

THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION – TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

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During the Second Industrial Evolution, the country saw many societal changes that came with many changes on subsequent generations. Many technological changes improved manufacturing, culture, and economic systems. New production methods were introduced to improve the speed and efficiency of production, including iron being replaced by steel and the invention of the lightbulb. Society changed with new inventions, such as the lightbulb and the telephone. The telephone allowed for better communication over far distances, and the lightbulb established social order after sunset. The United States economy significantly benefited by the production of new inventions, the new steel industry, and the development of railways. The Second Industrial Revolution was a time of many advancements for the United States in terms of new methods of manufacturing and production, society greatly benefited from many new inventions, and the economy significantly benefited from all of this and the development of the railroad system.

Up until this time, iron was what was mainly used for manufacturing and production methods. But during this time, it was replaced by steel.¹ Steel was much stronger and cheaper. It made it possible to build railways at a competitive cost and it helped with the construction of ships, buildings, and large bridges.² The invention of the lightbulb also allowed for the workday to be extended longer¹ past sunset, allowing for more production to be completed within a

¹ “Second Industrial Revolution: The Technological Revolution.” Richmond Vale Academy. Accessed September 30, 2020. richmondvale.org/en/blog/second-industrial-revolution-the-technological-revolution.

² Engelman, Ryan, Alexandra E. Stern, Jenni Ostwinkle Silva, and U.S. History Scene. “The Second Industrial Revolution, 1870-1914.” US History Scene, January 28, 2019. ushistoryscene.com/article/second-industrial-revolution.

business. With more time to be able to produce products, more products are made. With the more products made, the more money comes the business makes.

Society greatly benefited from the many inventions created during this time. Some of the many new inventions included the telephone and the lightbulb. The invention of the telephone allowed for people to be able to communicate with other people over long distances, as this was a struggle to do beforehand. The lightbulb established social order after sunset.¹ Just picture in your head for a moment of what New York City looks like at night. Can you picture it? What you see in that picture wouldn't exist without the lightbulb. As also stated before, the lightbulb also allowed for the workday to extend well into the night.

The economy of the United States boomed from the many advancements made during the Second Industrial Revolution. As a result of this, living conditions improved significantly and the prices of goods fell dramatically.¹ Thanks to the construction of sewage systems, the health of the general public improved. Because factories were able to operate longer, because of the invention of lightbulbs, more products were able to be made. With more products being made, that means more money can be brought in with more products being sold to people.

The Second Industrial Revolution brought many advancements to the ways of manufacturing/production, society, and the economy. Manufacturing was changed with the replacement of iron by steel, which was much stronger and cheaper. The lightbulb also allowed factories to stay open longer at night. Society greatly benefited from the many significant new inventions, including the telephone and the lightbulb. The telephone allowed for greater communication over far distances and the lightbulb established social order after sunset. Because of all of these advancements and changes, the economy and productivity of the United

States boomed. Many things that occurred during this time paved the path for the way that our country operates today.

Bibliography

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