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APUSH Review: Video #21: The Market Revolution And Its Impacts (Key Concepts 4.2, I, A-C, 4.2, II, A-c)

The Market Revolution

* What was it?
  + Revolution in transportation, farming, and production of goods
  + Increase use of canals, roads, steamboats and RRs
  + Switch from subsistence to cash-crop farming
  + Goods were produced increasingly OUTSIDE the home
* Occurs PRIOR to the Civil War (Antebellum America)

Market Revolution Innovations

* Transportation Innovations:
  + Roads - Cumberland (National) Road
  + Canals - Erie
  + Steamboat - Robert Fulton
* Agricultural Improvements:
  + Cotton Gin - Eli Whitney
  + Steel Plow - benefitted Midwest
  + McCormick Reaper - increase harvesting efficiency
* Technological Innovations:
  + Interchangeable Parts - Eli Whitney
  + Telegraph - increase communication

Government Actions During The Market Revolution

* State and federal governments often helped fund roads, canals, and RRs
  + Erie Canal - paid by NYS
    - Intrastate trade
  + Cumberland Rd - paid by federal government
    - Interstate trade
* Often, the North and Midwest were closely linked together
* Each region became more reliant on each other and traded more with each other
  + Midwest - corn, cattle, pigs
  + South - cotton
  + North - manufactured goods

Emergence Of Corporations

* Company forms a charter by paying a fee
  + Owners are NOT liable for losses of company, would just lose investment
* Led to selling of stock
  + Companies could raise large amounts of ca$h

Emergence Of Factories

* Men and women began to work OUTSIDE the home in factories in larger numbers
  + No longer reliant on semi-subsistence farming
  + Textile mills located near water
* These goods were often traded to distant markets
  + Not just within the US, but EUROPE as well

Lowell Factory (Massachusetts)

* Farmers’ daughters would work in the Lowell Factory System
  + Young (late teens - early 20s) , single, women
  + Worked for a short time and would save $
* Life at Lowell:
  + Women lived in boarding houses
    - Maintained by owners
  + Workers had a curfew and were required to attend church
  + Often did the same task over and over in the factory

Impacts Of Market Revolution And Manufacturing

* Growing middle class
* Increase in prosperity and standard of living for a portion of the population
* Emergence of a business elite
  + Unequal distribution of wealth
    - Large population of poor workers

Gender And Family Roles

* Many poorer families stopped farming and moved to work in factories
  + Children as young as 6-8 would work in factories
* Married, middle class women were NOT expected to work outside the home
* Cult of Domesticity:
  + Upper and Middle Class women were expected to focus on their families and instilling American virtues in children
  + Women were expected to live in a “separate sphere”
    - Joined voluntary clubs and organizations (more in a few videos)
    - Women often stayed out of politics, focused on domestic issues
    - If women worked, they did so in professions such as nursing and teaching

Quick Recap

* What was the Market Rev?
* What were its impacts on:
  + The Economy
  + Transportation systems
  + Gender and family roles
* Innovations during the Market Revolution