**Chapter 10**

America’s Economic Revolution

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Ten should enable the student to understand:**

1. The changes that were taking place within the nation in terms of population growth, population movement, urbanization, the impact of immigration.
2. The importance of the Erie Canal for the development of the West and of New York City.
3. The changes that were taking place in transportation, business, industry, labor, and commerce as the full impact of the industrial revolution was felt in the United States.
4. The reasons why the Northeast and the Northwest tended to become more dependent on each other, while the South became isolated from the rest of the nation in the 1840s and 1850s.
5. The vast changes taking place in the Northeast as agriculture declined while urbanization and industrialization progressed at a rapid rate.
6. The characteristics of the greatly increased immigration of the 1840s and 1850s, and the immigrant’s effects on the development of the free states.
7. The reasons for the appearance of the nativist movement in the 1850s.
8. The living and working conditions of both men and women in the northern factory towns and on the northwestern farms.

# Summary

During this period a combination of a rapid growth in population, the expansion of communication and transportation systems, and the development of an agricultural system sufficient to feed an urban population gave rise to the American industrial revolution. The two sections of the nation most affected by this were the Northeast and the Northwest, which were drawn closer together as a result. Canals, railroads, and the telegraph made it easier to move goods and information. Business expanded as corporations began to shape the world of trade and commerce. Technological innovations helped expand industries, and soon the factory system began to replace the artisan tradition. In the Northwest, agriculture also expanded to meet the increasing demand for farm products. All of this had profound implications for American men and women, both in the way they worked and in their family lives.