

Transformation of the Economy & Society in Antebellum America 1820-1860

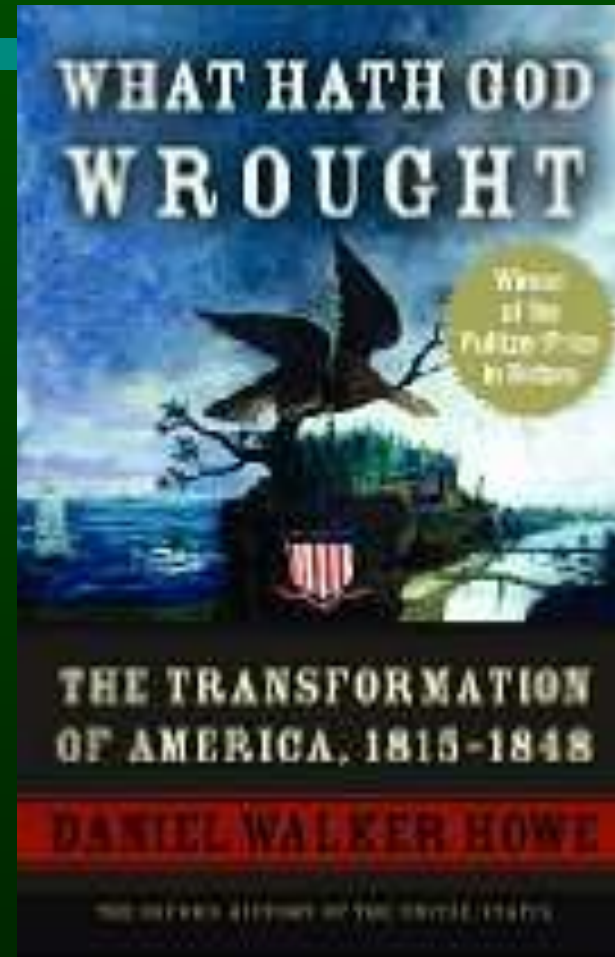
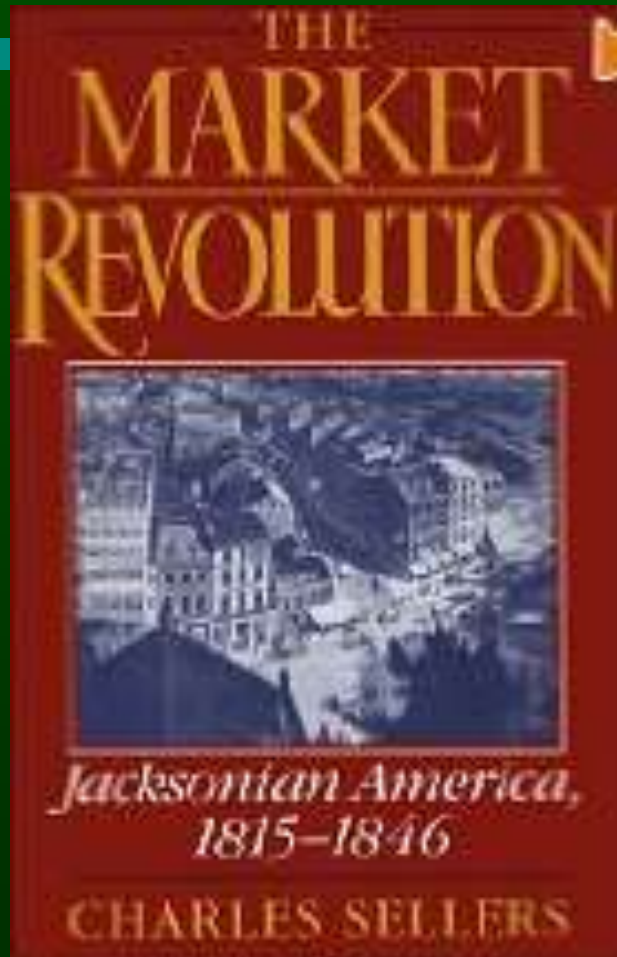
Guiding Question

- **Analyze the causes of the transformation of the American economy in the first half of the nineteenth century.**

Include: developments in transportation, population, manufacturing and agriculture.

Economic Revolution?

Market Revolution? Transportation Revolution?



THE TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION & CREATION OF A NATIONAL MARKET ECONOMY

- agrarian economy – subsistence?
- Key catalysts:
 - (1) transportation improvements – canals, RRs
 - (2) development of textile mills and factories
 - (3) innovations in banking and legal practices
 - (4) Capital – from Europe (esp. Britain)
 - (5) Population growth – 9M in 1820 → 30+M in 1860
 - (6) innovations in technology
- *“Market Revolution”?*
- *Not Yet the Industrial Revolution*

Transformation of the Antebellum Economy

Significant Factors Promoting Economic Growth, 1820–1860

Factor	Important Features	Contribution to Growth
Abundant natural resources	Acquisition of new territories (Louisiana Purchase, Florida, trans-Mississippi West); exploitation and discovery of eastern resources	Provided raw materials and energy vital to economic transformation
Substantial population growth	Increase from 9 million in 1820 to over 30 million in 1860—due to natural increase of population and, especially after 1840, to rising immigration; importance of immigration from Ireland, Germany	Provided workers and consumers necessary for economic growth; immigration increased diversity of workforce with complex results, among them supply of capital and technological know-how
Transportation revolution	Improvement of roads; extensive canal building, 1817–1837; increasing importance of railroad construction thereafter; by 1860, 30,000 miles of tracks; steamboats facilitate travel on water	Facilitated movement of peoples, goods, and information; drew people into national economy market; stimulated agricultural expansion, regional crop specialization; decreased costs of shipping goods; strengthened ties between Northeast and Midwest
Capital investment	Investments by European investors and U.S. interests; importance of mercantile capital and banks, insurance companies in funneling capital to economic enterprises	Provided capital to support variety of new economic enterprises, improvements in transportation
Government support	Local, state, and national legislation; loans favoring enterprise; judicial decisions	Provided capital, privileges, and supportive climate for economic enterprises
Industrialization	New methods of producing goods, with and without involvement of machinery	Produced more numerous, cheaper goods for mass market; transformed classes and nature of work; affected distribution of wealth and individual opportunity

TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

**& THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL
MARKET ECONOMY**

Eras of Transportation

- Turnpike & River Era 1790s-1820s
- Canal Era 1825-1840s
- Railroad Era 1850s-1940s
- Automobile Era 1920s-present
- Airplane Era 1960s-present

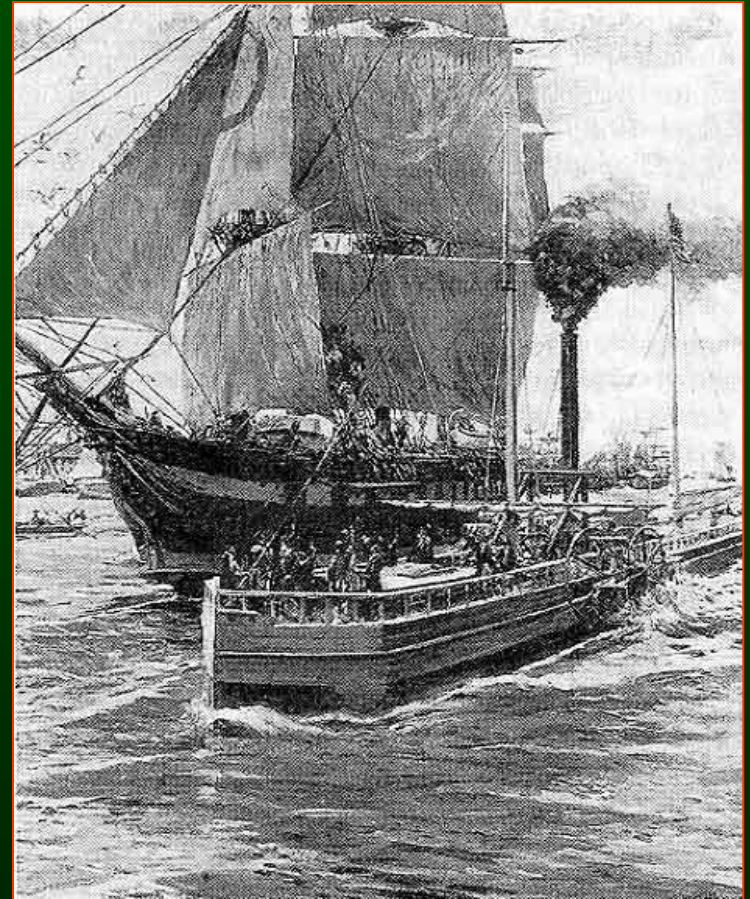
TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

- turnpikes
- National Road



TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

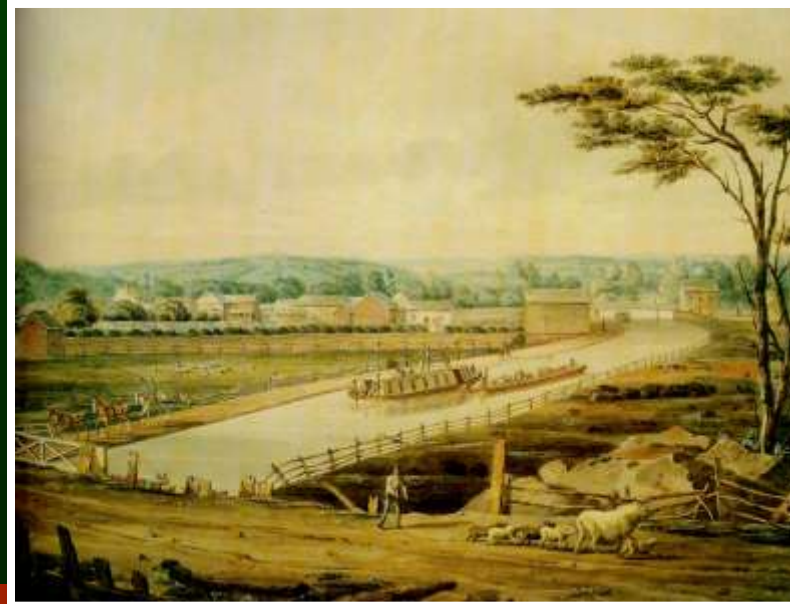
- Steamboats
 - Robert Fulton
 - *Clermont* (1807)
- Impact on transportation and trade



Robert Fulton's *Clermont* plies the Hudson River

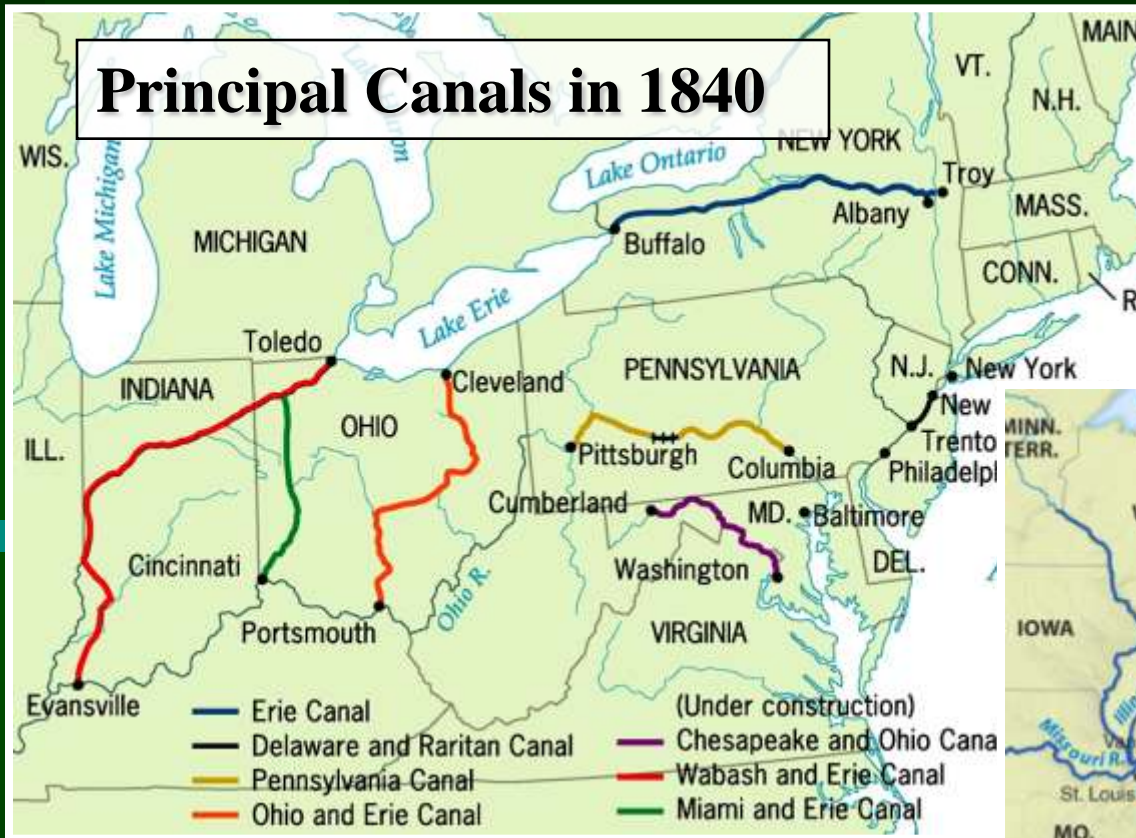
TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

- Erie Canal (1825)
- Significance
 - Cost of trade
 - Direction of trade
 - Settlement of NW
 - New York City
 - Upstate NY
 - Canal boom



TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

Principal Canals in 1840

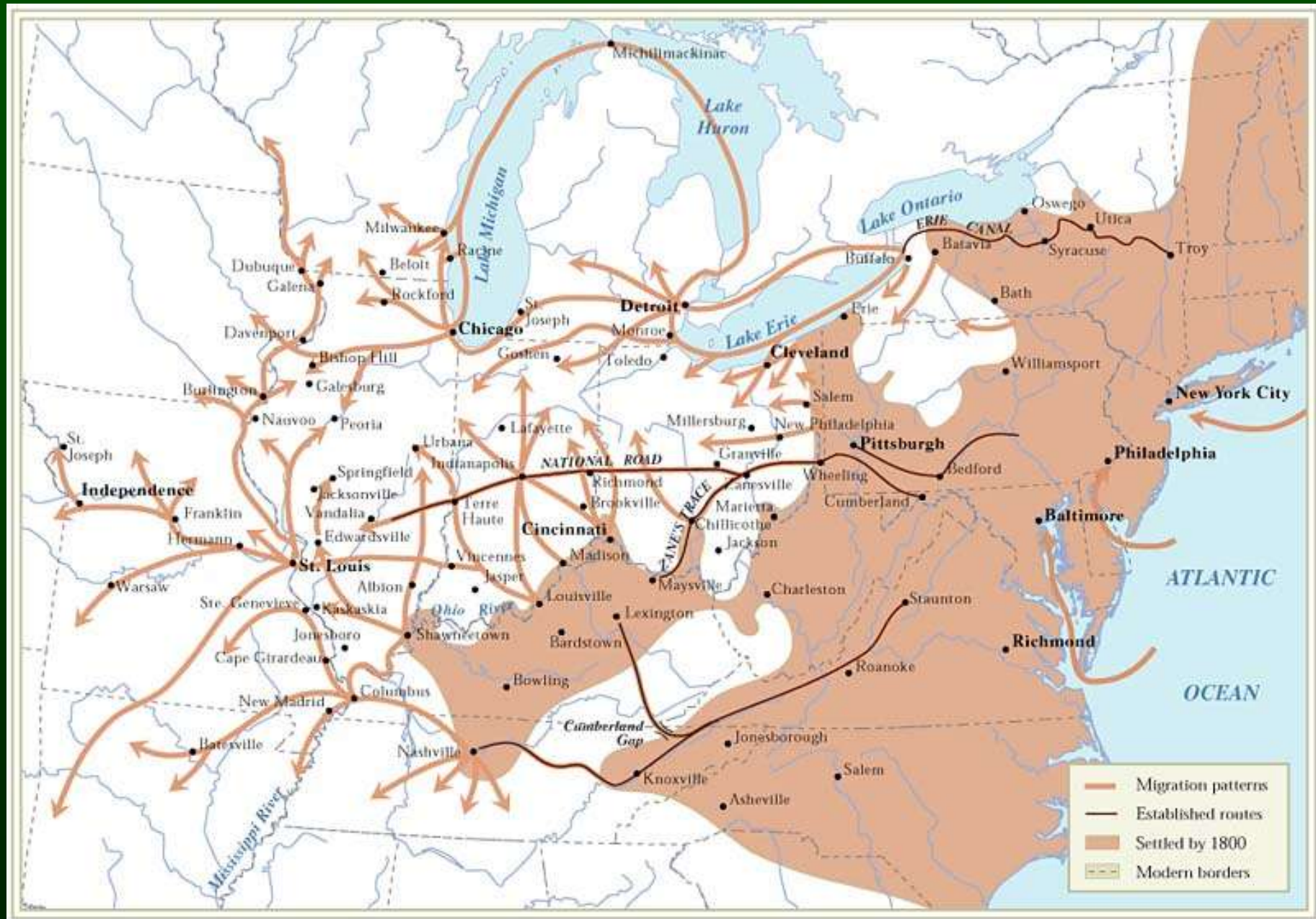


Roads and Canals, 1820-1850



- Canal boom
- Effect on transportation and trade patterns

Paths of Northern Migration after 1800

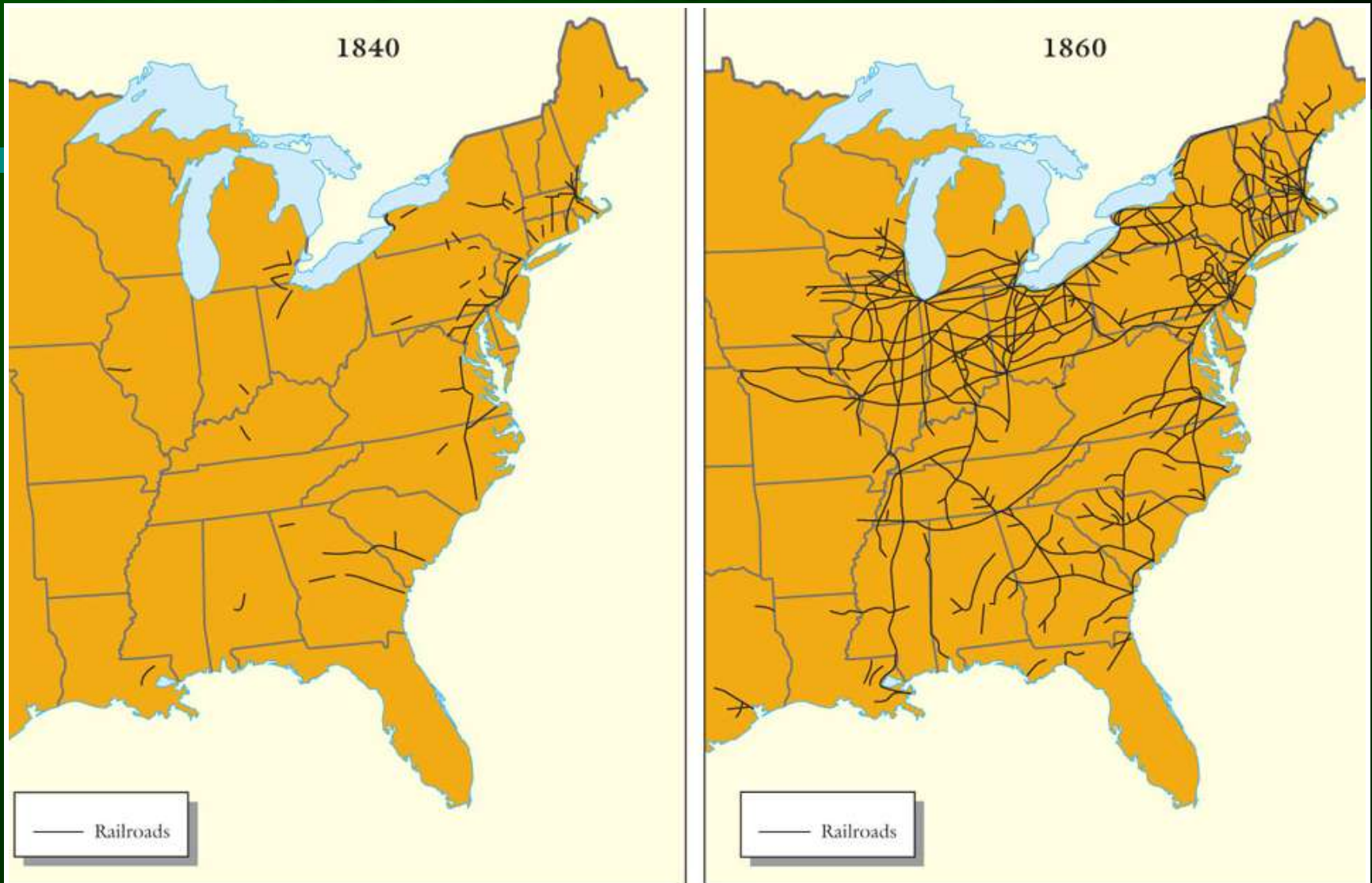


TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

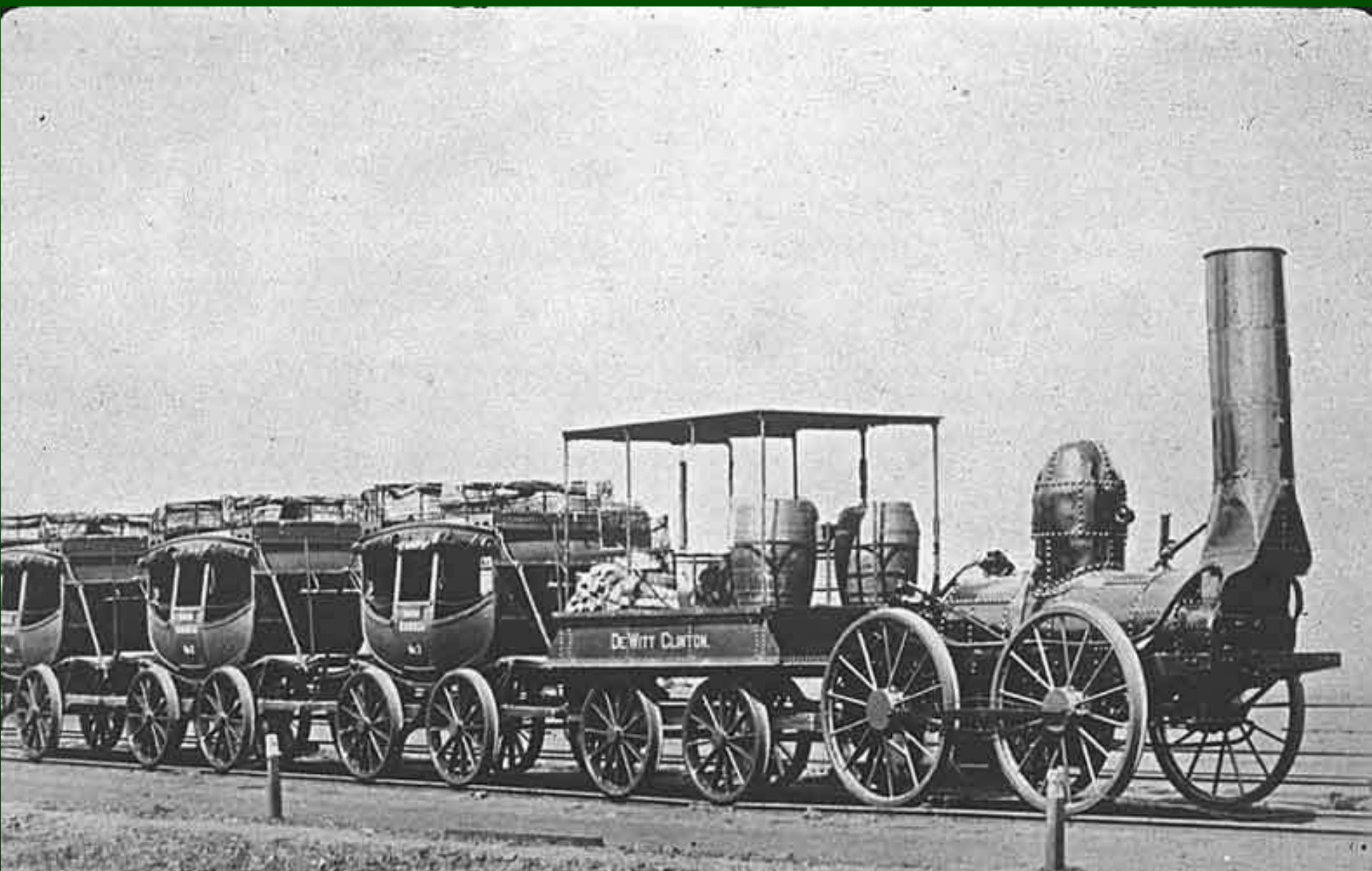
- Railroads
- Baltimore & Ohio RR (1830)
- short lines
- trunk lines



TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

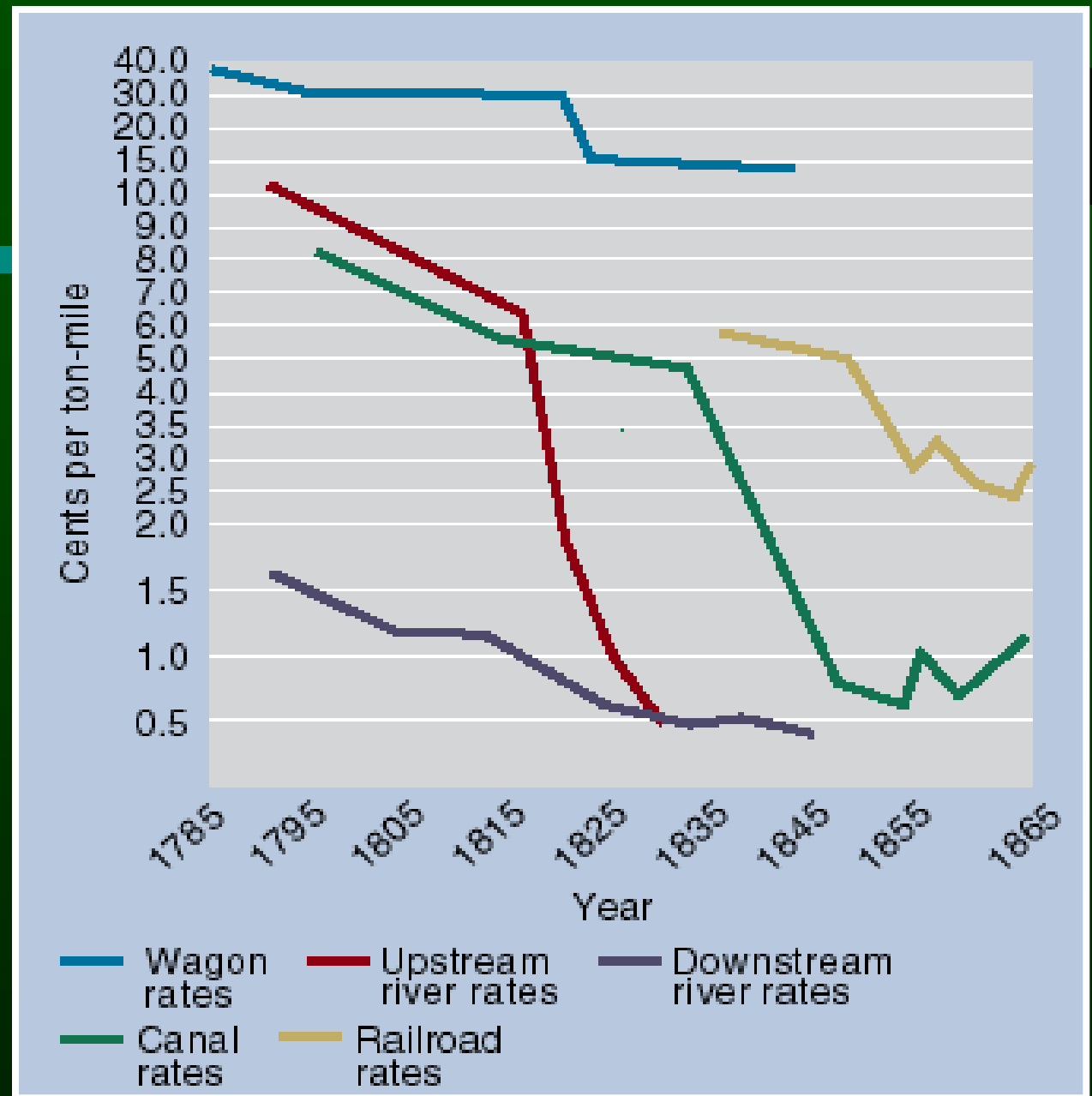


Mohawk And Hudson Railroad's *Dewitt Clinton*



National Market Economy:

Inland Freight Rates, 1790-1865



TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

- Impact of Railroads

- a) Promoted national trade and economic growth
- b) Linked Northeast and old Northwest for trade
 - Consolidation of early short lines leads to E-W orientation
 - Chicago
- c) Promoted the growth of other industries
 - Iron
 - Coal
 - Telegraph
- d) Encouraged farmers to specialize
- e) First great corporations in US – model for later large businesses

Communications Revolution

The Speed of News in 1817 and 1841

Telegraph??



BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

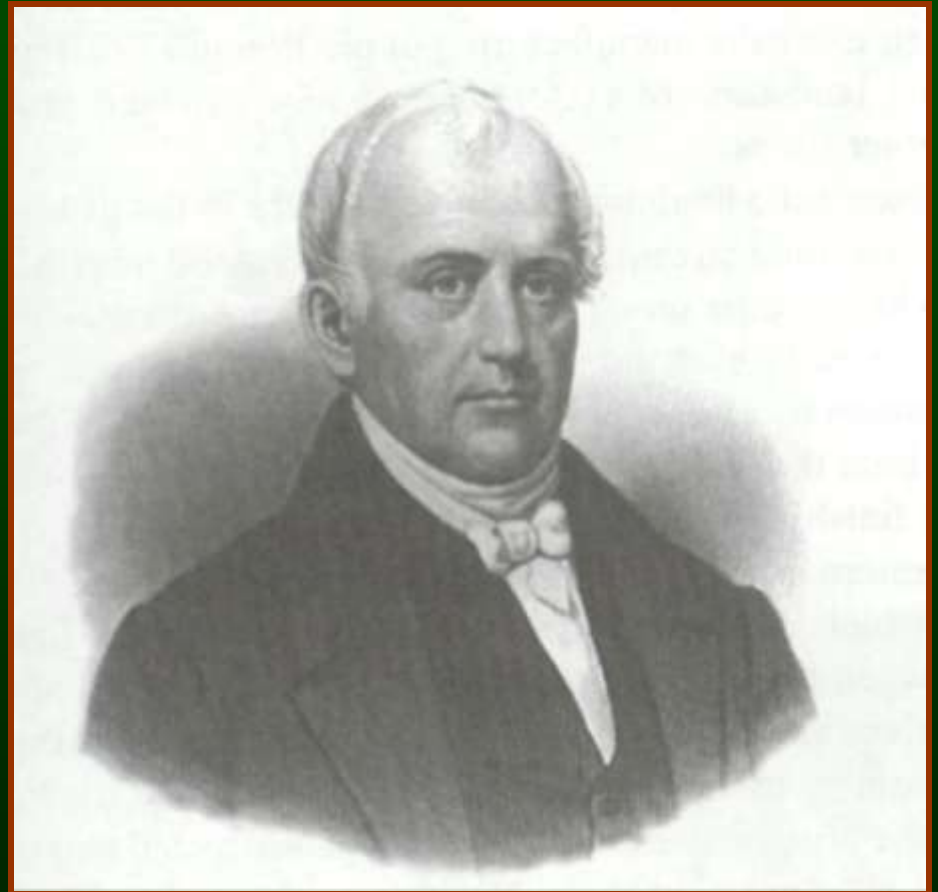
- Factory System
- Rise of Corporations
- Technological Innovations
- Labor
- Old Northwest



BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

- textiles
- Samuel Slater
- factory system

Samuel Slater
("Father of the
Factory System")

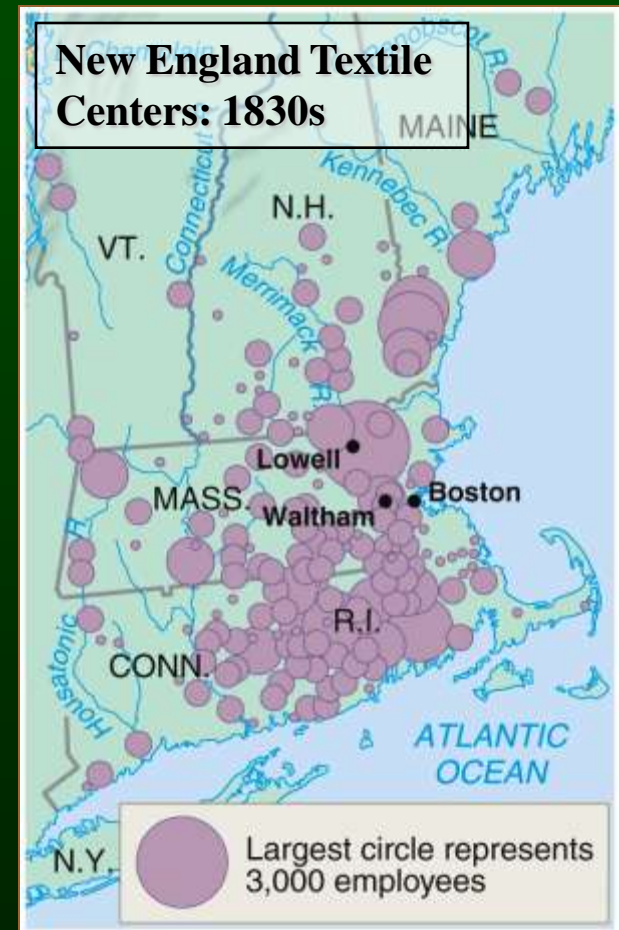


BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

- Lowell (or Waltham) Factory System
 - Francis Cabot Lowell
 - First dual-purpose textile plants
 - employees
- Lowell towns



Lowell, Mass. in 1850

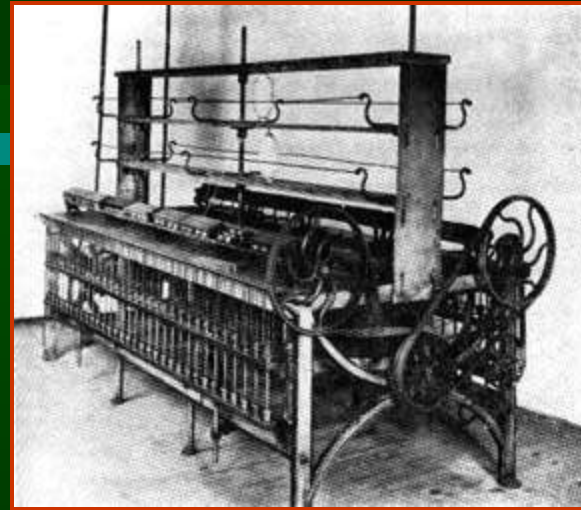
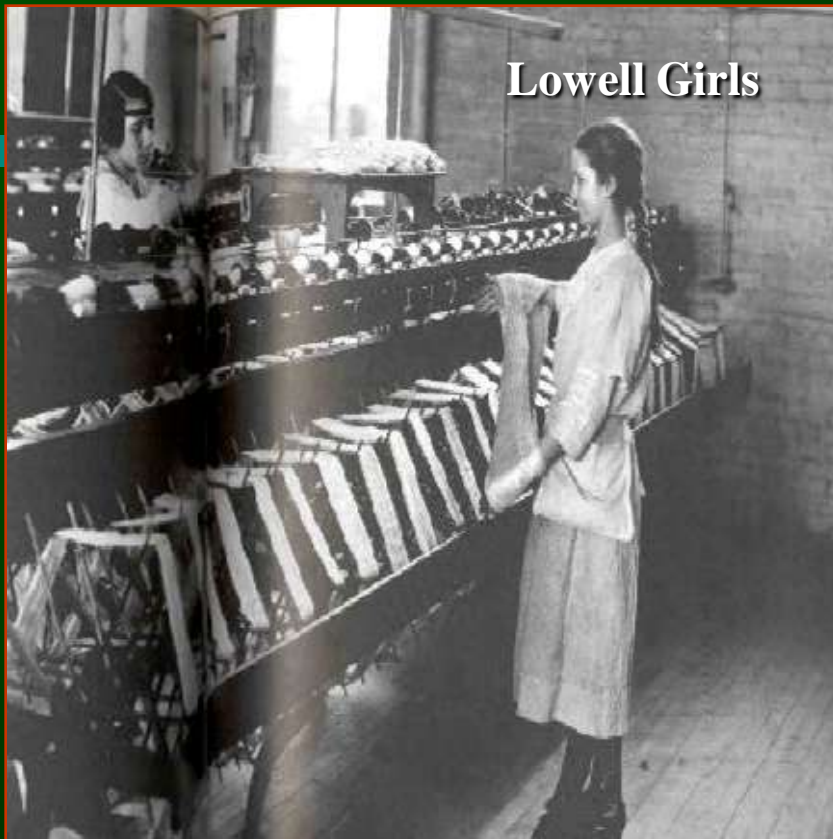




Middlesex Company Woolen Mills, Lowell, Massachusetts, c. 1848, *artist unknown*

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Lowell Girls



Early
Textile
Loom

- **Lowell Girls** - typical "profile"
- **Factory Girls Association**



Lowell Boarding Houses

The Growth of Cotton Textile Manufacturing, 1810–1840



BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION:

Legal and Financial Developments

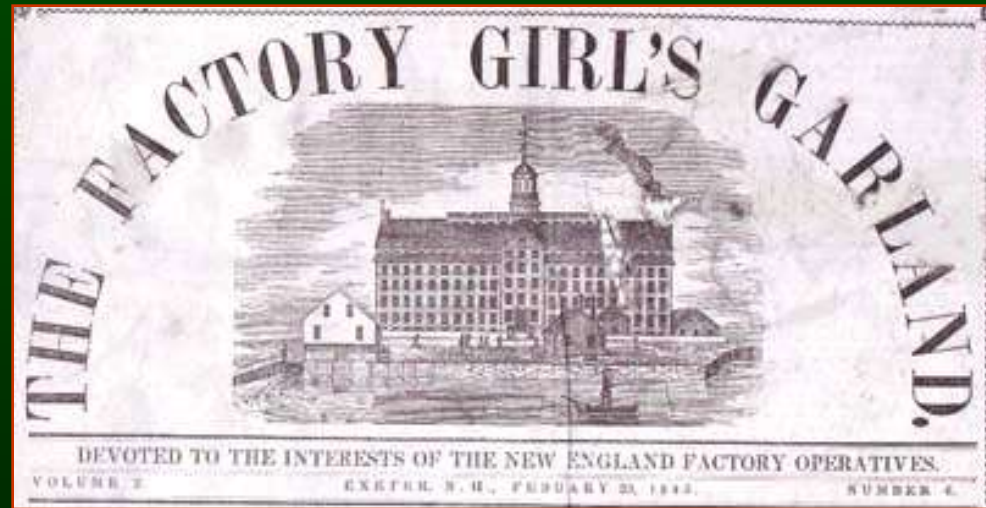
- Corporations
 - In 1800, c. 20 corps US; by 1817, over 1800
 - General incorporation laws
 - New York, 1848
 - stock
 - limited liability
- Banking – paper banknotes

Distribution of Wealth

- ❖ During the American Revolution, 45% of all wealth in the top 10% of the population.
- ❖ 1845 Boston → top 4% owned **over 65%** of the wealth.
- ❖ 1860 Philadelphia → top 1% owned **over 50%** of the wealth.
- ❖ The gap between rich and poor was widening.

BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION: WORKFORCE & LABOR

- Skilled artisans vs. unskilled workers
- working class
- Immigrant work force



The Factory Girl's Garland
February 20, 1845 issue.

BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION: LABOR & THE EARLY UNION MOVEMENT

- craft societies
- National Trades' Union
- Early issues:
 - Child Labor Laws
 - 10 Hour Workday
 - Right to Strike
- *Commonwealth v. Hunt* (Massachusetts, 1842)
- Early unions were usually local, social, and weak
 - and were largely ineffective before the Civil War

BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION: RISE OF AN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN (OLD) NORTHWEST

- **Northeastern Agriculture vs. The Old Northwest**
 - **Decline in Northeast**
 - **Rise of the Midwest**
 - **Ties between Northeast and old Northwest**

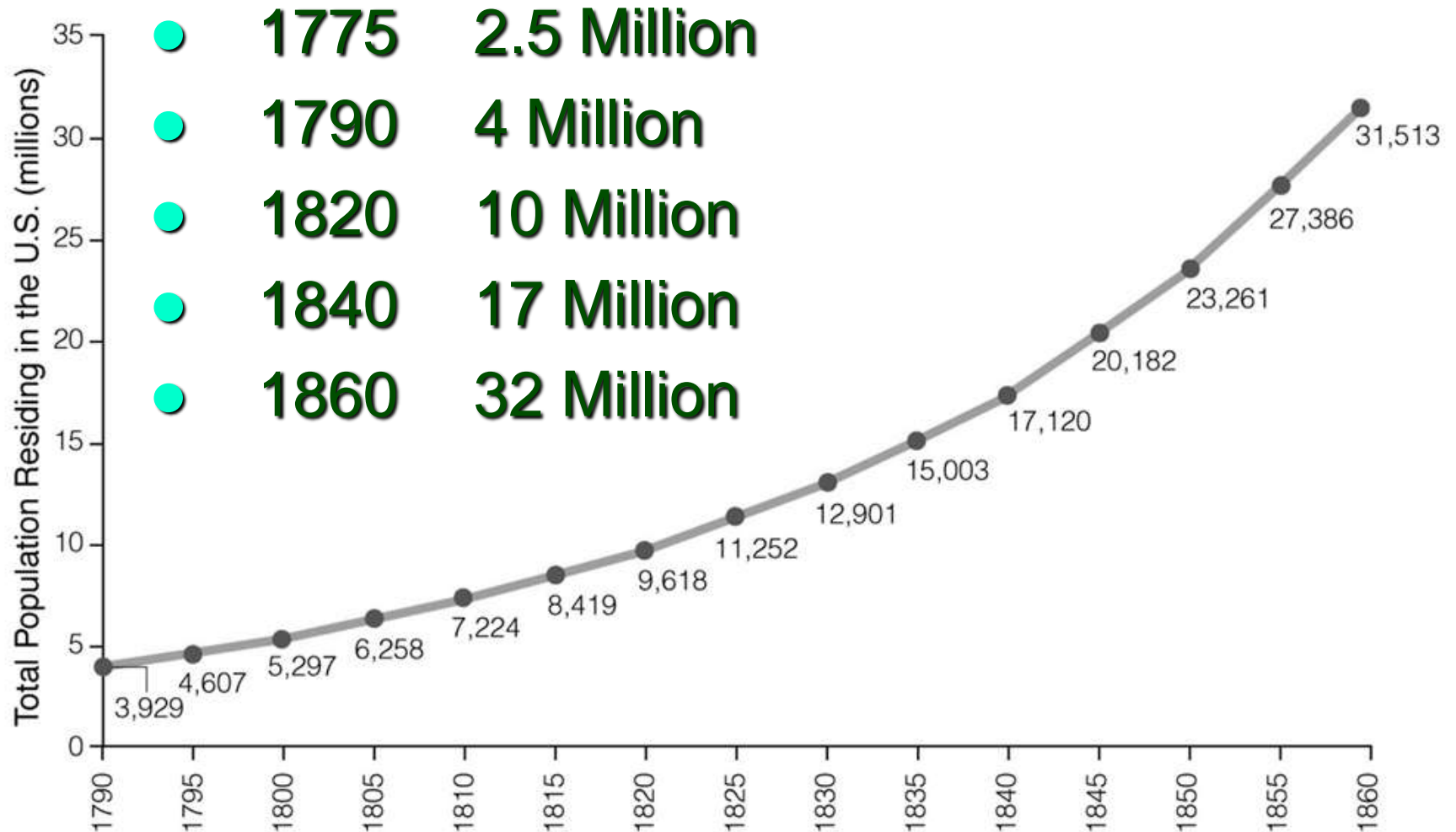
POPULATION GROWTH, IMMIGRATION AND NATIVIST REACTION

Guiding Question

- **“Throughout its history, the United States has been a land of refuge and opportunity for immigrants.”**

Assess the validity of this statement in view of the experiences of the English, Germans, & the Irish in the 19th-century urban Northeast.

POPULATION GROWTH

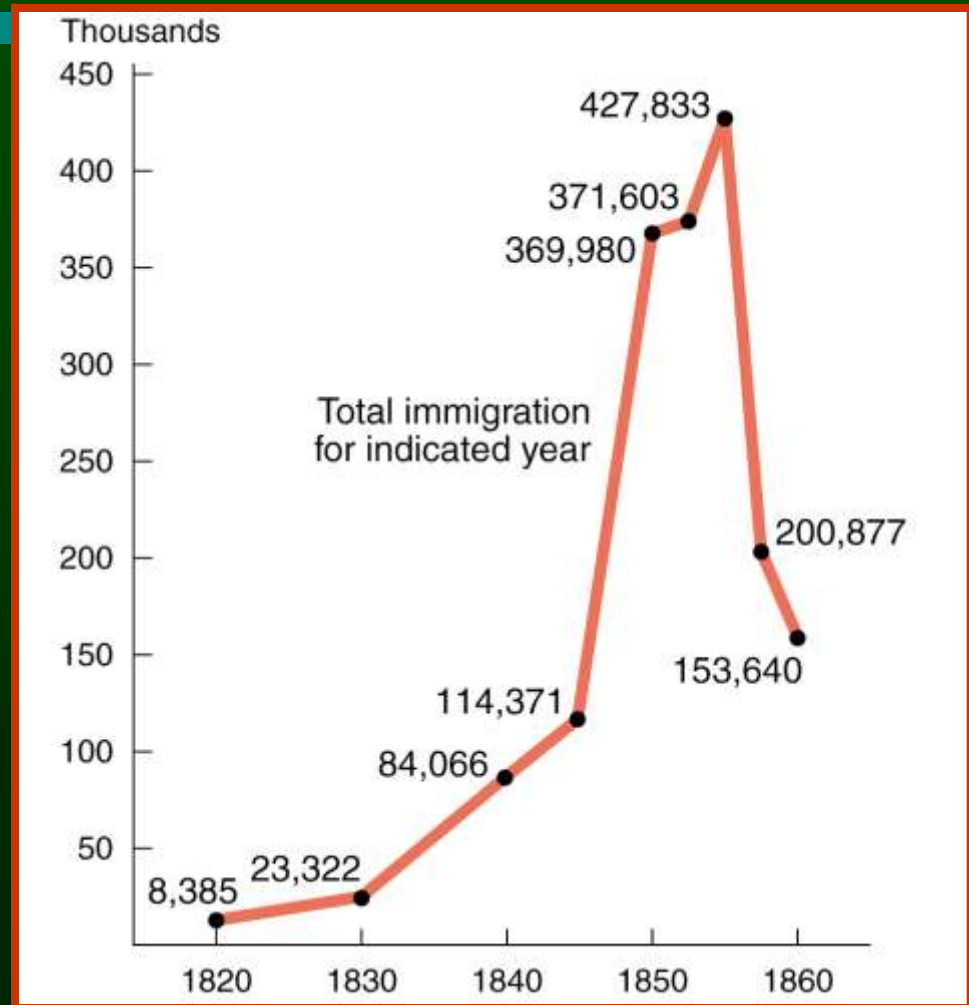


POPULATION GROWTH

Causes

- Natural increase
- Immigration

**Immigration to the
United States, 1820-1860**

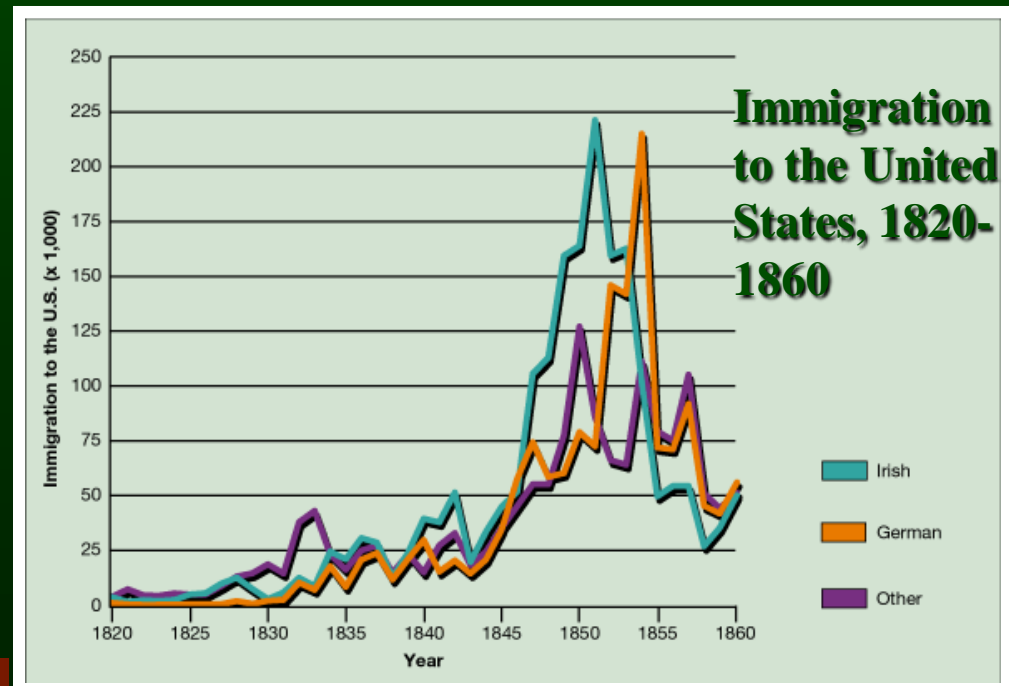
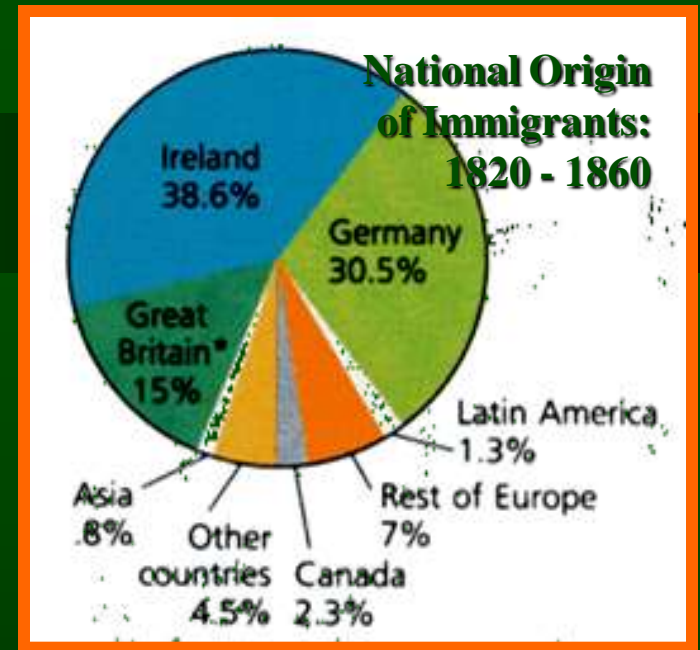


Immigration

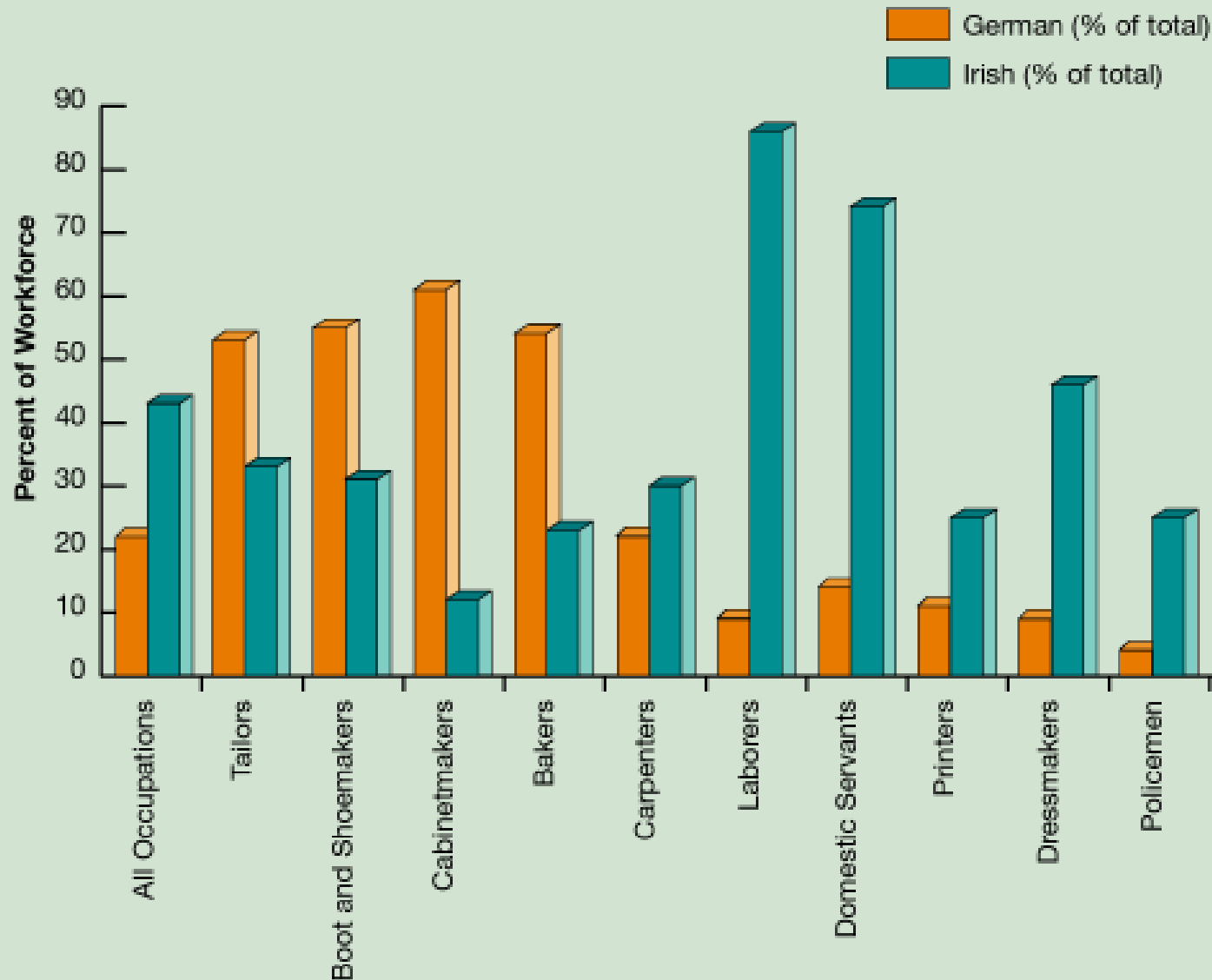
Major immigrant groups

- Irish
- Germans
- English

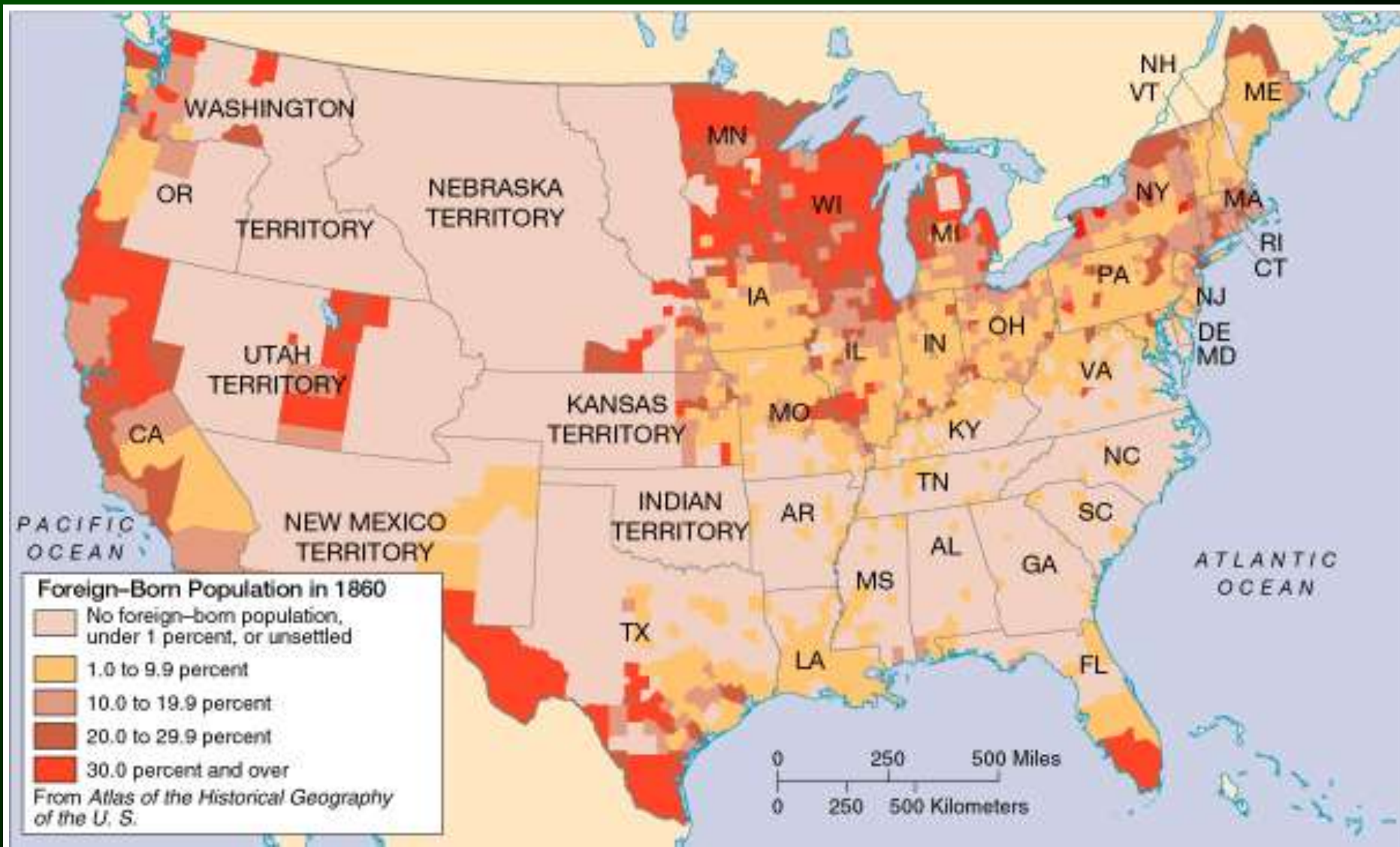
When did they come?
Where did they settle?



Participation of Irish and German Immigrants in the New York City Workforce for Selected Occupations, 1859



The distribution of foreign-born residents of the United States in 1860.



Immigration & Nativism

- nativism
- Native American Association
- Supreme Order of the Star Spangled Banner
- American (“Know-Nothing”) Party



Recent immigrants, from
Harper's Weekly, 1858

INVENTIONS & INNOVATIONS

- ❖ Americans were willing to try anything.
- ❖ They were first copiers, then innovators.

- Patents Approved:

- 1800: 41

- 1860: 4,357

Eli Whitney: The Cotton Gin, 1791



(Actually invented
by a slave)



Eli Whitney's Gun Factory

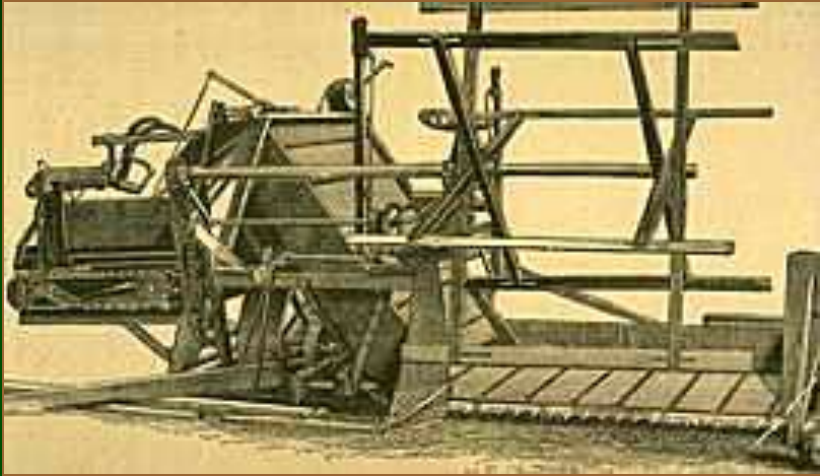


Interchangeable Parts Rifle

John Deere & the Steel Plow



Cyrus McCormick & the Mechanical Reaper

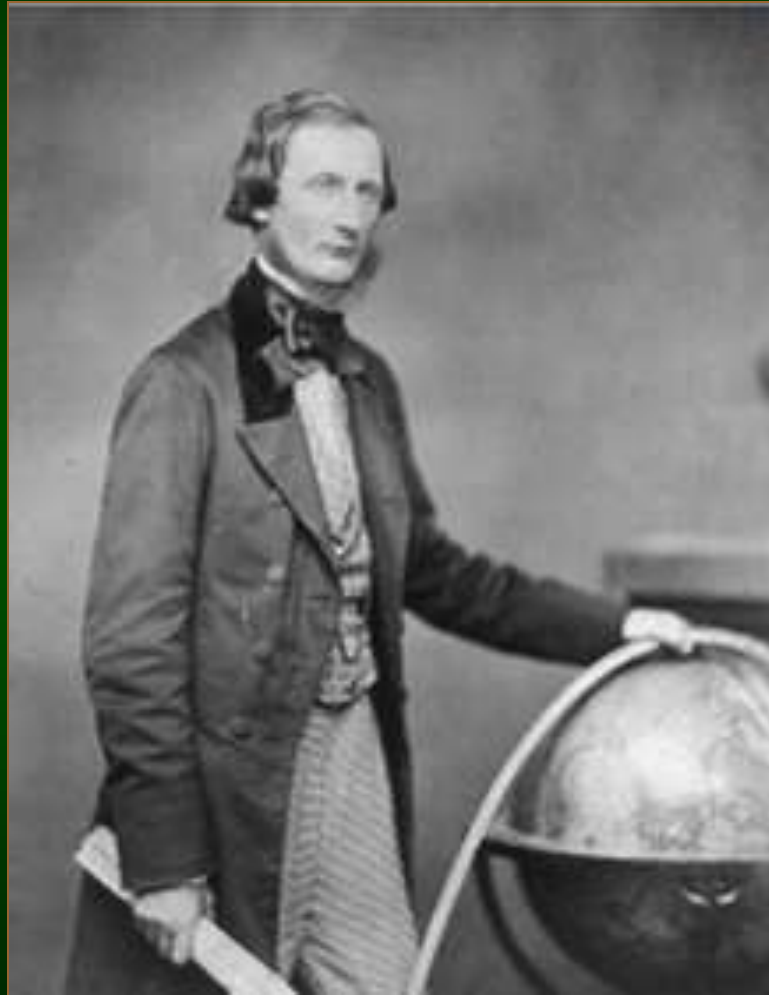


Samuel F. B. Morse

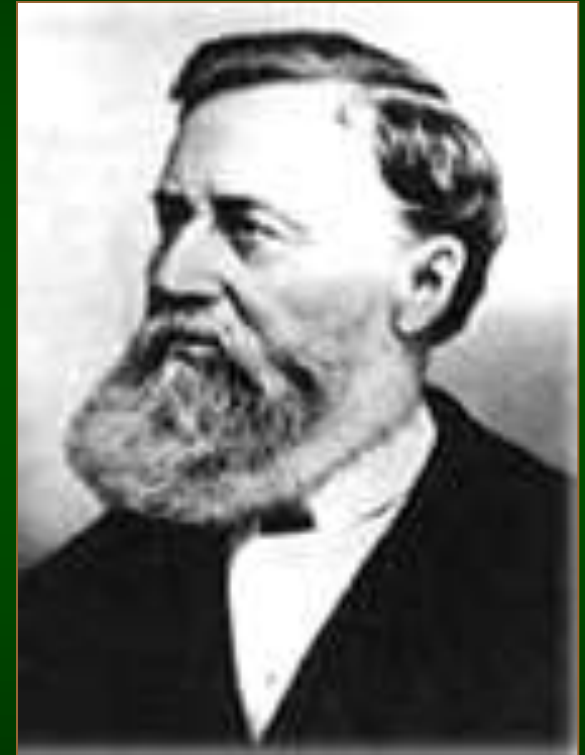
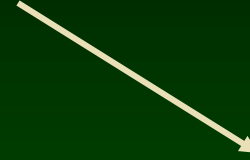


1840 - Telegraph

Cyrus Field & the Transatlantic Cable, 1858



Elias Howe & Isaac Singer



**1840s
Sewing Machine**

CHANGES IN SOCIAL AND CLASS STRUCTURES

Guiding Question

- **How did the transformation of the American economy in the first half of the nineteenth century bring about changes to society, including the role of women?**

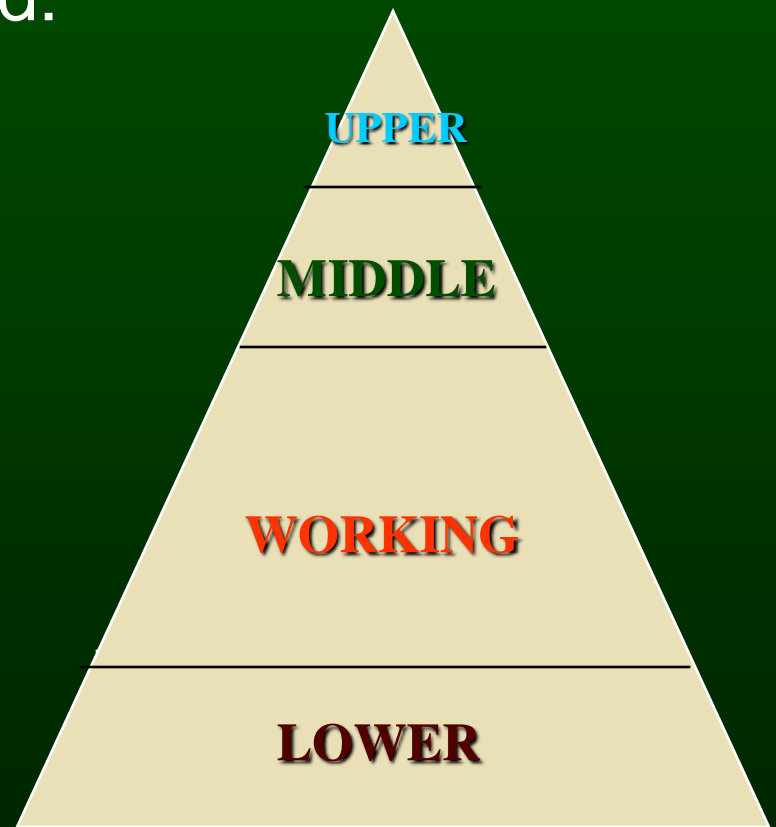
CHANGES TO SOCIETY

The market economy changed:

- class structure
- The nature and location of work
- Gender roles (Middle class)
- the standard of living

Social Class structure

- Working class
- Rise of the middle class
- Social mobility?
- Geographic mobility

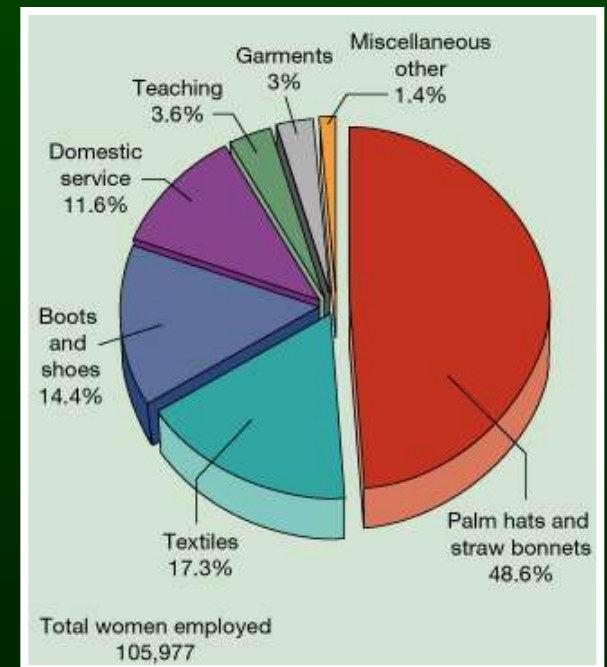
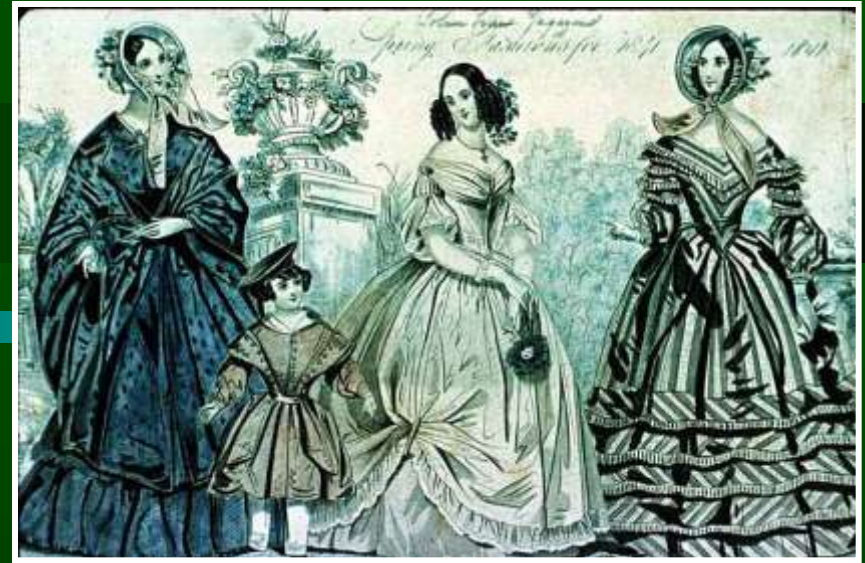


Where do Farmers fit?

CHANGES TO SOCIETY

Work & Home

- Lower birthrates
- “Separate Spheres”
 - end of cottage industry
 - new gender roles
- “cult of domesticity”
- employment opportunities
- Education of women
 - Oberlin College



Occupations of Women Wage Earners in Massachusetts, 1837

ECONOMIC?

POLITICAL?

**The results of
early 19th Century
industrialization
in America?**

SOCIAL?

**FUTURE
PROBLEMS?**