw Native Americans desperately slaughtering animals to trade with Americans; was appalled and was the first to call for national park system; resulted in Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world

*Geography and the Environment:* The geography of America was greatly shaped by the rampant Western expansion, as the Americans solely wanted economic gain for themselves, not caring about the environment. As a result, newly-cleared land was exploited for tobacco and grass for pastures, which ravaged the land and deprived it of nutrients, much as tobacco farming had done in early colonial America, which prompted people to find yet more arable land. The people also killed many animals for their precious resources, such as buffalo and beavers, which almost made the animals extinct in the U.S. This trend of environmental ignorance encountered a strong opposition by environmentalists who called for national parks and conservationist policies that continues today with the debate about global warming, in which the governmental environmental policies (such as the national park system) clashed with economic profit (exploiting untouched lands for fertile agriculture). In other words, the creation of the national parks in the near future was a pro-environment political stance that fought against the frontiersmen’s anti-environment economic stances.

### The March of the Millions

- In 1850 population was still doubling every 25 years (ludicrous rate, similar to colonial times when country was small)
  - By 1860 there were 33 states
  - America had fourth greatest population in the Western world
- Rapid urbanization came with rampant population growth
  - Two large cities in 1790 to forty-three in 1860; NYC, New Orleans, and Chicago were among the largest of them
  - Increased city population increased the number of slums and dirty conditions in the U.S. characteristic of cities
    - Boston created sewer system and NYC switched to centralized water system in order to combat hygiene issues; stopped the growth of deadly mosquitoes with these

- Rapid growth in population in the U.S. was fueled in part by increasing immigration rates
  - Rate of immigration quadrupled in the 1840s
  - About 1.5 million Irish and Germans (each) immigrated to the Americas during the 1840s and 1850s
    - Europe had overpopulation problem, its population was also growing rapidly and they ran out of land; America was the logical solution for many of these people
    - 35 million who abandoned Europe after 1840 out of 60 million went to the U.S.
- America was very enticing to the Europeans
  - Advertised as the “land of freedom and opportunity” (and still is)
  - Freedom from religious and political persecution
  - Prospect of cheap, expansive land and the rise to wealth
  - “America letters” were sent home by immigrants and attracted many more to come over
    - Often mentioned “low taxes, no compulsory military service, and ‘three meat meals a day’”
- Newly-invented steamboats helped facilitate a much quicker travel from Europe to America (10-12 days instead of ten to twelve weeks when sailing)

*Migration and Settlement:* Apart from the general internal movement in America from the East to the West, there were also many people emigrating from Eastern parts of the world (namely Europe) to America, far in the West. This movement, unlike that of the free frontiersmen, was largely driven by economic needs. Europe was overpopulating, and people were in “surplus” — it only made sense for them to immigrate into America. Their settlement, especially into the industrial regions of America, symbolized the open arms of America and epitomized the “American Dream” — the idea that you could start a better life in America. In these mass migrations, the ideals of the U.S. were again brought out as they were during the Revolutionary Era, but this time meant to convince others to come over instead of convincing the Americans to work together to fight the British. In this respect, this mass migration can be considered one of the most American movements because of the deep American concepts that it invokes.

### The Emerald Isle Moves West

- Potato blight (a rotting disease) struck Ireland
  - Irish were very dependent on potato and were already in hard times under British rule, suffered severely and became very poor and famished
  - This was the “Black Forties” for Ireland, in which tens of thousands of Irish fled to America
- Most Irish immigrants went to the cities because they could not afford land
  - Life was very hard for them; they fought hard for jobs and low wages, made it hard for Americans to compete with them; slogans such as NINA (“No Irish Need Apply”) arose
    - They also had conflicts with the black population, who had a similar position fighting for any job, low-paying or not
      - Many Irish got into fights with African Americans and opposed the abolitionist movement as a result

- The Irish sometimes banded together
  - Ancient Order of Hibernians was created in Ireland to fight against greedy landlords; in America, helped poor Irish
  - Molly Maguires was Irish miners' union that later made an impact on the coal industry in PA
- Irish immigrant situation gradually became better
  - The Irish worked very hard, eventually gained some land
    - They considered the ownership of land more important than education; this was what they could not obtain in overpopulated Europe
  - The Irish gradually became more involved in politics, more political influence
    - Irish took over Tammany Hall of NY
    - Irish dominated the police force
    - Politicians began trying to get Irish vote as much as other Americans' votes
      - Politicians became more sympathetic to Irish hatred of Great Britain in order to cull more Irish vote

### The German Forty-Eighters

- Over 1.5 million German refugees entered America from 1830 to 1860
  - Most were farmers hit by hard times (e.g., crop failures)
  - Some were political refugees (supported the democratic revolutions of 1848 (hence the term "forty-eighters" in Germany that collapsed, looked to America for democracy)
- New German immigrants had political power, influenced political structure of America
  - Brought over influential German thinkers such as Carl Schurz, liberal anti-slavery and anti-corruption advocate
  - Germans were wealthier on average than the Irish, many of them settled out west
  - Germans were another group of people that the American politicians tried to get the votes of
- Germans contributed "Conestoga wagon, the Kentucky rifle, and the Christmas tree" to American culture
  - Germans were against militarism and war, which was too common in Europe
  - Germans were well educated, often supported public schools
    - Created idea of kindergarten (a German word)
  - Often stayed in isolated communities of their own to try and preserve their culture, looked at with suspicion by the Americans
    - Had the idea of "Continental Sunday" instead of Sabbath, drank beer (beer) liberally on this day
      - This helped to prompt the anti-alcohol efforts

*American and National Identity:* The introduction of large crowds of the Irish and the German brought up new sentiments of nativism and exceptionalism amongst the Americans from the British colonies. American identity became more diverse, something harder to define as these new and different groups joined. Rather than mostly being the same race and coming from the same cultural background (a British ancestry and the knowledge of English), the Germans and the Irish were completely different

people (different European origins and non-English languages, as well as Roman Catholicism instead of British Protestantism). Therefore, national identity was less about race and ethnic background but more about the desire for a better life in a democratic society—the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans were what kept them together. Many of the Irish moved here because of oppressive landlords, and many Germans immigrated for lack of democracy; America had solutions for both of these groups, and as a result allowed for the assimilation for these two groups into its own culture. Thus, America became a nation of democratic and moral values making up the core of its identity.

### Flare-ups of Antiforeignism

- Many American “nativists” feared that the influx of Irish and German foreigners would “outbreed, outvote, and overwhelm the old ‘native stock’”
- Many of the European immigrants were Roman Catholic, which the Americans still considered as foreign
  - Roman Catholic immigrants worked to create a new educational system that was entirely Roman Catholic and separate from the Protestantism in public schools
  - Roman Catholics numbered 1.8 million communicants by 1850, most powerful religious group (and still is)
- Alarmed many Protestant Americans, who formed the “Order of the Star-Spangled Banner,” which became the Know-Nothing Party, or “American Party” (1845)
  - Name came from the party’s secrecy
  - American nativists in this party wanted strict laws against immigration and naturalization and deportation of foreign paupers (poor people)
  - Nativists “promoted a lurid literature of exposure, much of it pure fiction” — i.e., tried to denounce the foreigners by lying about them
    - Maria Monk’s Awful Disclosures (1836) was a popular book complaining about the religious injustices done by these foreigners
- Discontentment between majority Protestant and the new Roman Catholic groups led to violence sometimes
  - In Boston in 1834 there was a convent that was burned
  - In Philadelphia in 1844 there was a mass revolt of the Irish Catholics against the nativist Protestants that left thirteen dead, fifteen wounded, and two churches burnt down
  - This fighting between these two religious groups is one example of American discrimination against minority groups
  - There might have been even more fighting if the new immigrants were not essential to contribute to the rapid growth of the American economy, in which much labor was needed to operate the new machines that helped to grow the new economy, especially through the Industrial Revolution
    - Without growing population and labor source, American economy would not be so great—the Americans *needed* mass immigration
- These new immigrants were fostering pluralism in the U.S. (having multiple groups in power simultaneously)

*Culture and Society*: The “antiforeignism” felt by nativists (the “American Party”) is an inherent part of American nature. Specifically, the people felt the need to compete, and these foreigners were more easily taking up low-paying jobs and fighting for the same space as the Americans. As a result, society shunned these newcomers to keep their own superiority. This feeling of white American superiority and the resulting discrimination and suppression of minority groups of society — which include women, slaves, and foreigners — is a trend in American history that is not unique to this example. However, because these new foreigners were still eligible voters (many of them were white men), the suppression could not go as far as it did for non-voting women or slaves. That is, politicians had to try to woo these foreigners just as well as they did other groups, especially as the Irish and the Germans gained in prominence and political strength (more votes).

### Creeping Mechanization

- Around 1750, textile (fabric) machines were improved in Great Britain
  - Using steam in these new machines improved productivity of textile creation by tens of thousands of times
  - Ushered in the Industrial Revolution, which had changes not only to factories (manufacturing) but also in agriculture, transportation, and communication
    - As a result, Great Britain—“the world’s workshop”—was the source of the Industrial Revolution
- America was an unlikely stage for the Industrial Revolution
  - Land was cheap in America, and therefore many Americans were unwilling to work the factories at first (before the immigrants flooded the factories) and went to work the fields and own their own property
  - Money was generally scarce, not much for capital investment, had to rely heavily on other countries
    - For example, many of the natural resource of America were undeveloped or undiscovered; the U.S. had to import much of its coal from Britain (despite later being the world’s leading producer of coal)
  - It was hard to compete with the industrial giants of Europe, namely Britain
    - Great Britain also suppressed foreign competition in the textile industry by passing laws forbidding the exportation of the textile machines or the means to produce them
- America stayed a mainly agricultural society until the mid- to late-1800s

### Whitney Ends the Fiber Famine

- Samuel Slater was the “Father of the Factory System” in America
  - He was a British mechanic who memorized the workings of the textile machines, moved to America, and reconstructed the machine from memory
  - In 1791 his machine was the first efficient textile machine in America
- Textile industry had a problem: had new textile machines but not enough cotton
  - Getting cotton was a laborious process, took a slave a whole day to make three pounds of cotton fiber

- Eli Whitney (graduate of Yale) made the cotton gin (1793) that was fifty times as effective as manual separation of cotton fiber
  - Cotton gin made textile production suddenly very efficient and profitable
  - The South became highly dependent on slaves again for the very prosperous cotton
- Both the North and the South prospered from the new cotton industry
  - The South opened up land for cotton, exported a lot to Britain and to the North
  - Factories opened up in New England and then some of the middle states (PA, NJ, NY), not many in the South
    - New England favorable for industry because it had bad farming land and a high population for factory labor
    - Many quick rivers (e.g. Merrimack in MA) powered the mills in New England
      - 400 million pounds of cotton passed through mills mostly in New England by 1860

### Marvels in Manufacturing

- The embargo (against France and Great Britain), non-intercourse, and the War of 1812 quickened the pace of industrial growth, which was slow until then
  - People manufactured based on necessity (what they could not import they manufactured)
  - Many merchant sailors (who could not do business because of the embargo and because of nonintercourse) turned to factories, especially textile factories
  - The growing nationalism prompted people to use more American products especially when imported products were harder to get; for example, many Americans wore American-made fabrics (made by the increasing textile industry)
- After Treaty of Ghent in 1815, industry again slowed as British goods flooded the market
  - Many surplus British goods built up during the war (not being able to sell to the Americas) were being sold on credit in American newspapers, made it hard for Americans to compete
    - All but one of 150 mills in RI were closed because they went out of business
- Congress passed the Tariff of 1816 to help the distressed local industry
  - This was one of the earliest political attempts to try and regulate the economy
- Factory and manufacturing industries grew to more than simply textiles
  - Eli Whitney also made advancement in firearms (as well as cotton gin)
    - Created the principle of interchangeable parts that governed many future applications of manufacturing, especially in mass production; he used machines to make identical parts (unlike non-identical hand-fabricated previous parts)
- Whitney's advancement of the cotton gin advanced slavery and thereby increased the division between the North and the South on the issue of slavery, which helped lead to the Civil War; on the other hand, the industrial advantages it gave to the North (e.g., with firearms) gave the North an advantage and helped them to win the war
- Sewing machine (1846) created by Elias Howe, improved by Isaac Singer

- Began the clothing industry, which made many more women to come out of their homes to work in the factories
- Patent Office handled all the new inventions
  - Number of new inventions and patents were rapidly increasing: went from 306 in the 1790s to 28,000 in the 1850s
- New idea of limited liability made money flow more freely by putting less risk on an individual person (“permitting the individual investor, in cases of legal claims or bankruptcy, to risk no more than his own share of the corporation’s stock”)
  - New laws allowing “free incorporation” were passed, meaning that businessmen could create companies without charters from the government
- Samuel Morse’s telegraph became a very important invention for communication
  - By the time of the Civil War, “a web of singing wires spanned nearly the entire continent, revolutionizing news gathering, diplomacy, and finance”

*Work, Exchange, and Technology*: This was the stage of the great Industrial Revolution in America. The “Work,” “Exchange,” and “Technology” parts of the major theme are all strongly exemplified here. New technology was the most evident, with the 28,000 patents in the single decade of the 1850s. These included the telegraph, the sewing machine, the cotton gin, the reaper-mower, the textile machines, all of which were practical devices designed to do work. These new machines were all manually operated and required a new army of recruits; hence the “work” part of the theme. The millions of immigrants helped fill the labor gap and power many of these machines in the factories. Lastly, because of the extraordinary growth of these industries and their imports and exports, new systems of exchange had to be developed in order to bring the products to their suppliers and consumers. The invention of Morse code and the telegraph helped to solve this problem of long-distance, nearly-instantaneous communication. Without the Industrial Revolution and the associated inventions, America would not be at the place it is today as an economic superpower, because these new machines collectively worked towards improving or creating a part of the emerging market economy of the U.S.

### Workers and “Wage Slaves”

- While most manufacturing had previously been done at a smaller scale, e.g., in the intimate relationship between a master smith and his apprentice, now people flocked to factories in the hundreds or thousands and worked endlessly in a boring environment
  - People became “wage slaves” — tied to their work simply for money
- Worker conditions were very bad to start out
  - Wages were low
  - Hours were long
  - Conditions were unsanitary
  - There was poor ventilation, lighting, and heating
  - Labor unions were considered illegal before 1835
    - Only three labor strikes occurred before 1835
  - Child workers were heavily exploited
    - Many were “mentally blighted, emotionally starved, physically stunted, and even brutally whipped” — not raised well in this kind of abusive environment



- Adults' working conditions gradually improved in 1820s-30s
  - During Jacksonian democracy, many people voted for Jackson; became a powerful voting group that the politicians had to appeal to
  - Wanted political intervention that lowered hours, increased wages, improved conditions, and added education for children
    - President Van Buren established the ten-hour day work hour policy for federal employees — one of the first legislative labor improvements
      - Other states adhered to this too by passing own labor laws for hours worked
- People began to organize strikes, even though they were illegal, in the 1830s-40s
  - Dozens in those two decades for various reasons, such as higher wages, ten-hour day
  - Lost more cases that they wanted than cases they won
  - Employers used fresh immigrants who wanted jobs — termed “scabs” or “rats” — to entice Americans away from strike (i.e., “if you don’t agree with our working conditions, we can replace you”)
  - In 1830 there were about 300,000 trade unionists
  - The Depression of 1837 (under Van Buren, driven by Jackson’s redrawing of National Banks, collapse of British banks, excessive spending in the West) generally lowered optimism, made unionists less optimistic about economic gain
  - Commonwealth v. Hunt (MA, 1842) declared that labor unions were legal provided that they used “honorable and peaceful” methods to achieve their purpose
    - Essentially legalized labor strikes, made laborer’s position more optimistic

*Politics and Power:* The “wage slaves” fought for power in the government in order to try and gain their rights. They effectually enforced nullification when organized strikes began to happen, even though it was illegal — as the Americans had done with the Abominable Tariff of 1828, they decided not to follow the rules because they felt it denied their constitutional rights. Eventually, the fight for rights triumphed over the law; some of the conditions that the workers asked for were met. After *Commonwealth v. Hunt* in Massachusetts of 1842, worker strikes and labor unions were essentially legalized by the court case that declared trade unions constitutional so long as they did not use unusual or harsh methods to try and achieve their goal. This was a subtle revival of American spirit, also focusing on the ideals of democracy and how the U.S. should be rather than rigidly following laws.

### Women and the Economy

- Farm women made goods at home before the Industrial Revolution
  - They were “spinning yarn, weaving cloth, and making candles, soap, butter, and cheese”
- During the Industrial Revolution, many women were drawn into the factories
  - Manufactured goods made from these factories were much more efficient than creating them manually
  - Factories displaced women from homes and offered jobs; basically forced women to work in factories to survive economically
  - Many women became stereotypical “factory girls” that toiled for many hours a day
    - Twelve to thirteen-hour work days

- Not all women became factory workers — “nursing, domestic service, and especially teaching” were considered economically self-sustaining jobs, not factory working
  - This is why teaching became predominantly feminine, especially after Catharine Beecher urged women to become teachers
- At home women were in a so-called cult of domesticity, which was a societal view that glorified their status at home
  - At home, women had enormous power over the family
  - Marriage was more often about love rather than by parental arrangement
    - Families became more closely-knit
    - Families also became smaller on general, with a lower fertility rate; this led to a more children-oriented lifestyle
      - Europeans saw the children as spoiled
      - Americans thought that this would foster children’s democratic and citizenship morals better, rather than forcing teaching by obedience

*Culture and Society:* Two distinct roles were being carved out for most women in the U.S. during the Industrial Revolution: the “cult of domesticity” at home and the “factory girls” in the industry. Although women’s work in the factory was very difficult (long hours and unsanitary working conditions like there were for men), they had an established and unshakable role in industry. The same was true at home: the “Republican motherhood” idea became more established with their new “cult” as women grew in power over the family. So while American women were not getting any legal increase in rights or privileges, society was offering them an important role. This did not leave a very strong legacy, especially nowadays; women are ubiquitous in the job fields now, with women’s rights advocates allowing women to participate in any field, just like any man. But these two roles in the 1800s showed the increasing social liberalism of society, starting to move away from the very traditional value of women solely as child-bearers and raisers.

#### Western Farmers Reap a Revolution in the Fields

- In the “trans-Allegheny region — especially the Ohio-Indiana-Illinois tier” farming was rapidly growing
  - Corn was one of the major crops, ubiquitous
    - Corn in turn fed many pigs, which made them a common product of this region as well
  - John Deere created strong steel plow (1837) that could easily break up tough Northwestern soil
  - Cyrus McCormick created McCormick reaper that made harvesting wheat much easier
  - Inventions in this region allowed crop exports to exceed that of the South (who had long been the leading producer of agricultural products)
- Problem with trans-Allegheny region was that it was landlocked, needed

*Geography and the Environment:* Some of the problems that were solved by Industrial Revolution-inventions were prompted solely by geographical concerns. For example, the rocky soil of northern lands prompted John Deere to create a strong iron plow to replace the flimsy wooden ones that were suitable for the more arable South. Similarly, the problem of the landlocked Northwest was solved

by the various forms of new transportation (see below sections). In both of these cases, simple geographical location and situation inspired the need to create. This idea of innovation is also a fundamental part of American nature, especially the need to adapt under pressure; these geographical pressures are the perfect example of this, and are early forms of American innovation that would continue far past the Industrial Revolution.

### Highways and Steamboats

- Transportation was very bad when America was founded (e.g., muddy dirt roads, dangerous river crossings, etc.)
- Road building was first successful transportation improvement in the West
  - Lancaster Turnpike (PA, 1790s) was created, 62 mile drive from Philadelphia to Lancaster
    - Literally had a row of pikes at toll gate, turned open when toll paid; hence the name “turnpike”
  - States’ rights advocates opposed long federal roads — didn’t want the federal government to intervene with local projects
  - Cumberland National Road (1811) went 591 miles from IL to MO
- Steamboats were also improved, greatly improved transportation
  - Robert Fulton created a powerful steam-powered boat in 1807
  - New steamboats could travel either upstream or downstream on rivers, much easier than manually pushing boats upstream at 1mph
  - 1,000 steamboats by 1860
  - Shipping became much cheaper with the invention of the steamboat
  - Main risk of steamboat was boiler explosion by excessive stress on the boilers

### “Clinton’s Big Ditch” in New York

- The creation of more steamboat usage prompted creation of the Erie Canal (1825)
  - Because states’ rights advocates didn’t want federal funding for the canal, the citizens of NY made it themselves, supported by NY governor DeWitt Clinton
  - Shipping between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic was much quicker and easier than it was before
  - Land prices along the canal increased, and industry in the area grew
  - Attracted many immigrants and merchant sailors
  - Many people traveled West to the cheap land through the canal

### The Iron Horse

- Railroad was most important contribution to development of American economy
  - Railroads are very versatile: they are “fast, reliable, cheaper than canals to construct, and not frozen over in winter. Able to go almost anywhere, even through the Allegheny barrier”
- At first railroads were not too favorable, but conditions improved
  - Railroads were opposed by people who supported canals (who would lose some business if railroads stole it), even had temporary law in NY preventing freight trains

- Railroads also had tendency to create sparks and light things on fire, but safety devices were later invented
- Railroads were unstandardized in terms of gauge (distance between rails) at first, but this was later standardized
- Railroad breaks were weak, making stopping imprecise, but these were improved

### Cables, Clippers, and Pony Riders

- An underseas (spanning the Atlantic) intercontinental cable from Newfoundland (Canada) to Ireland created by Cyrus Field in 1858
  - Cable broke quickly but replaced in 1866
- Americans created clipper ships, which were fast, narrow sailing vessels
  - Used to carry lighter, higher-value goods quicker (faster than a steamboat)
  - Stole some of tea-trading business from British because of its speed
  - Helped move people quicker to profitable places such as California and Australia (gold fields)
- Clipper ships were not the best ships when British created iron tramp steamers, which were slower but larger and steadier than clippers (and therefore more profitable)
- Horse-drawn carriages traveling out West were becoming ever more common
- The Pony Express (1860) was a group of horse riders that delivered mail across the country, quickly traversing the entire width of the country in ten days
  - Lost a lot of money and ended after 18 months
  - Telegraph became more popular, made communication with the West easier as wires connected East and West U.S.

*Work, Exchange, and Technology:* The exchange of people and goods was quickened by a large scale when these new forms of transportation were introduced. The “Iron Horse” of railroads was a versatile and relatively cheap mode of transportation that could easily traverse land-based transportation; the introduction of canals for trade with the Great Lakes (nearer to central U.S.) and steamboats (which could power uphill and faster in general) benefitted industry even more by allowing for quicker shipments. The telegraph allowed for even quicker transmission: that of thoughts and ideas — this was perhaps just as important as the physical systems of transportation because it allowed a very rapid exchange of thoughts between people far away, which allowed people to work together and stay updated and perhaps even promoting the Industrial Revolution with new ideas. Items, people, and ideas moved more quickly and reliably moved from one place to another, and prices for transportation dropped as these easier forms of travel became prominent. As a result, American economy really boomed because of such a smooth economic exchange.

### The Transport Web Binds the Union

- New advances in technology led to the transportation revolution
  - Steamboats helped shipping goods move in both directions on a river
  - Canals and railroads helped cross the Alleghenies from the East into the heartland of America (central U.S.)
  - Much trading shifted farther west; Buffalo became a great trading city

- A “continental economy” was well-established by the time of the Civil War
  - Each region was specialized: the South and Northwest in farming and transporting goods, the North in industry
    - The strong economic relationship between the Northwest and Northeast regions allowed for a strong bond that allowed the North to defeat the South in the Civil War (despite the thought that the South could “choke” the Northwest by controlling the Mississippi, the Northwest’s major artery)

### The Market Revolution

- The Market Revolution was the transformation from a primarily agricultural American society to an economy largely based on industry and commerce
- Society pointed more towards economic rights than political rights
  - Old Chief Justice John Marshall had ruled for “irrevocable [government] charters”
  - New Chief Justice Robert Taney sided with people who broke a contract in MA “and argued that ‘the rights of the community’ outweighed any exclusive corporate rights” — opened up for commercial competition
- Society became less self-sufficient and localized and products became more globalized with many more imported goods to the average consumer
- Economic gap between rich and poor widened
  - Speculators in fur trade or real estate sometimes became very rich (e.g., John Jacob Astor with \$30 million)
  - There were many very poor, unskilled workers living in the slums of the city
  - Social mobility existed but not to the extent that it was expected
  - Despite class conflicts, America still did offer better opportunity than many of its European counterparts, with improving labor conditions

*American and National Identity:* The Transportation Revolution and the Market Revolution, two parts of the American Industrial Revolution, shaped the roles of many Americans, and therefore American identity as a whole. For example, rather than working on subsistence farms or in small industries, millions of people flocked to large-scale, commercial factories that showed the switch from the American preference of an agricultural society to a primarily industrial society. Similarly, the move from a more localized economy to a more globalized one shows the new willingness to open up to a globalized economy, a move that began a series of globalization/isolationism debates from then on in American history (e.g., in the interbellum period there was isolationism, but now there is a push for globalization and a global market). Both of these choices were economic decisions that became ingrained into American identity and have never left, and the transportation systems and the industry of America is currently the best in the world as a result.