

Summary: A Growing Economy

Effects of World War I

In 1914, World War I broke out. In 1917, the United States joined the war on the side of Britain, France, and other countries. The United States sent thousands of soldiers to Europe to fight. California alone sent 150,000 men.

Many supplies for the war were produced in California. Farm production increased as farmers grew extra fruits and vegetables to ship to soldiers. In the San Joaquin Valley, more cotton was grown to make millions of uniforms. Allan and Malcolm Loughead in Santa Barbara built planes for the war. In 1916 the company was renamed Lockheed Aircraft. After the war, the airplane industry built planes for other uses.

Motion pictures were invented on the East Coast. But in the early 1900s, filmmakers began moving to Hollywood for the warm, sunny climate. During the war, millions went to movie theaters to escape worries of the war. Louis B. Mayer moved to Hollywood and helped form one of the most successful movie studios, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

The 1920s

By the end of World War I, movie-making was the fifth-largest industry in the country. Movie palaces opened in big cities. In 1927, the first movie with sound was introduced.

The agriculture and airplane industries continued to grow as well after the war. But a new industry became more successful. Near Los Angeles, huge pools of petroleum were found under the ground. By 1924, California produced more oil than any other state. Its oil was shipped all over the world. The port of Los Angeles became the biggest on the West Coast. Demand for oil increased after Henry Ford introduced the cheaper Model T car that more people could afford. By 1929, more than 23 million cars were on American roads, almost two million of them in California.

Tourism grew as people drove across the country to California. The state built bridges, tunnels, and hundreds of miles of roads. With new roads came businesses such as gas stations, restaurants, and motels. Cars allowed people to live farther from work, school, and shopping.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

industry *noun*, all the businesses involved in making a product or providing a service

tourism *noun*, the business of providing goods and services to people who visit new places for pleasure

REVIEW Why did farm production increase during World War I? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

REVIEW What California industries grew because of increased automobile use? Draw a box around sentences that identify businesses that grew because of increased automobile use.