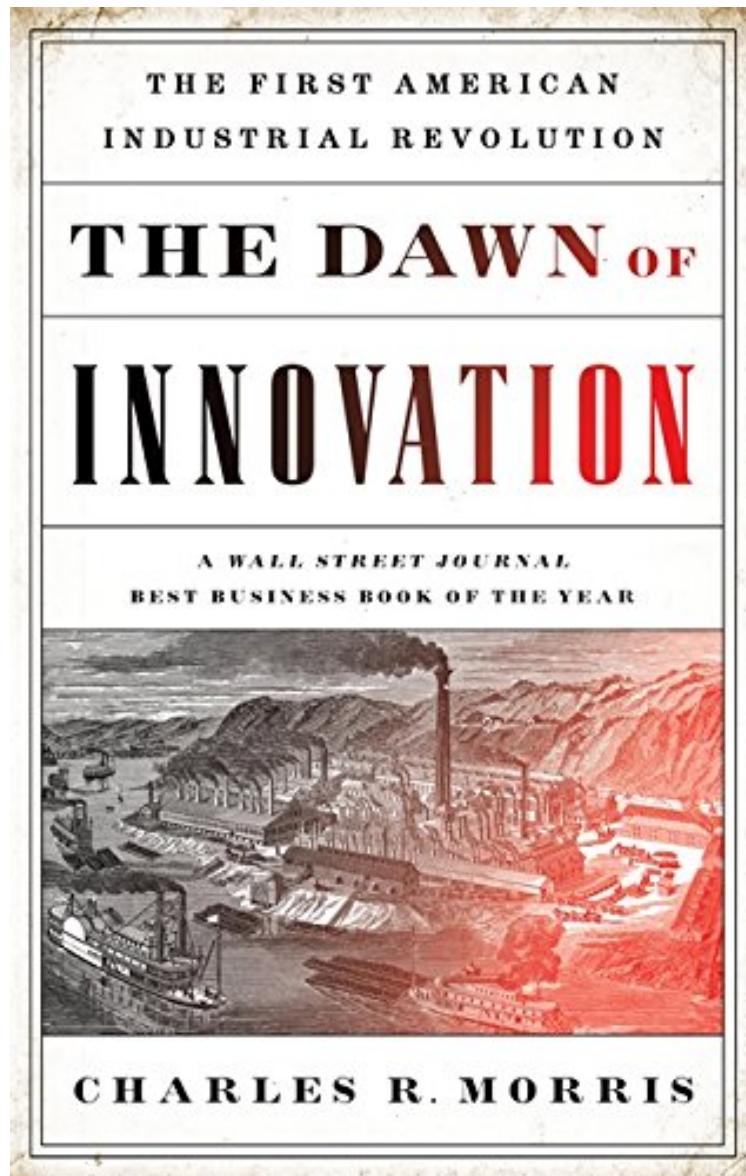


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The Dawn of Innovation: The First American Industrial Revolution

Charles R. Morris

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Charles R. Morris : The Dawn of Innovation: The First American Industrial Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dawn of Innovation: The First American Industrial Revolution:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Americans!By B. ZimmerYou must read this book if you have the least interest in American history, especially that of the Midwest and Northeast in the early 1800s. You

might think that you're not interested in the manufacture of mass-produced furniture in Cincinnati in the 1820s or the development of canals in New York state or steamship travel on the Mississippi. But the details of America's world-shaking pursuit of producing manufactured goods in the early 1800s reinforces the stories we've always heard about the American psyche: We come from innovative, hard-working, creative, pushy ancestors who took full advantage of unlimited water, wood, and mineral resources to create unheard-of industrialization. Partly as a reaction to the blockades and taxes of the English, England's almost complete control of the market for goods, and the War of 1812, this country rebelled, looked around, and discovered it could mass-produce its own goods. Water power was everywhere, forests were there for the taking, minerals were hiding beneath the top soil, slave power was available, and immigrants' energy and independence were bursting at the seams. The first chapter, about the War of 1812 battles between English and American ships on Lakes Erie and Ontario, serves as an introduction to the marvels of shipbuilding in a country which barely had a navy. The following chapters jump quickly into the fascinating development of America's great experiment: mass-production. (Of special interest if you're buying a digital book [Kindle]: I bought this book on Nov. 21 for \$9.57. Kindle is now charging \$15.94. The hardback edition is still \$19.)

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Filled with Anecdotes Explaining US Explosive Growth (3.9% per year) for 135 Years By Steve Paul I loved reading Morris The Dawn of Innovation: The First American Industrial Revolution. It's filled with interesting anecdotes to explain the explosive and sustained growth of the United States for 135 years, from 1778 to the eve of the First World War. I wish our present leaders would read this book to better understand present-day US competitiveness. Here are some representative quotes from the book that explain the US role during the first Industrial Revolution: * The United States never disguised its avarice for British textile technology. It refused to recognize British patents, and American entrepreneurs openly advertised for British power-spinning experts, who were forbidden by law from emigrating. American system of manufacturing. -- meant manufacturing to an idealized model to such a level of precision that parts could be freely interchanged between weapons without loss of performance. * "British shipbuilding factories were the most advanced in the world, employing massive, very precise machines that mid-century Americans could not replicate. What was missing, perhaps, was the American instinct to push for scale, the conviction that the first objective of business should be to grow larger." * Over time, the act helped settle some 10 percent of the entire land mass of the United States. Senator Justin Morrill's (R-VT) 1862 land-grant college act awarded each state a bequest of public lands that it could sell to finance state colleges for the agricultural and industrial arts. No other country had conceived the notion of educating farmers and mechanics, and the Morrill Act schools are still the foundation of the state university system. You'll recognize many parallels with China's growth today.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I didn't know that, did you? By Nicholas Montgomery The Dawn of Innovation is a comprehensive and detailed view of the American industrial revolution, how it developed and how it influenced modern culture in America. General histories may quote industrial and agricultural production statistics but never explain exactly how or why they grew so quickly in the US. And, rarely do those texts connect so clearly the links between industrialization and other cultural forces such as universal education. The Dawn of Innovation delineates those influences and projects them into the world of the twenty-first century. American development may have been similar in essence to the earlier British revolution, that is, it transformed individual hand crafts into organized, machine-driven, large scale production. However, as The Dawn of Innovation illustrates, America's mass manufacture differed from Britain's in the breadth of its development, in its scale, and most importantly, in its organization. These differences resulted in extraordinary production, of course, but they also transformed US society itself. Take pork production...please. The Dawn of Innovation, tells the familiar story of Eli Whitney and his mass production of muskets, debunking some of its myths. But, new to most history buffs, and perhaps a better example of how the industrial revolution transformed American society, is the story of the industrialization of pork and its derivatives. Around Cincinnati in the middle of the nineteenth century, pork production was rationalized on a scale as profound as textiles in New England. Millions of animals were processed into food, of course, but also soap, candles, waxes, lubricating oils, shortening, and lighting fuels. One derivative alone, glycerine, had applications from tanning leather to pharmaceuticals. America's first chemical industry came from the processing of pigsnout to mention one of its first mass-marketers, Procter and Gamble. All this happened by the 1850s. I didn't know that, did you? Pork production is only one of many not-often-told-but-edifying tales in The Dawn of Innovation. Others abound such as the arms race that developed on the Great Lakes in the War of 1812. Even naval historians will be surprised that a first-rate sailing warship, the St. Lawrence, larger than Nelson's HMS Victory, was launched on Lake Ontario in 1814, the last word in an argument that no one cared about before it could even go into battle. Charles Morris wrote The Dawn of Innovation. It fills what I now consider gaps or even voids of other histories and commentaries about America's coming of age. His writing is engaging, delightful, and informative. It is one of those books that you feel like you should thank the author for writing. Mr. Morris, thank you.

In the first few decades of the nineteenth century, America went from being a largely rural economy, with little internal transportation infrastructure, to a fledgling industrial powerhouse setting the stage for the vast fortunes that would be made in the golden age of American capitalism. In The Dawn of Innovation, Charles R. Morris vividly

brings to life a time when three stupendous American innovations—universal male suffrage, the shift of political power from elites to the middle classes, and a broad commitment to mechanized mass-production—gave rise to the world's first democratic, middle-class, mass-consumption society, a shining beacon to nations and peoples ever since. Behind that ideal were the machines, the men, and the trading and transportation networks that created a new, world-class economic power.

From Booklist An unprecedented 3.9 percent average annual rate of economic growth sustained for more than a century propelled the U.S. to global economic leadership. Morris chronicles the remarkable story behind the remarkable number. To begin with, it is a story of American shipwrights frenetically attempting to match Great Britain in building warships during the War of 1812. Peace meant that American industrialists turned to making shoes, stoves, steam engines, and locomotives, yet they still strove to wrest world economic leadership from Britain. Readers soon realize that American capitalists who surmounted daunting technical challenges (through homegrown Yankee ingenuity and through industrial espionage) also solved a formidable social problem. Instead of building British-style Coketowns that enriched a few while immiserating the masses in the factories, America's economic pioneers spread the benefits of modern productivity throughout a mass-consumption society. Morris concludes with a provocative comparison of the nineteenth-century duel pitting the U.S. against Great Britain and today's rivalry between China and the U.S. Economic history freighted with social and political relevance. --Bryce Christensen A Daily Beast Favorite Book of the Year A Wall Street Journal Best Business Book of the Year Kirkus The author is at his best when he focuses on the people behind the technology. Morris' research is thorough. Ambitious. Paul Steiger, editor-in-chief of ProPublica and former managing editor of the Wall Street Journal Charles Morris, fast becoming our leading narrative historian of economic success and scandals, tells how nineteenth-century America outproduced, outmarketed, outdistributed and stole technology from the former No. 1 power, Great Britain, to displace it on the world stage. The fascinating tale also holds crucial lessons for Americans as China races to unseat the U.S. as the world leader. Charles H. Ferguson, director of Inside Job and author of Predator Nation A fascinating book that pulls together the strands of American development into a sweeping and vivid account of the nation's rise to economic preeminence. Charles Morris has a special gift for making complicated subjects accessible and even entertaining. Booklist