19.1 Railroads lead the way

Expansion of the Railroad
The overall expansion lead to the transportation of troops. In forty years the railroad expanded 133,000 miles. Consolidation is the practice of combining separate companies.

Railroad Barons
Railroad barons controlled all of the railroads and had power over the people because of their wealth. Vanderbilt created the New York Central Line.

Railroad & Economy
The railroads helped transport materials like iron, and timber. Iron tracks= iron profit Steel tracks= steel profit

The improvement of the Railroad
The railroads over the country had different widths but then a standard gauge was made so all carts can run on every track.

Rail Tech
Refrigerated carts were invented to transport goods without going bad. George Westinghouse invented the air break to make breaking easier and safer. The trailer links were created to make an easier way to link the carts. The sleeping car was to make passengers more comfortable while traveling long distances. They were chairs that turned into beds.

Customers
Railroad barons had secret rebates with long term customers. Many small railroad companies went out of business because they didn’t have the money or resources to give rebates. Therefore, customers would buy from the big companies for a discount or cheaper price. Barons also came together in pools to work together and gain more money.

Railroads Change America
Railroads made shipping cheaper. Western settlement increased because of railroad transportation. Miles per hour was used to help calculate speed and is still used today. Many inventions were created during this time.