

CHAPTER 14

The National Economy, 1790–1860

1. Westward Movement (pp. 287–289) At the end of this section, the authors refer to the “heedless exploitation of the West’s natural bounty” while going on to say that Americans “revered nature and admired its beauty.” *** Can these two seemingly contradictory statements be reconciled?

2. Immigration and Urbanization (pp. 290–297)

a. The population chart on p. 290 shows that, due to a high birth rate and immigration, the country in 1860 was roughly _____ times bigger than it was in 1790. If the population today is about 275 million, it is approximately _____ times bigger than it was in 1860. Also in this first section, the authors describe the squalid conditions in the new booming urban centers. *** Can you think of any similar city in the world today where growth is much too fast for the basic services (“infrastructure”) to catch up?

b. Briefly list a few distinctive characteristics of the Irish and the German immigrant groups.

IRISH

GERMAN

c. The Protestant majority was concerned about the growing influence of _____ (a religious denomination), which in the 1840s developed its own separate educational system. The American or “_____” Party began about 1849 centered around the concept of anti foreignism. (Note how America’s love/hate attitude toward immigrants constitutes a recurring theme.)

3. Industry and the Factory System (pp. 297–304)

a. List two reasons cited by the authors that the Industrial Revolution didn’t hit America until the 1830s and 1840s, much later than it did in Britain.

(1)

(2)

b. What do the authors mean on p. 303 when they say that Eli Whitney gave a boost to slavery “and perhaps made inevitable the Civil War” but at the same time “helped factories to flourish in the North,” thus contributing to the ultimate Northern victory?

(1) “...Civil War inevitable”

(2) “...ultimate Northern victory”

c. What is distinctive about the new “limited liability corporations (p. 304)”? *** Can you guess why this form of business organization was so important to industrialization?

4. Workers and Women (pp. 304–309)

a. *** What do you think would be the main differences between working in a craft shop (illustration p. 305) and the more efficient factories illustrated on pp. 307 and 309?

(1) Craft shop:

(2) Factory:

b. Regimented factory jobs, such as those at the first big water-powered textile mill at _____, Mass., were seen by many single girls as a way to escape the farm. Besides factory work, the “caring professions” open to women included nursing, domestic service, and _____. Upon marriage, most women left the workforce. How do the authors define the “cult of domesticity (p. 307)”? *** What is your reaction to this view of women’s role in family life?

(1) Definition:

(2) Reaction:

5. Transportation (pp. 309–317) (Note: In 1800, the biggest obstacle to national development was that people, goods, and even letters could not move faster than animals could walk, rivers could flow, or the wind could blow. Revolutionary developments, primarily the steamboat and railroad, would change that fast.) The first major wagon road west, the National or _____ Road, was started in 1811. The revolutionary steamboat, invented by Robert _____ in 1807, allowed people and goods to move upstream as well as down. The first big western canal, the _____ Canal, pushed through in 18____ by Governor DeWitt _____, benefited its Atlantic terminus at _____ City at the expense of cities like Boston. The first American railroad appeared in 18____ and soon superseded the canal system in terms of importance. Look at the railroad map on p. 313. By 1860, the Midwest was sending its agricultural products and raw materials mostly to the _____ (North or South), enabling that region to specialize in manufacturing and shipping. The South had to continue specializing in its cash crops such as _____ (its biggest cash crop), which it sent out via its navigable waterways. This new regional specialization will provide a big advantage to the _____ (North or South) in the eventual Civil War. (*Note: Without these new transportation links, the South might have expected closer ties with the Midwest because Midwestern waterways all drain out through New Orleans.*)

6. Market Revolution (pp. 317–318) In this section, the authors summarize the drastic change from the home as a self-sufficient economic enterprise to the home as a refuge from more specialized, market-oriented work outside. They also point to the growing gulf between rich and poor that caused class warfare in many European countries. What two reasons do they give for the relative absence of class conflict in America, despite these wide disparities between rich and poor?

(1)

(2)

CHAPTER 14 TERM SHEET

The National Economy

Pages 287–289

Natty Bumppo (James Fenimore Cooper)

Captain Ahab (Herman Melville)

“Rugged individualism”

“Rendezvous system”

George Catlin

Pages 290–297

Urbanization

Immigration (first wave)

Irish potato famine (1840s)

“Biddies” and “Paddies”

Ancient Order of Hibernians

“Molly Maguires”

Tammany Hall

European democratic revolutions (1848)

Kindergartens

American or “Know-Nothing” Party (1849)

Pages 297–304

Industrial Revolution

Factory system

Samuel Slater (1791)

Eli Whitney

Cotton gin

Interchangeable parts

Elias Howe (1846)

Isaac Singer

Patents

“Limited liability” corporations

Samuel F. B. Morse (1844)

Pages 304–309

“Wage slaves”

Ten-Hour Day (1840)

Trade unions

“Factory girls”

Lowell mills

Catherine Beecher

“Cult of domesticity”

“Women’s sphere”

Fertility rate

“Modern” family

John Deere (1837)

Cyrus McCormick (1830s)

“Cash-crop agriculture”

Pages 309–317

Lancaster “turnpike” (1790s)

National/Cumberland Road (1811-1852)

Robert Fulton (1807)

Erie Canal (1817-1825)

DeWitt Clinton

Railroad (1828)

Cyrus field (1858)

“Clipper” ships

Pony Express (1860)

Pages 317–318

John Jacob Astor

“Social mobility”