

Cornell Notes

Name Paola Ramirez / Fowler

Date 10/31/11

Topic Notes

Class/Subject MWH P.2

9:05
Conditions in the
Countryside

The Role of the
Railroads

- The only successful farmers were those with large landholdings who could afford agricultural innovations
- Most peasants
 - Didn't have enough land to support themselves
 - Were devastated by poor harvests (e.g. the Irish Potatoe Famine of 1845-47)
 - Were forced to move to the cities to find work in the factories.
- The railroads built during the 1830s and 1840s:
 - Enabled people to leave the place of their birth and migrate easily to the cities.
 - Allowed cheaper and more rapid transport of raw materials and finished products.
 - Created an increased demand for iron and steel and a skilled labor force.

• The invention of the railroad enabled better and faster transportation. It allowed faster trade and it was also cheaper.

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9:15
The Labor Force

- No single description could include all of these 19th Century workers:
 - Factory workers
 - Urban artisans
 - Domestic system craftsmen
 - Household servants
 - Miners
 - Country side peddlers
 - Farm workers
 - Railroad workers

The Condition of Labor

- Variations in duties, income, and working conditions made it difficult for them to unite
- All working people, however, faced possible unemployment, with little or no provision for security
- In addition, they were subject to various kinds of discipline.
 - The closing of factory gates to late workers
 - Fines for tardiness
 - Dismissal for drunkenness
 - Public censure for poor quality workmanship
 - Beatings for non-submissiveness.

• People would work whatever was available. They had harsh work conditions. They were beaten if they were non-submissive

to their employer (boss).

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Classwork

p. 302, 303
Map questions 1 & 2