

## Chapter 15: Forging the national Economy (1790-1860)

### I. The Westward Movement

- a. USn marched quickly toward west( very hard w/ disease & loneliness)
- b. Frontier people were individualistic, superstitious & ill-informed

### II. Shaping the Western Landscape

- a. westward movement molded environment
  - tobacco exhausted land \*& moved on, but “Kentucky blue grass” thrived
- b. ecological imperialism
  - trapped beavers, sea otters, and Bison to manufacture for East
- c. spirit of nationalism led to appreciation of American wilderness
  - Catlin pushed for national park & achieved it w/ Yellowstone in 1872

### III. The March of the Millions

- a. mid-1800s, pop cont'd to double every 25 years
- b. 1860-original 13 states now has 33 states; pop 4<sup>th</sup> in the world(Russ, Fra, Austria)
- c. urban growth cont'd explosively
  - 1790-only New York & Philadelphia had >20,000 people, but 1860, 43 had
  - brought bad sanitation → sewage system & pipe-in water
- d. high birthrate had accounted for pop growth, but near 1850s, millions of Irish, German came
  - bec. surplus pop. in Euro but not all came to US 25/60 million
  - appealing of US(land, freedom from church, aristocracy, 3 meat meals a day)
  - intro of transoceanic steamship(reduce traveling to 12 days, death rate high not as bad)

### IV. The Emerald Isle Moves West(1830s-1960s-2 million)

- a. Irish potato famine in mid-1840s led to death of 2million & many flee to US
  - “Black Forties”—mainly came to big city-Boston, esp New York(biggest Irish city)
  - illiterate, discriminated by Old USn, received lowest of job(railroad building)
  - hated by Protestants bec. catholic
  - USn hated Irish(NINA); Irish hated competition w/ blacks for job
  - Ancient Order of Hibernians(serve to aid Irish)
  - gradual property owning (grand success), children edu. Cut short to buy land
  - attracted to politics, filled police dept.
  - politician tried to appeal to Irish by yelling at London

### V. The German Forty-Eighters

- a. 1 million poured in bet 1830s-1860s bec. crop failures & loose of rev of 1848 toward liberalism
  - liberals such as Carl Schurz contributed to elevation of US politic
  - had more \$ than Irish so bought land in west esp. in Wisconsin
  - votes crucial so wooed by US politicians but not as potent bec. spread out
  - contributed to US culture (Christmas tree); isolationism
  - urged public education & freedom(enemies of slavery)
  - resentment from Old bec. group & aloof; brought beers to US

### VI. Flare-ups of Antiforeignism

- a. “nativists” prejudiced newcomers in jobs, poli, religion
- b. catholic became major relig group bec. immigration of 1840s, 50s & set out to build catholic school
- c. nativist feared that Catholicism build on Protestantism (popish idols) so formed “Order of star-spangled Banner”
  - met in secrecy-“Know-Nothing” party
  - fought for restriction on immigration, naturalization & deportation of alien paupers
  - wrote fiction books about corruption of churches
  - mass violence, ex. Philadelphia 1844-burned churches, schools, people killed
  - made America pluralistic society w/ diversity
  - no longer hated bec. crucial to eco expansion & more availability of jobs

### VII. The March of Mechanization

- a. Industrial revolution spread to US & US destined to be an industrial giant bec.
  - land was cheap, labor scare, \$ for investment plentiful, raw materials not discovered
  - lacked consumer for factory-scale manufacturing
  - British long-estab. factory was competition

- kept textile to own monopoly(forbade travel of crafts men & export of machine)
  - b. US remained very rural to farming
- VIII. Whitney Ends the Fiber Famine
- a. Samuel Slater – “Father of the Factory System”
    - learned machinery when working in British Factory→ escaped to US, aided by Moses Brown→ build 1<sup>st</sup> cotton thread spinner in US (1791)
  - b. Eli Whitney build a cotton gin (50 times more effective than hand picking cotton)
    - cotton eco now profitable, saved the South to King Cotton
    - south flourished & expanded cotton kingdom toward west
    - north factories manufactured, esp. New England (w/ poor soil, dense labor, access to sea, river for water power)
- IX. Marvels in Manufacturing
- a. embargo of war of 1812 encouraged home manufacture
  - b. w/ peace of Ghent, British poured in surplus in cheap \$, forcing close of American factory
  - c. congress passed Tariff of 1816 to protect US eco
  - d. Eli Whitney introduce machine made replaceable parts (on muskets)-1850
    - base of assembly line (flourished North); cotton gin flourished south
  - e. Elias Howe & Issac Singer (1846) made sewing machine(foundations of clothing industry)
  - f. Decades of 1860 had 28,000 patents while 1800 only had 306
  - g. Principle of limited liability(can’t loose more than invested) stimulate eco
  - h. Laws of “free incorporation” (1848)-no need to apply for charter from legislature to start corp.
  - i. Samuel Morse’s telegraph connected business world-“What hath god wrought?”
- X. Workers and “Wage Slaves”
- a. factory system led to impersonal relations
  - b. benefit went to factory owner, labors were long, wages low, meals bad, no union
  - c. child labor heavy; ½ of force child labors
  - d. adult working condition improved in 1820s & 30s w/ mass vote to workers
    - 10hour day, higher \$, tolerable condition, public edu, ban of imprisonment for debt
    - 1840s presi. Buren estab. 10 hour day
    - many stroked but lost bec. employers import more workers (so hated immigrants)
  - e. union formed in 1830s but hit by panic of 1837
    - case of Commonwealth vs. Hunt in supreme court of Massa (1842)
    - legalized union on peaceful & honorable protest
- XI. Women and the Economy
- a. women were toiled in factory under bad conditions(scare of pop)
  - b. opportunities rare & women mainly in nursing, domestic service, teaching
  - c. women usu worked before marriage, after marry-house wives (made more decisions in family)
  - d. arrange marriage died down; marriage w/ love tied family closer
  - e. family grew smaller(ave. 6); fertility rate dropped sharply (“domestic feminism”)
  - f. child-centered w/ less children & discipline not physically
  - g. charc of family: small, affectionate, child-centered, small arena for talented women
- XII. Western Farmers Reap a Revolution in the Fields
- a. trans-Allegheny region (Ohio-Indiana-Illinois)became nation’s breadbasket
    - planted corns & raised hogs (known as “porkopolis” of the west”
  - b. inventions that boomed agriculture
    - John Deere-steel plow that cut through hard soil & can be pulled by horses
    - Cyrus McCormick-mechanical mower-reaper
  - c. led to large-scale production & cash crops
  - d. produced more than south; product flow N to S in rivers, not E & W-need transportation rev,
- XIII. Highways and Steamboats
- a. improvements in transportation needed for raw material transport
  - b. Lancaster turnpike-hard road from Philadelphia & Lancaster; brought eco expansion to west
  - c. Federal gov. construct Cumberland Road(Maryland -Illinois)(1811-1852 )w/ state & federal \$
  - d. Robert Fulton invents steam engine(Steam boats)-1807
    - inrea US trade bec. no concern for weather & water current

-contributed to dev. of S & W eco

XIV. "Clinton's Big Ditch" in New York

- a. Clinton's Big Ditch-Erie Canal bet. Great Lake & Hudson River(1817-1825)
  - shorten expense & time of transportation & cities grew along the side, \$ of food reduced
  - farmers unable to compete in east went to west; changes in food

XV. Pioneer Railroad Promoters

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> railroad in US(1828); by 1860-30,000 mi. railroad tracks in US(3/4 at north)
- b. railroad 1<sup>st</sup> opposed bec. financier afraid to loose \$ from Erie canal & also cause fire to houses
- c. trains were badly constructed (brakes bad) & gauge of traveling varied

XVI. The Transport Web Binds the Union

- a. steamboat allowed reverse transport of S to E to bind them together
- b. more canals led to more trade w/ East than South by the west
- c. New York became the Queen port of the country→ goods distributed
- d. Principle of divided labor-each region specialize in own eco activity
  - S-cotton to New Eng.; W-grain & livestock for E & Euro; E-machines, textiles for s &W
- e. S thought missi linked them to other states; but overlooked 2 N states are eco-interconnected
- f. Transformed home-once center of eco but now refugee of home

XVII. Wealth and Poverty

- a. widen the gap bet. Rich & poor
- b. city w/ greatest extreme
  - unskilled workers were "drifters"-town to town for jobs (1/2 of industrial pop)-forgotten
  - social mobility existed but not in proportion, rags-to-rich were rare
- c. standard of living did raise, wage rose too (helped diffuse potential class conflict)

XVIII. Cables, Clippers, and Pony Riders

- a. foreign export
  - cotton account for 1/2 of exports
  - after repeal of Corn Law of 1846, wheat became imp role in trade w/ Eng.
- b. American imported more than exported (substantial debt to foreign creditors)
- c. 1858-Cyrus Field laid Cable bet. US & Euro(but died in 3 weeks); better one in 1866
- d. American vessels laid by embargoes, panics; naval made little progress
  - gold age of naval came in 1840s, 50s -Mckay build clipper ships (fast, long)
  - tea trade w/ British & carried many to CA
  - crushed by British's iron tramp steamers
- e. speedy communication-roads from Missouri to CA, Pony Express