

CHAPTER
10

An Age of Democracy and Progress, 1815–1914

Connect History *and* Geography

By the start of the 20th century, political reforms were taking place in a number of industrial nations. As the map at the right shows, however, only a few Western nations had democratic governments in 1900. Use the map to answer the questions below.

1. What Western democracies existed in 1900?
2. What have you learned in previous chapters about similarities among these countries or connections among them?
3. Why do you think so few Western nations were democratic in 1900?

For more information about Western democracies in the 19th and 20th centuries . . .



In Paris, the 984-foot-tall Eiffel Tower opened in 1889. Bridge engineer Gustave Eiffel designed the tower to mark the hundredth anniversary of the French Revolution.



Kansas Pioneers, by George Melville Stone, depicts Americans making the westward journey across the Great Plains by Conestoga wagon.

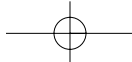
1837

Queen Victoria comes to power.

1845

Ireland struck by famine.

1815



Western Democracies, 1900



1859

Darwin publishes theory of evolution.

1867

Dominion of Canada formed.

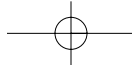
1876

Bell demonstrates telephone.

1889

Eiffel Tower completed.

1914



Interact *with* History

You live in a glorious age. Trains and telegraphs are not even 50 years old—and so much remains to be discovered! You're something of a tinkerer yourself. Maybe you can perfect a gas-powered engine and invent the car. Or maybe you can invent a device to use electricity to light up a room! But wait—if people could move five times faster, would they *really* be happier? What are the dangers of playing with strange new forces such as electricity and X-rays? Considering all the possible consequences . . .

What would you invent?

The invention of the electric light can turn night into day. What will people do with the extra daylight hours?



Automobiles provide a new level of mobility and freedom. The cost of early cars has meant that few can afford them. What will happen if the price comes down?

1906 Ford 6 Cylinder Touring Car
Price \$2,500

6 cylinders—40 h. p. 4 to 50 miles per hour on high gear. *Perfect* magneto ignition—mechanical oiler, 14 inch wheel base, luxurious body for 5 passengers, weight 2000 pounds.

1906 Ford Roadster, as advanced as our touring car in design and even more surprising in price—will be fully illustrated and described in our next advertisement.

Both these cars on exhibition at the New York Automobile Show

Ford Motor Company
 Dearborn, Mich.

24172 Nagano Bell Telephone. Lowest talking, clearest tone and best constructed magneto phone on the market. As no batteries are required with this phone, the current being generated by means of a powerful generator in the telephone box, a large part of the expense of maintenance is eliminated. Suitable for use for exchange or private lines of any length. This instrument cannot be excelled in general excellence nor in appearance. The boxes being of highly polished hardwood, and metal parts of nickel, plated or oxidized. Full instructions for putting up the phone and connecting lines accompany each instrument. Prices quoted below are for phone complete and do not include any materials for line construction. Weight, each phone, 13 lbs. Price, per phone \$18.
 Price, per pair, complete for two stations \$35.
 For questions of wires, insulators, etc., see No. 249

With telephones, people can speak directly to one another from within their own homes. Will they ever get used to the wires running from their homes and along their roads?

EXAMINING *the* ISSUES

- What were the drawbacks of living in a time before telephones, cars, electric lights, radios, and so on?
- What might have been better about life before the “progress” of the 19th century—and for whom?
- How might inventions affect social life: the closeness of families, the gap between rich and poor, the power of different social groups?

the past two centuries. Debate one another's choices and see if you can find some costs, as well as benefits, of each invention.

As you read this chapter, consider how invention and democracy were intertwined in the 19th century. How did each promote the other? Think about the Industrial Revolution and its consequences. Also consider more recent inventions, such as compact disc players and the Internet.

Break into groups and have each group choose one truly beneficial invention of