Preindustrial Age: 1790-1860’s

Causes

I. New technology reaches the U.S.
   Handwork done by machine
   A. Spinning mill
      * Turned cotton into thread
   B. Power loom
      * Turned thread into cloth

II. Eli Whitney
   A. Cotton gin
      * Cleaned seeds out of cotton
   B. Interchangeable parts
      * All parts are exactly the same

III. War of 1812 prompts Americans to make their own goods
   A. British invaded Washington, D.C. and burned down parts of the city
   B. The War of 1812 was a turning point for the U.S., establishing its strength and independence

Effects

I. Economic development
   A. North
      * Factory systems powered by water
      * “Lowell Girls” were young girls in textile mills—long hours, little education, poor conditions
      * Working conditions included 10-12 hr. days, 6 days/week, long day, hazardous conditions
   B. South
      * Plantations grew cotton for Northern factories

II. Improvements in travel/transportation of goods included:
   A. Railroads
   B. Canals