

LECTURE 5

1

POLITICS AND EARLY AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIZATION

A. Industrialization as a process vs. the concept of the "industrial revolution"
 [cf. Cowan, p. 67: "we no longer refer to it as a revolution..."]

B. Chronology:

1783 - Treaty of Paris; Britain recognizes American independence

1784 - Opening of the China trade

1786 - post-war depression reaches low point

- dissatisfaction with the Articles of Confederation

- Shay's rebellion (Aug.-Dec, 1786)

*****OLIVER EVANS AUTOMATED MILL IN OPERATION,
 Sept. 1786*****

1787 - Constitutional convention meets in Philadelphia, May-Sept.

--Delaware = 1st state to ratify, followed by
 Pennsylvania and New Jersey (all in
 Dec. 1787)

1788 - Nine states ratify and new constitution goes into effect

**1789 - Presidential election (January); George Washington inaugurated
 (April 30)**

1790 - Patent Law enacted

- Secty. of Treasury Alexander Hamilton advances his fiscal

program:

(1) fund national debt at par value;

(2) assume \$25m in state debts; at first
 defeated, but then adopted after a
 compromise measure places national
 capital in District of Columbia (July)

(3) 1st Bank of the United States (Feb. 1791);

(4) Report on Manufactures drafted but not
 adopted (1790-91)

*****Samuel Slater builds mill for Almy & Brown*****

1791-93+ - Jefferson and Hamilton feud

Jefferson resigns as Secretary of State (Dec. 1793)

CHRONOLOGY (cont.)

- 1794 - Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania
*****ELI WHITNEY PATENTS COTTON GIN*****
- 1796 - George Washington's farewell/ John Adams elected
- 1798 - Undeclared war with France**
*****WHITNEY SIGNS GOVERNMENT CONTRACT FOR**
10,000 MUSKETS, to be delivered by 1801***
Simeon North also signs contract for pistols
Both receive large government advances on their contracts
- 1800 - Jefferson elected president of U.S.**
******OLIVER EVANS BUILDS SMALL HIGH-PRESSURE**
STEAM ENGINE [receives patent in 1804]***
- 1807 - Embargo Act; escalating conflict with Indians in South and**
Midwest; rise of Tecumseh
- 1808 - James Madison elected president
- 1810 - Francis Cabot Lowell visits England; conducts industrial
espionage re. cotton textile manufactures
- 1812-1815 - War of 1812
- 1814-1815 - Lowell and associates form Boston Manufacturing**
Company and build mill at Waltham, MA.

C. FOOTNOTES ON THE 1780s and 1790s:

1. Hamilton's Report on Manufactures

--one result: establishment of national armories at Harpers Ferry (VA) and Springfield (MA), 1794

2. "Artists of Their Country"

a. Oliver Evans (1755-1819):

--automated mill (1786)
--high-pressure steam engine (1804)

b. Samuel Slater (1768-1835):

--emigrates to U.S. (1789)
--mill at Pawtucket, R.I. (1790) equipped with British spinning machinery

c. Eli Whitney (1765-1824):

--patents cotton gin (1794)
--government contract for 10,000 muskets (c. \$130K)
--the legend of interchangeable parts
--extensions to 1809.

--the "American System" not uniquely American: precedents exist in France and Sweden

3. The significance of the Waltham-Lowell system (1814-1822+)

--integrated manufacturing at Waltham, 1814
--move to Chelmsford, MA (1822): continued expansion
--Spanish claims and the building of Lowell, 1821-24: the role of Daniel Webster
--female work force becomes famous as the "Lowell girls"

--Paternalism, religion, and social control: "the village steeple is the unfailing companion of the water wheel" (P. T. Jackson)

4. Thomas Jefferson's (ambivalent) position on manufacturing:

--Notes on the State of Virginia (1785):

--"those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God"
--"let us never wish to see our citizens occupied at a work bench..."
--"let our workshops remain in Europe..."

--Jefferson in Paris

--sees the work of Honore Blanc

--sends back a box of Blanc's Model 1777 muskets to U.S.

--Blanc's gauges

--Jefferson and Eli Whitney

--Jefferson as state-rights apostle of agrarianism