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War in Spain

According to the Library of Congress (2011), American History notes the Model T car was first built in 1908. This revolutionary accomplishment changed the concept of transportation in American society and the world. The vehicle manufacturer for the Model T was Henry Ford of Michigan, born on July 30, 1863. Ford worked in a Detroit machine shop, which gave him many opportunities to tinker and experiment with machines, which he loved to do. He later worked an apprentice job as a machinist working for Westinghouse Engine Company, where he acquired some engineering skill. Henry Ford later joined the Edison Illuminating Company, where he got the idea to experiment with building a combustion engine. In 1896, Ford created his first “horseless carriage,” a motor vehicle that he called the Quadricycle because it had bicycle tires. Ford sold the Quadricycle to finance another, more improved model and he founded the Ford Motor Company in 1903. Five years later, the Model T was built and offered to the public in 1908 Library of Congress (2011).

The initial cost of the Model T was \$850, but as the company saw expansion, economies of scale were realized in production, which caused a reduction in the price of the Model T to a basal rate of only \$260. This made the vehicle much more affordable to the average American, and this resulted in the sale of at least 15 million Model T vehicles in the United States alone. This did not include sales procured outside America (Frontenac Motor Company, 2010). Prior to this event in history, vehicles had been seen as only luxury items for rich Americans. This was

obvious proof of societal stratification and the status gap between the rich and the poor in America. However, the Model T transformed this concept by flooding the market with an affordable and efficient automobile to which people on any status level were able to cater. This changed the concept of vehicles as luxuries into being vehicles of necessity. Prior to the creation of the Model T, horse-drawn carriages were the main mode of transportation for everyone during that time. The main limitation to horse-drawn carriage transport was that horses had to rest after going a certain amount of distance. However, the horseless carriage did not have this limitation, and the introduction of the Model T into the market made travelling easier and more convenient, as longer distances could be covered.

It is significant to note that most roads were rough terrains during that time, but the Model T's designer took this into consideration. However, as more vehicles gradually increased in society, the rough terrain, dirt roads became a problem, as congestion began building up on the pavements. This resulted in a significant rate of tear, which required the construction of better roads. New road construction then became a necessary government project with various lobby campaigns being used to initiate progress toward building new roads. This was an expansionary phase for the country and the first major highway was created in America in 1913, which linked San Francisco and New York (Allen 221). Road infrastructure projects expanded rapidly after the initial creation. This resulted in significant geographical expansion, which resulted in the creation of more employment facilities and opportunities in America. The Ford Motor Company was a main source for employment opportunity and its casual manufacturing plant workers were paid \$40 dollars a week. These workers comprised a middle-class group who were well paid with regard to the times. To reduce capital hoarding, however, other companies were forced into reviewing their payment structures, which led to labor unions being created.

Labor unions could afford merited payments to employees (Pursell 188). The presence of labor unions enhanced social equity in employment by reducing the gap that had existed between the rich and the poor. Other employment opportunities that became available through the country's expansion were with gasoline stations to meet the expanded demand for fuel, shopping malls to cater to the newly mobile crowd, more garages to service the number of broken down vehicles, parking areas for the new vehicles, and traffic police to manage motorists. In addition, as society underwent these changes, rural areas began quickly phasing out and were replaced by increased urban spillage.

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