Between the American Revolution and the War of 1812 there was a fundamental transformation in American manufacturing capacity. During the War of Independence the Continental Congress and state governments were forced to turn to the international market for arms and munitions as domestic suppliers could not hope to meet the army's material demands. The situation some thirty years later was vastly different as domestic suppliers such as DuPont, Eli Whitney, and the Springfield Armory were able to keep the armed forces well-supplied with the instruments of battle. This talk will explore why this broad economic change occurred, the domestic politics and policies behind it, and its significance for understanding the nature of governance in the early American republic.

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