

**POLI 100K RAILROADS
2010 FINAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

- 1. What was the economic *and* political importance of the Erie Canal? Specifically, what effect did it have on New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore?**
- 2. What are the major advantages of shipping heavy freight by railroads as opposed to trucks?**
- 3. What railways were known as the “Trunkline Railroads” and what was their economic importance? How did they change the flow of freight traffic from the Ohio River and Mississippi River valleys?**
- 4. The farmers during the latter half of the 19th Century believed that they were being victimized by high railroad freight rates. Is this true? Explain.**
- 5. Unlike most other economic actors, the railroads tended to set prices in relation to cost rather than demand. What were the economic and political consequences of this fact?**
- 6. What were the major regulatory acts passed by Congress between 1900 and 1920 and what effect did they have on the railroads?**
- 7. What is the importance of the *Munn vs. Illinois* (1877) and *Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Railroad vs. Illinois* (1886) Supreme Court decisions?**