

6.1.1 - FACTORS OF THE AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

What factors enabled the United States to become a major industrial power?

Many factors enabled the United States to become a major industrial power. By supporting businesses, the government helped a lot. The government mainly supported businesses that gave money or land to railroad companies because it helped expand the nation. By giving land to railroad and other transportation companies, it made it easier to transport goods and for workers to get to their jobs.

Many businesses and laborers reorganized to make themselves more successful. Big companies came together to form corporations. This allowed them to sell stocks, which gave them a higher profit. It also gave the stockholders the choice on who became the director of the company. This forced smaller businesses to go out of business or sell their business. Laborers came together to form unions, so they could fight for better working conditions and protect their jobs.

The size of the U.S. also helped in the industrial development of our nation. The size allowed us to spread throughout North America. Development in the North and South was different. In the North, there was mostly factories and machinery-based jobs. In the South, there was farms. The size of the U.S. made it so that the transportation of goods took longer. We overcame that with trains and canals. By expanding our nation, we found many different types of goods like gold, wheat, and corn.

Immigration also increased the development of industry in our nation. In European countries, people were dealing with decreasing farmland and agricultural activities due to increasing population and being mainly industrial. Some people also face religious hardships like the Jewish and Russians. Political problems also forced some people to leave their homelands. When immigrants arrived, they found many jobs for them waiting in the cities and neighborhoods of multiple languages. Most of them took high labor jobs to get a good start in their new lives, soon saving up enough to start their own businesses.

Oil and steel barons also helped our nation's industrial development. An oil baron is someone who makes a lot of money from oil and a steel baron is someone who makes a lot of money from steel. Carnegie made his money from steel and Rockefeller made his money from oil. They both made large contributions to companies and helped them a lot.

Technology also played a big part. Technology has helped us be more efficient with everything we do in life. The telephone allows us to communicate with each other over great distances. The light bulb allows us to work better at night or when it is dark. The car allows us to get to places quicker and easier so we don't have to live so close to where we work.

Many things helped in the development of industry in our nation.