



Timeline of Events

- 1780: American mechanics in the Northeast begin to apply principles learned from the English Industrial Revolution in their innovations on tools and machines.
- 1781: Oliver Evans invents machines to replace human labor in flour mills.
- 1785: Thomas Jefferson argues against U.S. industrialization in *Notes on the State of Virginia*.
- 1790: Eighty percent of the nation's population is made up of farmers and ninety-five percent of the population lives in rural areas.



- 1790: Congress passes the first patent law.
- 1791: Alexander Hamilton presents to Congress his famous *Report on Manufactures*, advocating industrialization of the United States.
- 1793: Eli Whitney submits his **Cotton Pin Petition** to the U.S. secretary of state. He is granted a patent one year later.
- 1798: Eli Whitney proposes to make 4,000 muskets for the U.S. government, using new machine-making tools and interchangeable parts.
- 1807: Robert Fulton's steamboat, the *Clermont*, makes its maiden voyage from New York City to Albany, New York.
- 1807: Eli Terry builds four thousand clockworks on a tight schedule using the latest principles of mass production.
- 1817: Congress authorizes the construction of the National Road, the first road to run west across the Appalachian Mountains.
- 1817–1825: The Erie Canal is built, connecting Albany and Buffalo, New York.
- 1825: The New York Stock Exchange opens its new headquarters at 11 Wall Street.
- 1826: The first U.S. railway, the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) is launched.
- 1831: Cyrus McCormick invents the first workable reaper.
- 1834: Ten-year-old Harriet Hanson Robinson goes to work in the Lowell textile mills, an experience she will later write about in her memoirs, *Loom and Spindle: or, Life among the Early Mill Girls* (1898).

