1776-1860 The Revolutionary, Early National, and Antebellum Eras
Changes of Modes of Transportation (Andro)
1750-During this time period changes in transportation leaned towards using rivers and water ways to travel. Many rivers ran north to south so connecting the west and east had to be done mostly through roads that were being powered by animals usually horses. These roads were hard to maintain so they required a lot of maintenance and sometimes more horse power. Traveling from the southern part of the United States to the north would take months so I can imagine how hard this must have been for Americans. It would be even harder walking which many people had no other option.

1750- Flatboats were used before steamboats to go downstream. They used flat boats to transport cargo to other cities. These boats were not able to make a round trip because of the wear and tear the encountered on the trips. So after they were finished they used the wood for fire. Keelboats were boats with rudders; they were more durable than flat boats but would still take a very long time transporting items and they had trouble going upstream.

1807- In 1807 the first steamboat was introduced by Robert Fulton. Once the steamboat, they boats gained a lot of popularity because they were able to travel upstream much easier and faster. Cities were becoming very popular also because of the amount they could transport on these rivers, which is why they were usually placed near rivers, everything in that time revolved around where the water was located. With the promising steamboats making their way into the transportation system of America canals had to have been built. The Erie Canal was the first canal it spanned 363 miles and it connected Buffalo and Albany.

1816- People started to realize the importance of canals. This is when people really started putting a lot of effort into building canals. (Robert Fulton and the first steamboat, the Clermont)

Social Changes (Madi Bruschke)
Some social changes that occurred during this time included; public school systems, women fighting for rights, the Declaration of Independence was signed, and the Industrial Revolution began. If you were in the North, than your life revolved around industrialism and if you were in the South, than you were more into Agriculture. The industrial revolution created a more urban lifestyle which ended up producing more free time and money for the middle class. Because of this people began to use amenities, elegance, dress, music, theater, dancing, etc. The Declaration of Independence created a social change. It gave people more rights to stand up for what they believed in. This gave people that feeling of freedom and more free will. Women began to take control of the farm’s and other work while
there men went to war. When the men came back they were supposed to assume their original role, most women felt that this was unfair. This caused women to try and fight for what they deserved. Overall, there was a lot of social change throughout this time period.

1776 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: Many social changes happened during this time period because the Declaration of Independence was signed. This gave people the right to have freedom of speech, freedom to petition, freedom of religion, etc. This changed things socially because people were now allowed to be themselves and had more rights. People were promoting change and living more openly and free. Before this the colonies didn’t have free will and now the people have the chance to fight for equality if need be.

QUOTE: “May it be to the world, what I believe it will be … the signal of arousing men to burst the chains … and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. That form, which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. … For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them.” Thomas Jefferson, before his death in 1826

1820- 1870 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: The industrial revolution caused many social changes. Some social changes that occurred because of the industrial revolution include urbanization. Many working places in industries were harsh environments. White men were paid the best, then women and children were paid lower wages and harsh hours. The Industrial Revolution also created the middle class. The middle class having more money now started to want to entertain themselves. This meant that a new thing to do was go to theatres, sports events, horse races, etc. Now it wasn’t just poor and rich, there was finally an in between.

1848 WOMEN: Women began Campaigns to boycott British imports, and would make homemade clothing rather than British made. Many women also petitioned against Indian removal, believing that it was immoral. When the men went off to war, many women began to take over the men’s role. When they men returned home they were pushed to the side and told to be housewives again. Yet because of the industrial revolution women were working spending less time in home and more time working. They were typically working in the textile mills rather than in agriculture. Women Started to protest that male had dominant power, and were paid better wages. Then women started to get higher education’s and go to college. Many women wanted to have equal power with men. For the first time in Western history women held a convention to support women’s rights to vote. This was held in Seneca New York, in 1848. Sadly, women didn’t get the right to vote until the year 1920 when the nineteenth amendment was passed.
Political Changes/ War (Aaron Strader)

- Revolutionary War (April 1775-Sep. 1783)
  - The American colonies declare independence from England, citing tyranny and taxation without representation as grounds for revolution.
  - America under the bold leadership of George Washington, and with the help of the French, barely edge the defeat of the British Army
  - This sets America on the path of democracy and freedom that will eventually influence the entire world.

- American Independence (1783)
  - The founding fathers form a strong democratic government that is kept in balance by utilizing three branches of power.
  - A bi-partisan system is formed setting the pattern that will continue into modern day
  - Americans were granted the freedom to live their lives according to the guidance of their own conscience, making it a land of opportunity and prosperity

- Napoleonic War (1793-1815)
  - After the French Revolution takes place Napoleon becomes emperor of France. This, combined with the American Revolution, made European monarchs fear mass rebellion of their subjugates, forcing all of Europe into a 22 year war.
  - France, with Poland and a few allies, initially conquered almost all of Europe. But Russia, England, and Spain in the end prove too much for France, defeating Napoleon, and forcing France back into a monarchy
This war established England as the ruler of the seas. It allowed monarchy to continue as the main form of European government, and it also tripled America’s land mass.

War of 1812 (1812-1815)
- America’s “Second War of Independence” pitting America against England and its colonies.
- The war was fought in Canada, the Atlantic, and the Gulf Coast.
- It resulted in no border changes, but gave both America and Canada strong senses of identity. It also solidified America’s independence.

Slavery and economic differences cause a rift in the political structure of America (1776-1860)
- The economy of the South was based largely on agriculture, while the economy of the North was based on industry and manufacturing.
- The North experienced an ever-increasing hatred of slavery and intolerance of slaveholders, while southern economy became more and more entangled in slavery.
- Many compromises were made to appease both sides but in the end the differences proved too great.

Money and Banking Issues
Technology (Marely Tiscareno)
1764- Spinning Jenny
- Invented by James Hargreaves. It allows one spinner to make eight threads at once. It is an improvement on the spinning wheel. It was able to make clothes faster and easier because it did many yarn spools at the same time.

1789- First Built Water Mill
• Samuel Slater built the first American spinning mill powered by water. There are three different mills. The undershot mill with straight blades only produced 40 percent of power. The overshot wheel had buckets to move it in the same direction of the waterflow. It was more efficient than the undershot wheel. The breast wheel is close to the undershot wheel. The only difference is that the breast wheel also has buckets attached to it. The breast wheel is a combination of the other two wheels. It produces 75 percent of power.

1793- Invention of the Cotton Gin
• Eli Whitney created a machine to remove the seeds from cotton. The cotton gin allowed 50 pounds to be manufactured per day, instead of one pound by hand. Cotton production changed from 5% in 1791 to 68% in 1850. Since there was a lot of production in cotton, most farmers turned to cotton.

Acts/Laws/Court Decisions (Shelby)
1777- Articles of Confederation
• The Articles of Confederation was created to win independence. It also gave the federal government the power to regulate commerce, create and maintain army, navy, and post offices.
Gave them the power of taxation and sole right to mint coins and regulate coinage.

1787 - The Land Ordinance of 1787
- This ordinance organized land into territories run by governors. Once the population of these territories reached 60,000 it would be admitted as an equal state.

1792 - Coinage act
- This helped set our monetary system based upon gold and silver. Silver coins contain more metal than gold coins of the same denominations.

1796 - Land Act of 1796
• The land act of 1796 increased prices per acre of land to $2. It also introduced the credit provision where you would pay ½ today and the other ½ in a year.

1827 - New York safety Fund Act
• This act invoked state regulatory power to increase protection for depositors and note holders. This also made stockholders responsible for debts equal to 2x the value of their stockholdings.

1841 - Preemption act or Log Cabin Bill
• This act made it so a squatter could purchase 160 acres of land for $200.

Commerce (Caleb George)
Commerce played a fairly important role in through the Revolutionary and Antebellum Eras. It was how the colonies got primarily all of their goods from trading with the British, West Indies, Africa and Southern Europe. The routes that made the expansion of commerce were just as important as the overall factor itself.

1775 - Nearly all American overseas commerce abruptly ceased.
• Congress authorized limited trade with West Indies. Colonies engage in trade despite British blockades.

1776 - Annapolis Convention, called to settle questions of trade regulations among states.
The Constitution - Regulates trade among states, states were forbidden to enact tariffs, and promoted trade & economic specialization.

1789 -
In the Caribbean, U.S ships were excluded from trade w/ British West Indies. Spain withdraws privilege of direct U.S. trade w/ Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Hispaniola. Americans are cut off from direct trade w/ British fisheries in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

1793 - Eli Whitney’s invention of the cotton gin puts cotton at the nation’s highest valued commodity export.

Embargo Act of 1807 - prohibited U.S. ships from trading with all foreign ports.
Three Gateways of Western Commerce:
Northern Gateway- Ran from the Great Lakes of Chicago to the Hudson River in NYC. Connected Pittsburgh to Philadelphia and Wheeling to Baltimore. Included one of the more major canal systems, the Erie Canal which opened in 1825.

Erie Canal- Ran from Buffalo to Albany NY. Financed by NY state bond and federal government, was the most successful & profitable canal system in the fact that it earned the highest rate of return on investment and in terms of the number and dollar value of shipments. It also changed the flow of western commerce from the Southern to the Northern Gateway and changed New York City into a boomtown.
Northeastern Gateway: Ran from Pittsburgh to Baltimore and consisted of a network of canals, roads and rail systems.

Southern Gateway: Ran from the Mississippi River to New Orleans and was primarily a water based route. It was also the leading transport route in the U.S in terms of volume of freight from the west. And was the dominant gateway until 1840.

Other (Emily)
1780- All thirteen colonies had their own individual constitutions. Legally unified by the Articles of Confederation.
-This was something new and eventful for the US to celebrate, finally being legal by the Articles of Confederation, and the fact that every colony had their own constitutions. It was a big deal.

1783- The Treaty of Versailles was signed.
-The Treaty of Versailles was a document that granted the American people's independence and the western lands, they claimed by the ancient right of conquest.

1785 and 1787- Land ordinances determined land policy, through Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson had 3 main goals for the land policy.
1) To provide revenues to the federal government through sales
2) Spread democratic institutions
3) Ensure clear property rights to the land owned by individuals
-The land policy really helped the individuals who were in the working field, give them more freedom on how much land a farmer could own, and so on.

1812- In Northeast and Middle Atlantic States industrialization and urbanization transformed the working conditions and living standards
-This change was effective and did good to most individuals especially the working once
1820 and 1860- Real wages-monetary wages adjusted for the cost of living rose. Obviously this wasn't an issue for the rich, but was an issue for the poor and middle class. These people started to work longer shifts to try to survive this change that took place.

1860- New nation emerged with a manufacturing sector. Yet industrial firms were small, and the United States was an agriculture country. This was the only year that America was making products and selling them, United States was in good shape. Most of the United States population also lived in rural areas, and most workers were self-employed on farms and in craftshops.

1888- Slavery collapsed in the Americas in a century. This was a big change that allowed more people to go into the working field and earn their own employment.

19th Century- Economic growth of the United States was influenced by spread of a market economy. The spread was caused by shifting of resources from lower-valued to higher-valued uses. By the growth of specialization and divisions of labor in production.