

**Study Guide Ch. 14**  
**Forging The National Economy, 1790-1860**

**AP US History**

**Theme:** The importance of the West grew in the early nineteenth century. Cheap land attracted immigrants and natives alike, and, after some technological innovations, the West became an agricultural giant. The increased output also spurred transportation developments to tie this developing region to the rest of the United States.

**Theme:** In the era of Jacksonian democracy, the American population grew rapidly and changed in character. More people lived in the raw West and in the expanding cities, and immigrant groups like the Irish and Germans added their labor power to America's economy, sometimes arousing hostility from native-born Americans in the process.

**Theme:** In the early nineteenth century, the American economy developed the beginnings of industrialization. The greatest advances occurred in transportation, as canals and railroads bound the Union together into a continental economy with strong regional specialization.

**Summary:** The youthful American republic expanded dramatically on the frontier in the early nineteenth century. Frontier life was often crude and hard on the pioneers, especially women.

Westward-moving pioneers often ruthlessly exploited the environment, exhausting the soil and exterminating wildlife. Yet the wild beauty of the West was also valued as a symbol of American national identity, and eventually environmentalists would create a national park system to preserve pieces of the wilderness.

Other changes altered the character of American society and its work force. Old cities expanded, and new cities sprang up in the wilderness. Irish and German immigrants poured into the country in the 1830s and 1840s, and the Irish in particular aroused nativist hostility because of their Roman Catholic faith.

Inventions and business innovations like free incorporation laws spurred economic growth. Women and children were the most exploited early factory laborers. Male workers made some gains in wages and hours but generally failed in unionization attempts.

The most far-reaching economic advances before the Civil War occurred in agriculture and transportation. The early railroads, despite many obstacles, gradually spread their tentacles across the country. Foreign trade remained only a small part of the American economy, but changing technology gradually created growing economic links to Europe. By the early 1860s the telegraph, railroad, and steamship had gone far toward replacing older means of travel and communication like the canals, clipper ships, stagecoach, and pony express.

The new means of transportation and distribution laid the foundations for a continental market economy. The new national economy created a pattern of sectional specialization and altered the traditional economic functions of the family. There was growing concern over the class differences spawned by industrialization, especially in the cities. But the general growth of opportunities and the increased standard of living made America a magnetic "land of opportunity" to many people at home and abroad.

**Key Terms:**

George Catlin  
"Famine Irish"  
"Molly Maguires"  
Tammany Hall  
German Forty-Eighters  
Know-Nothings  
Samuel Slater  
Eli Whitney

Elias Howe  
Samuel F. P. Morse  
*Commonwealth v. Hunt*  
General Incorporation Law  
Boston Associates  
Lowell System  
John Deere  
Cyrus Hall McCormick

turnpikes  
National Road  
Robert Fulton  
Erie Canal  
New York City  
Cyrus Field  
clippers  
Pony Express

**Key Questions:**

1. Describe the American West of the early 19th century. In what ways did it "feel the pressure of civilization?"
2. Why did America's population more than double from 1790 to 1820 and again by 1850?
3. Describe the feelings that "nativists" had toward "immigrants". Why did they feel threatened and how did they express their fear?
4. What lasting effects resulted from the mass immigrations of the mid-1800s?
5. What factors in America acted to stimulate manufacturing and industrial growth?
6. How did Whitney's Cotton Gin save the dying southern institution of slavery and stimulate northern manufacturing?
7. In what ways did the Industrial Revolution and the mechanization of factories affect conditions in the work place and the working class in general?
8. What was the impact of the new economic developments on the role of women in society?
9. How did the new transportation systems create a commercially linked national economy and a specialized sectional division of labor?

**Identification**    *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1.        Nation where a potato famine in the 1840s led to a great migration of its people to America
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.        Semisecret Irish organization that became a benevolent society aiding Irish immigrants in America
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3.        Liberal German refugees who fled failed democratic revolutions and came to America
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4.        Americans who protested and sometimes rioted against Roman Catholic immigrants
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5.        The transformation of manufacturing that began in Britain about 1750
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6.        Whitney's invention that enhanced cotton production and gave new life to black slavery
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7.        Principle that permitted individual investors to risk no more capital in a business venture than their own share of a corporation's stock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8.        Morse's invention that provided instant communication across distance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9.        Common source of early factory labor, often underpaid, whipped, and brutally beaten
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10.       Working people's organizations, often considered illegal under early American law
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11.       McCormick's invention that vastly increased the productivity of the American grain farmer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12.       The only major highway constructed by the federal government before the Civil War
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13.       Fulton's invention that made river transportation a two-way affair
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14.       "Clinton's Big Ditch" that transformed transportation and economic life from New York City across the Great Lakes to Chicago
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15.       Beautiful but short-lived American ships, replaced by British "tramp steamers"

**Putting Things in Order**

*Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ First telegraph message-- "What hath God wrought?"-- is sent from Baltimore to Washington.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial revolution begins in Britain
- \_\_\_\_\_ Telegraph lines are stretched across the Atlantic Ocean and North American continent.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Major water transportation route connects New York City to Lake Erie and points west.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Invention of cotton gin and system of interchangeable parts revolutionized southern agriculture and northern industry

### Matching People, Places and Events

Match the person, place or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Samuel Slater               | <b>A.</b> Inventor of the mechanical reaper that transformed grain growing into a business                              |
| ___ 2. Eli Whitney                 | <b>B.</b> New York's governor who built the Erie Canal  |
| ___ 3. Elias Howe                  | <b>C.</b> Inventor of a machine that revolutionized the ready-made clothing industry                                    |
| ___ 4. Samuel F.B. Morse           | <b>D.</b> Agitator against immigrants and Roman Catholics   |
| ___ 5. Know-Nothings               | <b>E.</b> Wealthy New York manufacturer who laid the first transatlantic cable in 1858.                                 |
| ___ 6. <i>Commonwealth v. Hunt</i> | <b>F.</b> Immigrant mechanic who started American industrialization by setting up his cotton-spinning factory in 1791.  |
| ___ 7. Cyrus McCormick             | <b>G.</b> Painter turned inventor who developed the first reliable system for instant communication across distance     |
| ___ 8. Robert Fulton               | <b>H.</b> Developer of a "folly" that made rivers two-way streams of transportation                                     |
| ___ 9. Cyrus Field                 | <b>I.</b> Radical, secret Irish labor union of the 1860s and 1870s  |
| ___ 10. Molly Maguires             | <b>J.</b> Yankee mechanical genius who revolutionized cotton production and created the system of interchangeable parts |
| ___ 11. DeWitt Clinton             | <b>K.</b> Pioneering Massachusetts Supreme Court decision that declared labor unions leg                                |

### Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

#### Cause

- \_\_\_ 1. The open, rough-and-tumble society of the American West
- \_\_\_ 2. Natural population growth and increasing immigration from Ireland and Germany
- \_\_\_ 3. The poverty and Roman Catholic faith of most Irish immigrants
- \_\_\_ 4. Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin
- \_\_\_ 5. The passage of general incorporation and limited liability laws
- \_\_\_ 6. The early efforts of labor unions to organize and strike
- \_\_\_ 7. Improved western transportation and the new McCormick reaper
- \_\_\_ 8. The completion of the Erie Canal
- \_\_\_ 9. The development of a strong east-west rail network
- \_\_\_ 10. The replacement of household production by factory-made, store-bought goods

#### Effect

- A.** Made the fast-growing United States the fourth most populous nation in the Western world
- B.** Opened the Great Lakes states to rapid economic growth and spurred the development of major cities
- C.** Encouraged most western farmers to specialize in cash-crop agricultural production for eastern and European markets
- D.** Made Americans strongly individualistic and self-reliant
- E.** Aroused nativist hostility and occasional riots
- F.** Bound the two northern sections together across the mountains and tended to isolate the South
- G.** Aroused fierce opposition from businesspeople and were often declared illegal
- H.** Enabled businesspeople to create more powerful and effective joint-stock capital ventures
- I.** Transformed southern agriculture and gave new life to slavery
- J.** Weakened women's economic status and tended to push them into a separate "sphere" of home and family

*Answers*

**Identification:**

1. Ireland
2. Ancient Order of Hibernians
3. Forty-Eighters
4. Know-Nothings (nativists)
5. industrial revolution
6. cotton gin
7. limited liability
8. telegraph
9. women and culture
10. labor unions
11. mechanical reaper
12. National (Cumberland) Road
13. steamboat
14. Erie Canal
15. clipper ships

**Putting Things in Order:**

4, 1, 5, 3, 2

**Matching People, Places, Events:**

1. F
2. J
3. C
4. G
5. D
6. K
7. A
8. H
9. E
10. I
11. B

**Matching Cause and Effect:**

1. D
2. A
3. E
4. I
5. H
6. G
7. C
8. B
9. F
10. J