

BR: D12

What differences existed between the North and South in the 1800s?

We'll be answering this today!

U.S. History

Ch. 13.1+2 The North's Economy & People

Goals for Today:

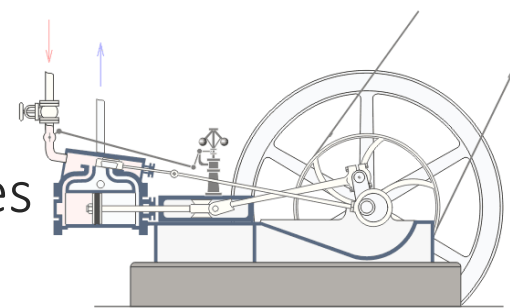
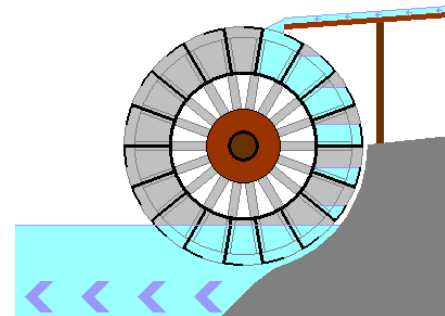
Analyze the advances in tech, transportation & communication shaping the North in the 1800s, and how this growth of industry and immigration changes the North, especially its cities.

The North

The **economy** in the North / Northern part of the U.S. had been revolutionizing for years during the early to mid 1800s.

As we discussed, **power-driven machinery** started a massive change in the way things were made, first with water wheels, and later **steam power**. In New England, they focused on textiles, but these machines were used for many other things as well. By 1860, 2/3rds of the manufactured goods of the country came from the NE part of the U.S.

Transportation evolved quickly as well. As we mentioned before, canals were built from 1800-1850, and **Robert Fulton** perfected the **steamboat**. Sailing ships also improved, and **locomotives**, or trains began to take over transportation starting in 1830, with **Peter Cooper's [Tom Thumb](#)**. Though it lost, change was on its way to America!



Faster & Faster!

Originally in 1840, we had just 3,000 miles of track, but **railroads** exploded as locomotives got better and more efficient. By **1860**, there were **31,000+** miles of **railways!**



Goods & Communication

All these new **canals**, **steamboats**, **railroads**, etc. made moving goods easier and cheaper. Factories made the goods even easier to make, and consumers got better deals as a result. Also, **settlement** shot up, because taking a train was much easier than a wagon!



The [telegraph](#) was invented in 1844 by **Samuel Morse**, and this revolutionized communication too! You could get a message from here to there instantly, if you knew the **Morse Code**. By 1860, over 50,000 miles of telegraph lines crossed the U.S.!

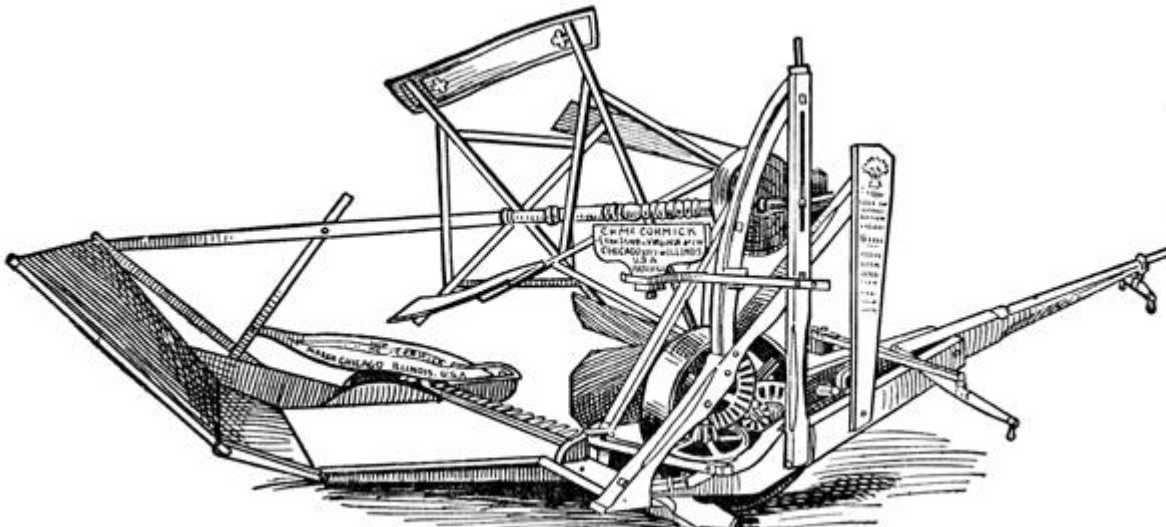


Agriculture

Several inventions in **agriculture** helped settle more areas of the U.S. In 1830, **John Deere** came up with an awesome **steel plow** that would break up the hard soil of the Great Plains.

Cyrus McCormick invented the **mechanical reaper**, since reaping wheat by hand with a sickle was back-breaking work. He came up with a new machine that could cut the wheat 4 times faster.

Both of these inventions meant more land could be settled and farmed more easily, and with the new transportation improvements, they could easily sell their goods.



Cyrus McCormick

U.S. History

Ch. 13.2 The North's People

Working Conditions

As mentioned before, **mills** and **factories** soon covered the Northeast. However, **conditions** in these factories / mills often were quite poor and dangerous. For example:

Most workers were **laboring** for **11.4 hours** / day on **average**, including children as young as 6 years old!

Lack of safeguards left many workers with broken or **lost limbs** from fast belts that caught them; some even died.

Heating and **cooling** was poor at best, with workers freezing in the winter and overheating in the summer, often with very poor lighting

The biggest issue was that **laws** didn't often exist to protect workers. Something needed to be done



Challenges & Organization

Slavery was mostly gone in the North by 1820, but **prejudice remained**. African Americans were often not allowed to vote, and they sometimes received lower wages, and they often had to attend **segregated**, or different schools, hospitals, and other facilities.

Women were also treated unfairly. They often made less than their male counterparts, they also weren't allowed to vote. They were often not allowed to take certain jobs as well. Some attempted to organize in the 1830s and 40s. **Sarah Bagley** was the leader of the **Lowell Female Labor Union**, but the legislature ignored their petition because they were mostly women.

It was during this period, of the 1830s, that many workers began to **organize** into groups, specifically **trade unions**, which gave them **collective bargaining rights**. For example, if one worker spoke out, they were often simply fired. If ALL of your workers spoke out, and went on **strike** (i.e., refused to work), factory owners were more likely to listen. At first, many laws made striking **illegal**, but later it would be ruled ok.

Rise of Cities

The growth of **industry** and **agriculture** brought lots of **job opportunities** in those areas. People looking for jobs came to the cities (which grew a lot as a result), both from the **countryside**, but also from beyond our borders!

Immigrants came to the U.S. in larger numbers during this period. Many came from Ireland, because they were having a **famine**, where the potatoes (and later people) had died, between 1846-1860. Many were **quite poor**, and they took low paying factory jobs, worked on the railroad, or other **menial labor**.

Another group that came during this period were **Germans**, from 1820-1860. Over 1 million Germans came, but they often had more money, and so they bought farms, started **businesses**, and most were **successful**. Many settled the Midwest (including my mom's family in the Dakotas).



Prejudice & Impact

The **character** of the country changed dramatically as a result of these groups coming here. They brought their own traditions and culture with them.

One change was **religious**. Most Americans had been **Protestant** up to this point, but most of the Irish (and about ½ of the Germans) were **Catholic**. Most Americans didn't trust Catholics, so they mistrusted these newcomers. [Catholic Alligator](#), [Looking Backwards](#)

Some responded harshly, with **nativist** ideas, or the idea that their own ideas were better than the ideas, culture, religion, etc. of the newcomers. This movement was known as [Nativism](#)