In this mildly chauvinistic but highly readable account of industry in early America, Cochran, a professor emeritus of business and economic history at the University of Pennsylvania, shows how culture and geography distinguished the industrial revolution here from its counterparts in Europe. Less constrained by tradition and social hierarchy, Americans proved to be extremely flexible workers (unlike European artisans, who tended to specialize), as well as resourceful entrepreneurs. In Europe, national banks were the norm; in America, regional credit facilities—state banks, urban money markets—attuned to community needs, underwrote the creation of new industries. Laws governing bankruptcy, incorporation, and shareholding were drafted and interpreted by men who usually knew first-hand the hazards of a new enterprise. Advances in steam power and metallurgy were more important to industrialization in Europe than in the New World, where water power was abundant and the wood supply was seemingly limitless. The one resource lacking on the early American scene was manpower. Responding creatively were inventors such as Oliver Evans, whose Delaware flour mill, built in the 1780s, was the first completely mechanized factory. U.S. products often appeared crude by European standards. But Americans' penchant for the "practical or useful" had brought such results that, by the mid-19th century, Britain was sending investigators to study the young nation's successful ways.
Although the early American industrial revolution was largely confined to New England, it eventually spread to the West and then, after the second industrial revolution occurred in the late 19th century, spread to the South. What Were the Causes of the Industrial Revolution in America? The causes of the first industrial revolution in America were: Embargo Act of 1807. The industrial revolution caused rapid urbanization in America, with people moving from the countryside to the cities in droves. In 1800, only 6 percent of the population of America lived in cities but by 1900, that number had increased to 40 percent. By 1920, the vast majority of Americans lived in cities.

To What Extent Did the Industrial Revolution Change American Social, Economic & Political.