

**POLS 4555 RAILROADS AND AMERICAN POLITICS  
2013 FIRST EXAM STUDY QUESTIONS**

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- 1. What is the most fundamental difference between a railroad and a canal (or highway)? How did it affect the operation of a railroad?**
- 2. What are the major sources of railroad freight traffic? What are their roles in the economy?**
- 3. What was the economic *and* political importance of the Erie Canal? Specifically, what effect did it have on New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore?**
- 4. 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?**