Alex Kharchenko
Learning Places
Professor's C. Swift and T. Chin
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INVENTING TIMES SQUARE
Chapter 1: DEVELOPING FOR COMMERCIAL CULTURE

1. From the early 1900's to the 1930's, Times Square was known as "America's great central marketplace for commercial culture". The area featured popular theaters, music, radio headquarters, and other establishments.
2. Times Square was not the first area to feature all of these attractions, but it became the most popular. By no means was it the first.
3. One of the main reasons Times Square became popular was due to the fact that it is located in New York City. The area of mid Manhattan was also vastly accessible by just about anybody due to the transit systems at the time.
4. The "economic infrastructure" of the nation allowed for this marketplace for commercial culture to get established.
5. Many means of transportation such as the Grand Central Station, and all other means of transportation created spanning form the 1840's to the 1900's allowed for a very accessible area.
6. Means of steam powered transportation needed to be replaced with that of electricity in order to allow for rapid transit lines.
7. Additional subway construction was halted after Word War I, for many years.
8. More Retail, manufacturing, and corporate offices started emerging in the area due to the geographical location of Times Square, and all of the recently acquired means of transportation.
9. The area continued to grow, and activities that required only a few lots grew to now require many large buildings that spanned over several city blocks.
10. At this time there was also a big boom in New York's garment manufacturing businesses which also spanned the area.
11. Theaters began spreading throughout the area. In turn Times Square became known for the great quality of its productions and for the massive size of the theaters.
12. The theatrical business was mostly in the hands of entrepreneurs.
13. Some theaters found it hard to stay open, and in business, some becoming movie theaters.