

Why was America ripe for the industrial age?

America was ready for the industrial age due to the influx of immigrants coming into the country such as from 1820-1930 there were about 37.5 million people coming into America suggesting that these immigrants saw this as an opportunity for jobs and a chance for better life. Many of them came from different parts of Europe such as Italy, Poland, and Ireland, due to seek refuge from political strife or violence. Meaning that the diversity of cultures and ideas made America a central hub ready for new innovations, technologies and ideas pushing America towards an age of industrialization. Immigrants were the spark that started a fire, they grew the essence of industrialization. Making them one of the most important reasons why America was ready to start the industrial age.

The second important reason why is that America is starting to develop a system of railroads by the late 19th century America had about 5 transcontinental railroads. Meaning that they were a growing industry and that they were essential to the growth of other industries and they also helped the spread of ideas. This was because the railroads were responsible for transporting mail and manufactured goods. They also transported many people such as in the late 1800s about 22,000 people were being transported on railroads meaning it making travel easier and people could now bring their cultures with them all over America. Thus giving way to a new way of spreading ideas and culture and diversity. Giving America a first taste of newfound innovations. Making America the ultimate breeding grounds for newfound industrialism. Railroads back in the day were like our airplanes today, they pushed technology and innovations further.

The last reason of importance would be that big business and new ways and ideas for manufacturing started to become popular, most notably tariffs. Such as the laissez faire ideals where government stayed out of big business and the protectionist mindset noted by the mongrel and dingy tariff where rates were pushed even higher despite that tariffs during the war were already high, about 50%. This thus suggesting many congressmen pushing for protected industries, and especially this was due to the corruption in government and it gave rise to big business men taking advantage of the system. Tariffs were a means to an end.