

Texas Oil Boom

Political, Economic, Social, and Geographic Effects



Texas Black Gold

- Oil was found throughout Texas in the 1860s through the 1880s.
- The Texas oil industry began to grow after drillers discovered oil in Corsicana in 1894 and the discovery of oil at **Spindletop in 1902.**
- The oil industry increased the population and development of many Texas cities as boomtowns developed in areas around oil fields.

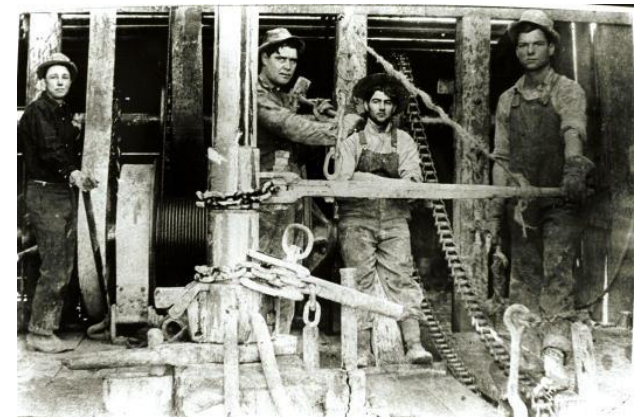


Goose Creek Oil Field, 1920s



Life in the Oil Field

- Most people worked at least 12 hours a day.
- Pay was good, but had to work hard or would get fired on the spot.
- Long hours, slick surfaces, escaping gases, and falling from a derrick were some of the dangers.
- Oil wells could be shut down at anytime leaving workers and their families broke.





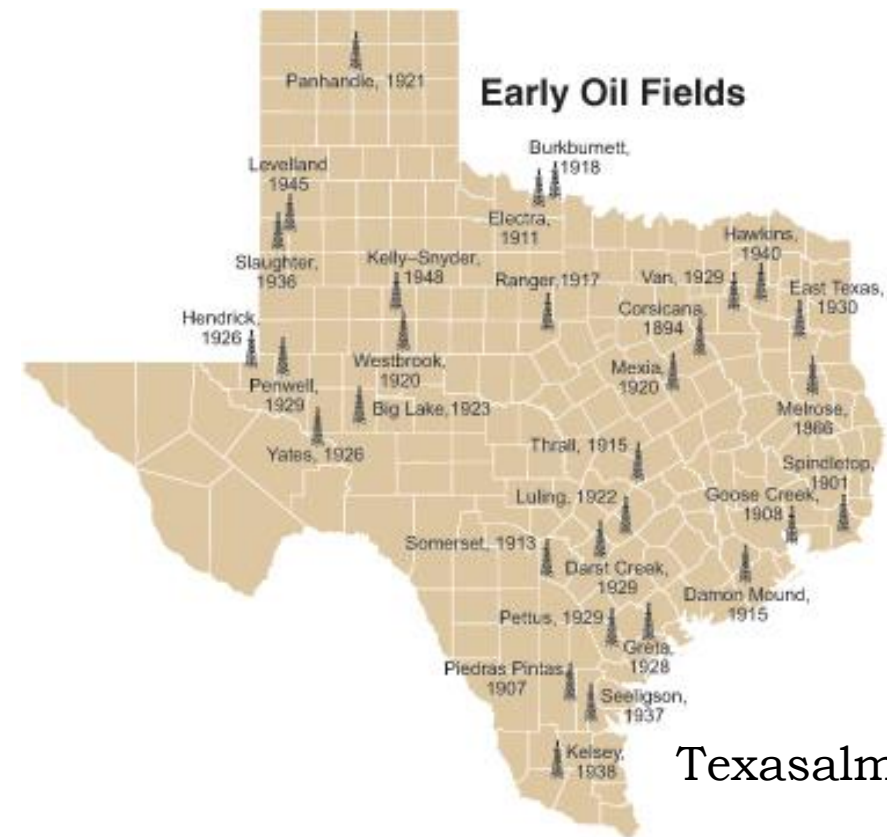
Social Effects

- Rapid urban growth as Texans rushed to towns near oil fields hoping to find work
- The Age of Oil provided a new source of taxes and created a boom in education funds
- Increased prosperity led to the funding of hospitals, art museums, and other social institutions



Economic Effects

- It boosted the economy with many new jobs.
- It led to overproduction, and national prices dropped.
- Many oil companies failed, but those that succeeded hired thousands of people who rushed to the region.



Texasalmanac.com



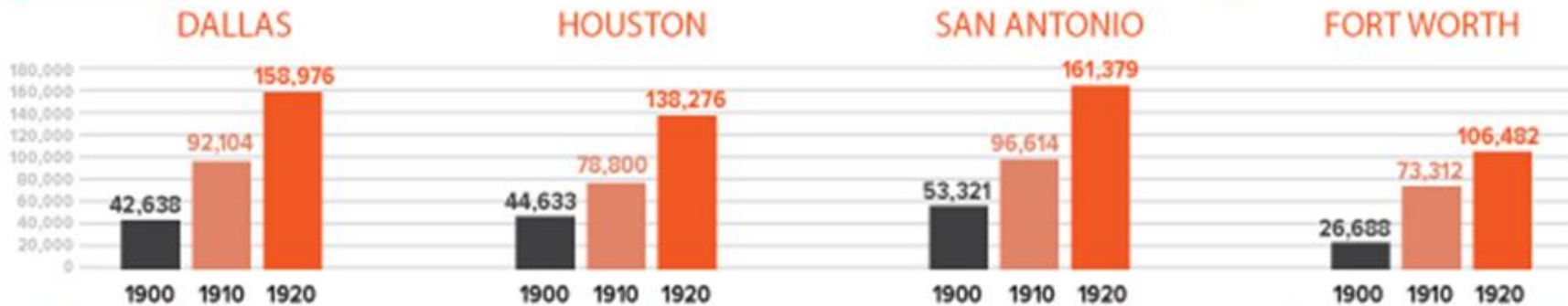


GROWTH OF LARGEST TEXAS CITIES 1900 - 1920

In the early 1900s, the population of Texas's largest cities boomed. These cities grew as they became centers for industry, manufacturing, and trade. The expansion of Texas's railroads helped make such growth possible.



Population



Dallas's role as a transportation hub led to its growth as a center for commerce, banking, and insurance.

Houston grew because it was a port situated near the Texas oil fields. It was also a center for the lumber and cotton trade.

San Antonio started as a cattle market and military base. By 1900 the presence of major rail lines helped the city to grow.

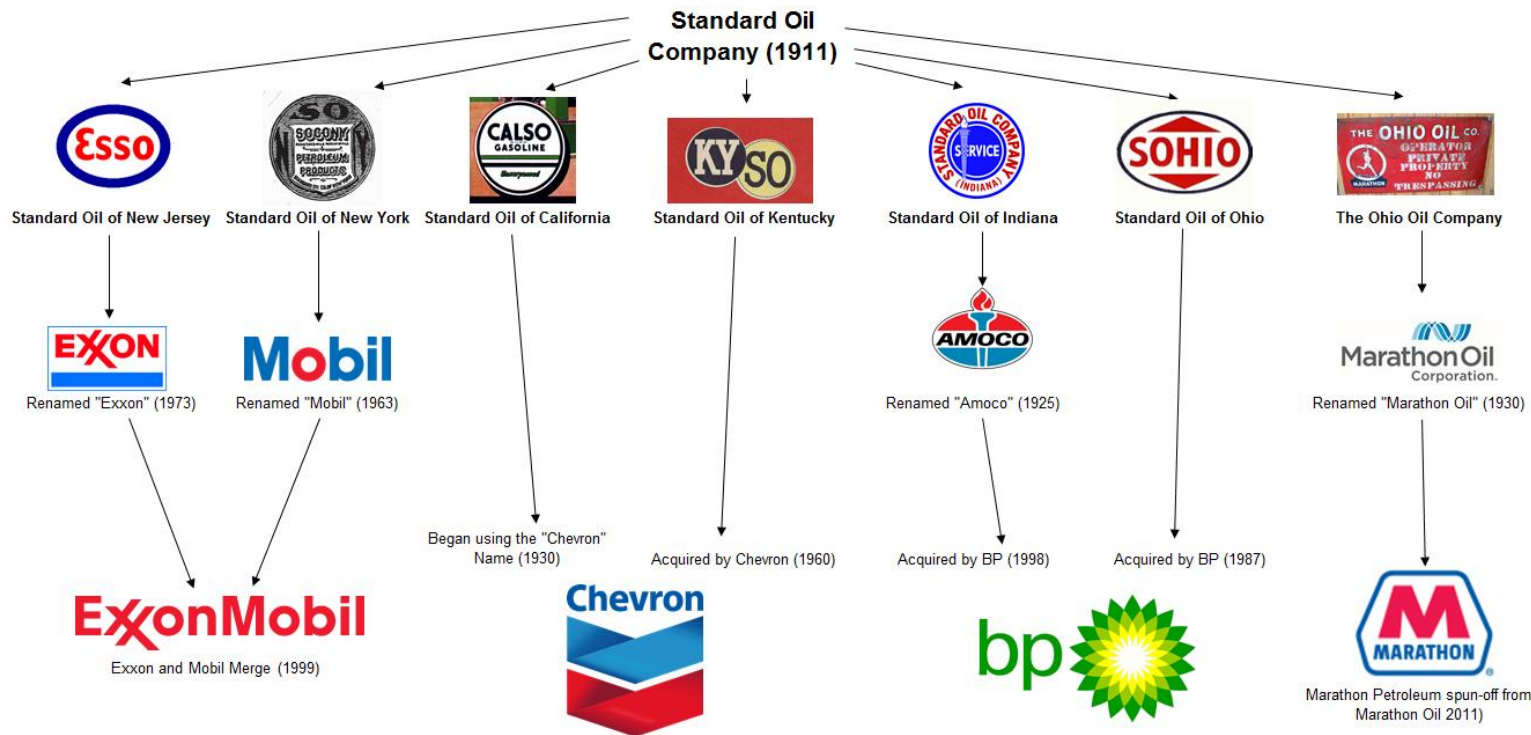
Fort Worth grew in the late 1800s as a result of the cattle industry.

Source: Texas Almanac: City Population History 1850-2000



Major oil companies developed

Many oil companies that survived the initial boom grew into major companies such as Gulf Oil company and Standard Oil company.



The need for government regulation

- The Standard Oil Octopus is an example of the control that oil companies had over the economy and the government.



Progressive Movement

- In the early 1900s, the Railroad Commission had been given the power to regulate oil pipelines and the distance between oil wells.
- However, the positive economic impact of the oil boom convinced Texas to let most businesses operate in the state with little government control.
- As a result, Texas became a more business-friendly state.

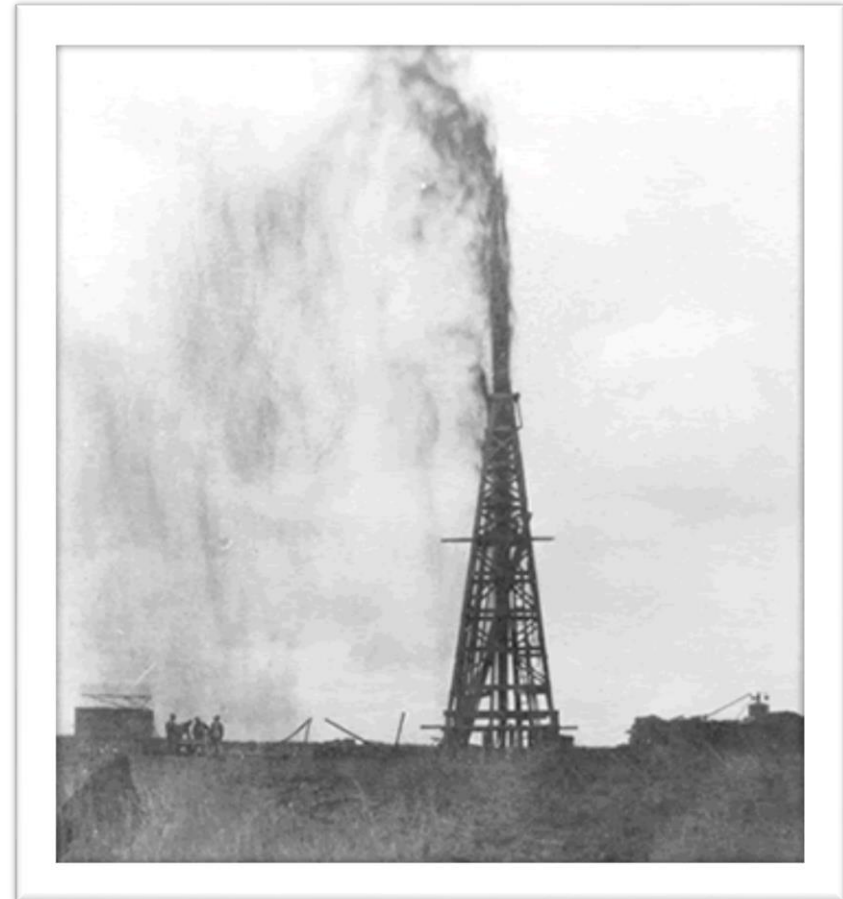
Turn and talk to your partner...

- What caused the weakening of regulations on businesses in Texas during the oil boom?
- What was the effect of the weakening of regulations?



Environmental Reform

- The oil boom created a demand for products needed by the oil industry. One such product was lumber.
- **Derricks** are high towers that support oil drilling equipment and made of wood
- The lumber industry of East Texas expanded rapidly during the early 1900s



Conservation and the Texas Forestry Association



- The lumber industry's boom made some reformers worry that the state's forests would soon be destroyed
- **W. Goodrich Jones** organized key lumber industry leaders, public officials, and conservationists to found the Texas Forestry Association in 1914.
- Jones worked hard to convince lumber companies that replacing cut trees with young seedlings would ensure future profits for the lumber industry.
- He also called for the conservation of soil, grasses, and wildlife and encouraged Texas towns and cities to create parks.





Political Economic Geographic Social

Sources:

uplifteducation.org

nisdtx.org

***Texas History*, McGraw-Hill Education, pub**