

Chapter 14

Forging the National Economy, 1790-1860

A. True or False

Where the statement is true, mark T. Where it is false, mark F, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- ___ 1. American frontier life was often grim and plagued by poverty and illness
- ___ 2. The influx of Irish immigrants contributed to America's tolerance of ethnic and religious pluralism
- ___ 3. Most early American manufacturing was concentrated in the South
- ___ 4. The principle of "general incorporation" permitted individual businesspeople to apply for limited-liability corporate charters from the state legislatures.
- ___ 5. The early industrial revolution greatly benefited workers by opening up well-paying factory jobs.
- ___ 6. Early labor unions made very slow progress, partly because the strike weapon was illegal and ineffective.
- ___ 7. The steel plow and mechanical reaper helped turn American farmers from subsistence farming to commercial, market-oriented agriculture.
- ___ 8. By 1840, overland highways had proved a more effective form of transportation than canals.
- ___ 9. The Erie Canal's greatest economic effect was to create strong east-west commercial and industrial links between the Northeast and the West (Midwest).
- ___ 10. The railroad gained quick acceptance as a more efficient and flexible alternative to water-bound transportation.
- ___ 11. In the sectional division of labor that developed before the Civil War, the South generally provided raw materials to the Northeast in exchange for manufactured goods, transportation, and commercial services.
- ___ 12. The growth of a market economy drew most American women off the farms and out of the home into the new factories and mills.

- ___ 13. The advances in manufacturing and transportation decreased the gap between rich and poor in America
- ___ 14. By 1850, permanent telegraph lines had been stretched across both the Atlantic Ocean and the North American continent.
- ___ 15. In the 1830s new legal and governmental policies prohibiting chartered business monopolies encouraged competition and aided the market economy.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- ___ 1. The experience of frontier life was especially difficult for
a. women. b. young women. c. foreign immigrants d. Roman Catholics
- ___ 2. As late as 1850, over one-half of the American population was
a. foreign-born. b. living west of the Mississippi River
c. under the age of thirty. d. living in cities of over 100,000 people
- ___ 3. The primary economic activity in the Rocky Mountain West before the Civil War was
a. agriculture. b. fur-trapping c. mining d. small business trading
- ___ 4. Americans came to look on their spectacular western wilderness areas especially as
a. one of the things that defined and distinguished America as a new nation.
b. a source of economic exploration.
c. a potential attraction for tourists from abroad.
d. the sacred home of American Indian tribes.
- ___ 5. The American painter who developed the idea for a national park system was
a. Samuel F.B. Morse. b. Caleb Bingham c. John James Audubon d. George Catlin
- ___ 6. Two major sources of European immigration to American in the 1840's and 1850's were
a. France & Italy. b. Germany & France c. Germany & Ireland d. Ireland & Norway
- ___ 7. One consequence of the influx of new immigrants was
a. a decline in the birthrate of native-born Americans.
b. an upsurge of anti-Catholicism.
c. a virtual end of westward migration.
d. a national decline in wage rates.
- ___ 8. Industrialization was at first slow to arrive in American because
a. there was a shortage of labor, capital, and consumers.
b. low tariff rates invited foreign imports.
c. the country lacked the educational system necessary to develop technology.
d. the country lacked a patent system to guarantee inventors the profits from new machines.

- ___ 9. The first industry to be shaped by the new factory system of manufacturing was
- textiles.
 - the telegraph.
 - agriculture.
 - iron-making.
- ___ 10. Wages for most American workers rose in the early nineteenth century, except for the most exploited workers such as
- immigrants and westerners.
 - textile and transportation workers.
 - single men and women.
 - women and children.
- ___ 11. A major change affecting the American family in the early nineteenth century was
- the rise of an organized feminist movement.
 - the movement of most women into the work force.
 - increased conflict between parents and children over moral questions.
 - a decline in the average number of children per household.
- ___ 12. The first major improvement in the American transportation system came from
- canals and railroads.
 - railroads and clipper ships.
 - steamboats and highways.
 - keelboats and Conestoga wagons.
- ___ 13. The new regional “division of labor” created by improved transportation meant that
- the South specialized in cotton, the West in grain and livestock, and the East in manufacturing.
 - the South specialized in manufacturing, the West in transportation, and the East in grain and livestock.
 - the South specialized in cotton, the West in manufacturing, and the East in finance.
 - the South specialized in grain and livestock, the West in cotton, and the East in transportation.
- ___ 14. One effect of industrialization was
- an increasing economic equality among all citizens.
 - a strengthening of the family as an economic unit.
 - an increasingly stable labor force.
 - a rise in the gap between rich and poor.
- ___ 15. “Limited liability” laws and the Supreme Court’s decision prohibiting state governments from granting “irrevocable charters” to corporations greatly aided
- private American colleges’ ability to compete with state universities.
 - established businesses with large capital investments.
 - Americans’ ability to compete with cheap British imports.
 - more entrepreneurial enterprises and greater market competition.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- _____ 1. Nation whose potato famine of the 1840s led to a great migration of its people to America
- _____ 2. Semi-secret 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, involving steam power and factory production, 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 business venture than their own share of 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 across the Great Lakes region from Buffalo to Chicago
- _____ 15. Beautiful but short-lived American ships, replaced by “tramp steamers”

D. 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.

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| ___ 1. Samuel Slater | A. Inventor of the mechanical reaper that transformed grain growing into a business |
| ___ 2. Eli Whitney | B. New York governor who built the enormously successful Erie Canal |
| ___ 3. Elias Howe | C. Inventor of a machine that revolutionized the ready-made clothing industry |
| ___ 4. Samuel F.B Morse | D. Agitated against immigrants and Roman Catholics |
| ___ 5. Know-Nothings | E. Wealthy New York manufacturer who laid the first transatlantic cable in 1858. |
| ___ 6. <i>Commonwealth v. Hunt</i> | F. Immigrant mechanic who started American industrialization by setting up his cotton-spinning factory in 1791 |
| ___ 7. Cyrus McCormick | G. Painter returned inventor who developed the first reliable system for instant communication across distance |
| ___ 8. Robert Fulton | H. Developer of a “folly” that made rivers two-way streams of transportation |
| ___ 9. Cyrus Field | I. First successful toll road, built across Pennsylvania |
| ___ 10. Lancaster Turnpike | J. Yankee mechanical genius who revolutionized cotton production and created the system of interchangeable parts |
| ___ 11. DeWitt Clinton | K. Pioneering Massachusetts Supreme Court decision that declared labor unions legal |
| ___ 12. Molly Maguires | L. Radical, secret Irish labor union of the 1860s and 1870s |

E. 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	Effect
___ 1. The open, rough-and-tumble society of the American West	A. Made the fast-growing United States the fourth most populous nation in the Western world
___ 2. Natural population growth and increasing immigration from Ireland and Germany	B. Opened the Great Lakes states to rapid economic growth and spurred the development of major cities
___ 3. The poverty and Roman Catholic faith of most Irish immigrants	C. Encouraged western farmers to specialize in cash-crop agricultural production for eastern and European markets
___ 4. Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin	D. Made Americans strongly individualistic and self-reliant
___ 5. The passage of general incorporation and limited-liability laws	E. Aroused nativist hostility and occasional riots
___ 6. The early efforts of labor unions to organize and strike	F. Bound the two northern sections together across the mountains and tended to isolate the South
___ 7. Improved western transportation and the new McCormick reaper	G. Aroused fierce opposition from businesspeople and guardians of the law
___ 8. The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825	H. Enabled businesspeople to create more powerful and effective joint-stock capital ventures
___ 9. The development of a strong east-west rail network	I. Transformed southern agriculture and gave new life to slavery
___ 10. The replacement of household production by factory-made-store-bought goods	J. Weakened women's economic status and tended to push them into a separate "sphere" of home and family