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# The GILded age

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# **MOVING FORWARD: AMERICAN INNOVATIONS**

**THE CIVIL WAR IS OVER, AMERICANS  
THINK AHEAD...**

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**THERE'S OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE  
MONEY IN POST WAR MARKETS**



**WAR VETS & FREED SLAVES MOVE WEST**



**NEW IDEAS ARE CREATED AND  
SHARED ACROSS AMERICA**



**WHICH LEADS TO...**

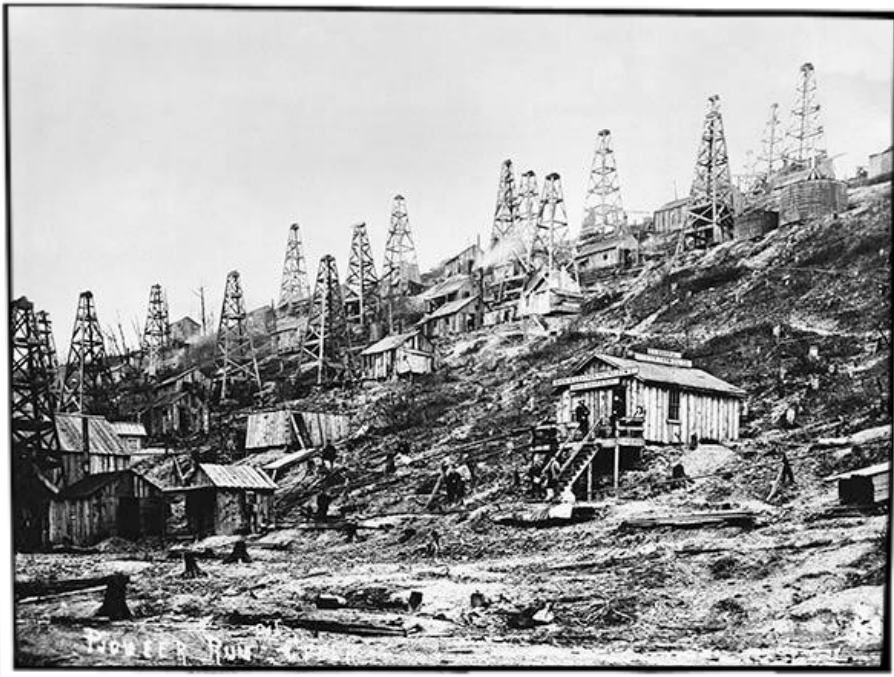
# AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIZATION

Period (1850 - 1920) where American inventions, natural resources, and an urban workforce fueled an explosion of US economic dominance

## KEY FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS OF THE ERA

American inventions made life easier, hiked productivity  
Farmers and urban workers produced/consumed in mass  
Businesses increasingly played a role in other world markets  
Economy

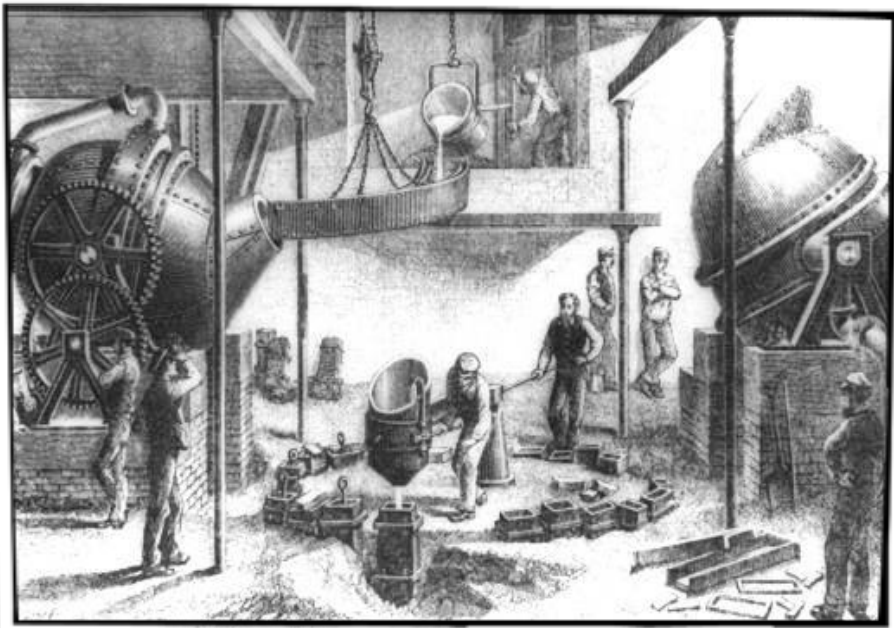
# AMERICAN INVENTIONS



Most of all, **INVENTIONS** were key

## OIL DRILLING

**EDWIN L. DRAKE** INTRODUCES THE USE OF **STEAM POWER** TO OIL DRILLS & RIGS  
"OIL BOOM" TAKE OFF, & PROSPECTS ARE BOUGHT FOR OIL-RICH LAND



## The Bessemer Steel Process

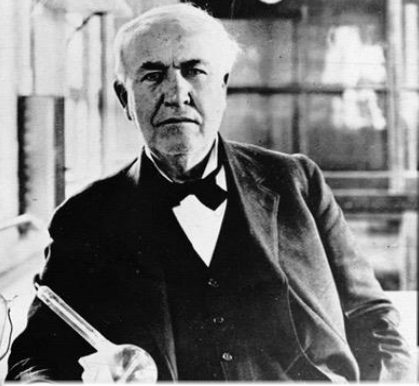
PROCESS THAT **REMOVED CARBON** FROM IRON ORE TO PRODUCE STEEL  
STEEL WAS **LIGHTER & MORE DURABLE** THAN IRON, BUT IT WAS JUST AS **STRONG**

# **WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?**

- 1. OIL & STEEL WOULD BECOME THE TWO MAIN INGREDIENTS OF AMERICAN ECONOMY FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!**
- 2. NEW STEEL PRODUCTS ALLOWED GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON WHAT AND WHERE TO BUILD**

# INVENTIONS

## IMPROVE LIFE



Several inventions instantly improved the quality of life for Americans

Edison's incandescent light bulb harnessed electricity in a light bulb and produced light by running it thru a filament

Edison later helped invent a system for harnessing & distributing electricity over distances

Sholes' typewriter

Bell's telephone

Laid groundwork for worldwide, coast-to-coast telecommunications network



# EFFECTS ON LIFE



## The Incandescent light bulb

ELECTRICITY IS SAFER, CHEAPER, USED EVERYWHERE

LED TO INVENTIONS OF APPLIANCES,  
ELECTRIC TRAVEL & SPREAD OF CITIES  
FACTORIES WERE NOW BUILT EVERYWHERE



## The Typewriter

MADE WORK EFFICIENT, OPENED JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

## The Telephone

CREATED WHITE COLLAR, OFFICE JOBS FOR WOMEN AS SECRETARIES

CONNECTED MARKETS QUICKLY



# CONNECTING AMERICA: THE AGE OF RAILROADS



# THE NATIONAL NETWORK

Fueled by steel, coal and steam,  
the **locomotive** spans every  
corner of the United States

The **Transcontinental Railroad**  
1869 — **GOLDEN SPIKE IS NAILED AT**

**PROMONTORY, UTAH TO CONNECT**

**E&W**  
**LAI**D BY CIVIL WAR **VETS**, **CHINESE**  
**IMMIGRANTS**, **FREED SLAVES**

**1ST TIME EVER, ENTIRE US IS LINKED**

**Standardized Time Zones**

**24 TIME ZONES CREATED TO KEEP**  
**SCHEDULES**

**US DIVIDED INTO 4 ZONES (E,C,M,P)**

# EFFECTS OF RAILROADS



Railroads **opened up** the vast West

**Towns and Markets**

PEOPLE TRAVELED WEST TO OPEN LANDS,

RESTARTED THEIR LIFE, EXCHANGED

GOODS

CITIES, MARKETS POPPED UP ALONG MAIN

LINES

**Pullman**

RXR MAGNATE GEORGE PULLMAN BUILDS

A "COMPANY TOWN" FOR HIS RXR

WORKERS

HE PROVIDED HOUSING, SHOPS, HOSPITALS,

& LUXURIES OF A CITY FOR HIS WORKERS

IT FAILED B/C STRICT CODES (STRIKE)



# ABUSES OF RAILROAD INDUSTRY



Railroad magnates used **CORRUPTION** to gain **profit/control**

**Credit Mobilier**

**COMPANY OWNED BY POLITICIANS & RXR**

**OWNERS THAT CHARGED THE GOV 3Xs**

**THE REAL COST OF RXR CONSTRUCTION**

**JOBS**

**THEY THEN SKIMMED THE TOP AND KEPT**

**THE EXTRA (V.P., FUTURE PRESIDENT)**

## Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)

**FEDERAL COMMISSION CREATED TO LIMIT FEES, OVERSEE & REGULATE RXRs**

## GRANGER LAWS

**LAWS PROPOSED BY FARMERS TO REGULATE RXR FEES & USE OF LAND RULED CONSTITUTIONAL BY S.C. CASE MUNN V. ILLINOIS (1877)**

# CLOSURE

WRITE THREE THINGS YOU  
LEARNED TODAY ABOUT:

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1) AMERICAN INVENTIONS

2) WOMEN AND IMMIGRANT WORKERS

3) HOW RAILROADS CHANGED THE WEST