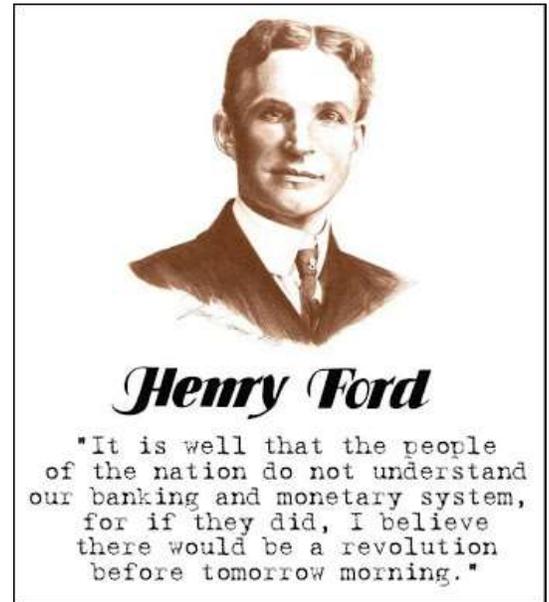


Henry Ford by Spencer



Henry Ford was a man who brought revolutions and amazing ideas. He was a master, controlling the entire automobile industry, but yet maybe too controlling. He conquered deeds to respect and ones to look down upon with disgust. Henry Ford turned out to be one of the richest men in the world, but despite his amazing deeds, he wished for a simpler life.



You can say Henry Ford went from a state of rags to riches. As a child he always pictured himself rising to the point of being a leader. He was the eldest son of a farmer. While he was living in his early years as a child, he was expected to work hard on the farm as the oldest child in the family but he was allowed to skip the numerous chores and tinker with what truly fascinated him, mechanics. He studied the many machines he spotted. Eventually his father found him a job so Henry left for the city to work. For more than a decade, he worked in many shops and became an expert mechanist. By the age of thirty-one he was the chief engineer of Edison Illuminating Company, which formed a bond of friendship between Thomas Edison and Henry.

By that period of time, transportation was difficult without the railroad. To improve the transportation, people would try to buy cars, but the cars back then were luxury and no one with a normal reputation could afford the baffling price. Ford set out to make an affordable car that was great quality. He wanted to make work easier and also do it for the better of the world. On June 4th, 1896, Ford drove his affordable car for the first time. A friend cycled ahead warning the crowds that the car was coming. The car traveled at twenty miles per hour and overheated. Work

was still to be done. Ford called it the quadricycle. It often attracted crowds and rich men bought it such as the mayor of Ford's town.

Within three years, Henry quit his job. He began a company in a brick building on August 5th, 1899 and had only thirteen employees. It was one of the first car companies but it was not the last. The first model looked near perfect, but up close it looked like a delivery carriage that worked for a few minutes. Ford wanted to change the vehicle to a perfect car of everybody's dreams. He built parts he never thought of adding to his vehicles. His investors were constantly pressuring Ford. They had wanted to make money.

Eventually Henry squandered his chance to be a car company. He blamed his investors for the failure. He demanded that he would not have anyone boss him around.

While he was busy with his investors, he started a project that he did not tell anyone about, a racecar, the very fast vehicle that amazes everyone by their speed. He challenged a worldwide



known racer to a race with no skill in October 1901. The race was intense, shops closed and a judge even closed his courthouse for the day. During the first lap Henry was doing horrible,



losing by an unimaginable distance. In the end he actually won by a mile after his opponent's car over heated. Ford's success attracted many investors. He began a new company called Ford Motors on June 16th, 1903. In a few weeks a new model was released, it had two seats and traveled at a medium pace. Twenty-five vehicles were

produced in a single day. They tried new steels that were lighter and also more durable. All the time they had been trying to improve the vehicle. Every month they produced a new model. Each

model was lettered. Model K had been too heavy and expensive. In 1908, Model T Ford was released. It had a generator so ignition and light were available. It had twenty horse power and an open top with an optional cover. On a straight road it could go forty miles per hour. It was durable at 12,000 pounds. When the Model T was broken it could be easily repaired. The average car cost twelve thousand dollars while the model T was eight-hundred-fifty dollars. Ford had succeeded in making a vehicle that was affordable. The Model T was loved. Many people admired Ford because of the car.



Clara Bryant was Henry Ford's wife. They had met at the age of twenty-one at a country dance. After five years the couple had their only child, Edsel.



Edsel was close to his father and was interested by his father's cars. He went to all boys' school in Detroit. Henry wanted Edsel to not go to school. Henry believed



that education was not necessary due to never completing eighth grade. Ford had wanted Edsel to work in the factory.

Henry was hard on Edsel and frequently created problems to give to Edsel and Edsel mainly did live up to Henry's expectations.

“Success comes from hard work.”

-Henry Ford

In Highland Park, Henry Ford opened a new factory at Detroit. Using this factory he was supposed to produce one-thousand models in a single day. At the factory, making the numerous car parts had been a simple life, but assembling the cars was a slow process. Someone started to

think about how butchers work, the carcass of the animal passing by as they cut off a certain piece. The idea was to have someone assemble a certain part of the car over and over again. This process became known as the assembly line. The assembly line was successful. The assembly of a car was quick and they produced one-thousand



cars a single day. They had tried the process on certain different parts of the car. They first tried the assembly line on the flag wheel magneto department and it worked, soon the assembly line was used throughout the entire factory. Previously it had taken twelve hours and thirteen minutes to assemble a single car but with the assembly line the new record for putting a car together was one hour and thirty-three minutes. With the assembly line anyone could do the job without a special skill required.



The assembly line was a successful system but it also caused a large problem, workers were leaving the company. The employees found the process alien and so they quit in a few days. Every

time Ford Motors tried to add a hundred men to their numbers, they turned out to need a thousand because of the rapid loss of employees. When Ford had to employ thousands of new men, they needed training and the training cost money. The funds were quickly decreasing.



Because of the rapid loss of money, Ford held a secret meeting. He wrote the numbers: twenty-six million dollars, the previous year's profit, he wrote two dollars and thirty-four cents worker's daily pay, then he wrote three dollars, four dollars, and five dollars. The people that were with Ford during that meeting were



angered. The five dollars meant that Henry Ford wanted to pay the workers an astounding total of five dollars every day. Ford stood his ground and never once changed his mind about giving five dollars of his profit to a worker every day. Back in that day, five dollars could make you a wealthy man. HE said that someday every worker would be able to afford one of his vehicles. ON January 5th, 1914 Henry went public with the plan. Not only did

“It is well that the people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before the morning.”

-Henry Ford

he increase the worker's pay, but he decreased the working hours from nine to eight. Fellow automakers were appalled; the workers were working less and getting twice as much money. One business leader declared that it was the most foolish attempt in the industrial business. IN the next day, ten thousand men showed up to apply for a job. Ford no longer

had to worry about losing more workers. Despite the fact that it was the same job they had, some workers that had previously worked at the factory came back to work. This action had turned Ford into a sensation.

Ford had become a hero to the citizens of the world. The New York Times wrote thirty different stories on Ford. In a few weeks after his announcement, he started a motion picture company which was mainly based on him, letting the world know his story. Its first production was, How Henry Ford Makes One Thousand Cars a Day.

Eventually money changed the simplicity of his life. He tried to go back to a simple life by working on a farm. He let the fame get to him and started to believe the headlines, “Henry Ford the Great Man.” Many men were aware of his growing ego.

Many men began to believe the Model T was growing old and the successor was long overdue. When Ford looked at the car that was meant to replace the Model T he had shown up unannounced and angered. In the inspection he was basically ripping the car apart with his bare hands. He loved the Model T Ford and refused to get rid of it. He did not want to give a new car the Model T’s place. The message was clear, Henry Ford; no one else was in charge of the company.

Five dollars a day was a great deal, especially for Henry. With the five dollars a day, worker’s lives were basically given to him to control. Five dollars a day was not guaranteed. Immigrant workers represented fifty-three different

nations.

Ford

required

immigrant workers to attend the



company's English School. After graduating the immigrants attended the pageant called "The Ford Melting Pot." The immigrants who were dressed in their nation's clothes entered a great big pot and a large spoon was stirred. Then, the immigrants came out in business suits and straw hats waving American flags. Not only did Henry control education, but he also controlled how they lived. Henry sent inspectors to all of his worker's houses. Inspectors would also meet with landlords, family, and friends. If the workers did not fit the standards perfectly, Henry would give them a certain amount of time to reach the standards and their wages were held for them. If the worker failed the inspection a second time, they would lose their job at Ford Motors. No laws were formed that prevented Henry from controlling the worker's life.

In 1915, Clara and Henry Ford moved to a new home in a fenced and guarded one thousand



three hundred acre estate in Fairland. They had no neighbors because they wanted privacy and were not used to fame. Their house was thirty one thousand square feet.



The families that lived closest (not close enough to be neighbors) were helped with farming by Ford and Ford enjoyed boxing with the nearby power plant workers. Despite he was the basically the richest man in America, he enjoyed toying with a simple life. H enjoyed working on farms

even though he never worked on them as a child. He often spent his time foraging through woods looking for wildlife or cutting down trees.



Ford eventually made an astounding announcement: he was quitting the company and leaving it to his son, Edsel. The idea of a twenty-five year old controlling a multi-billion company shocked stock holders. Two months later after declaring his departure from Ford Motors, Ford declared he was starting a rival company. He released a car stripped down to the basics that cost only three hundred dollars. His goal was to hire two hundred thousand employees and own factories all over the

world. He manipulated the news and papers to believe the new car was coming out. The investors in Ford Motors believed Edsel could not outdo his father so they stepped out of giving their money to Ford Motors because they were frightened that business would force them to go bankrupt. Henry was actually aiming for the investors to leave Ford Motors alone. The entire time, Edsel had actually been following his father's orders such as privately hiring a Boston banking firm to convince investors Ford Motors was going out of business. The investors were gone, Henry's goal since they began to sponsor his company. The company lost over a million dollars due to the loss but for the first time the entire company belonged to Edsel, Clara, and Henry. Henry was delighted when his scheme had worked.

Edsel still owned the business and he believed that Henry would allow him to control it, but he was wrong. Henry used Edsel to control every aspect of the events occurring to Ford Motors. He over saw every move; he oversaw the digging



of the foundation for the power plant and the building of the dam for supplies ships to unload. Henry reviewed all of the plans.

“An idealist is someone who helps other people to be prosperous.”

If one part of a project did not meet his expectations,

-Henry Ford

Henry intervened. When a worker admitted that one of the walls they had built was one half and inch too short, Henry demanded it to be demolished and rebuilt.

Edsel decided to build a new wing in the factory to relieve overcrowding. When Ford saw the hole for the foundation, he told his son to not build the new wing. When Edsel said he'd fill the hole, Henry demanded the hole to not be filled. Every day when Edsel went to work, he saw the hole. He once admitted to a friend, “I don't know what father gets out of humiliating me.”

Henry eventually did some odd things. Henry Ford wanted to show his power so he fired



several high level trusted employees. Ford never did directly fire someone. He normally had someone do it for him or a worker would walk in an office and just find an empty room.

Ford sued a newspaper after they used harsh words against him.

To use evidence against Ford, the newspaper found something to prove his ignorance. They found that he had never finished eighth grade. They

asked him many questions. When they asked him when the American Revolution occurred, he answered 1812. The interrogators replied that there was no revolution in 1812. The trial was displayed everywhere in the world. A jury made up of farmers declared he was ignorant, but he did know something after eight days of questioning. He had won the trial but despite the victory, he had been deeply wounded by the mockery he'd received over the week.



“You can do anything if you have the enthusiasm.”

-Henry Ford

After the trial Henry left to upstate New York to avoid people. It was a tradition to do it with his friends such as

Thomas Edison but this time it was specifically time to heal

from the trial. Letters came in defending and supporting Ford. Ministers even offered prayers.

The trial had actually made Ford more of a hero. While Henry was outdoors, Henry made sure photographers and news reporters captured his every move for his publicity. Movies of the trip had been shown across the country.

Ford supported the fight against Jews. He printed articles on Jews and what they do wrong. He used his newspaper called Dearborn Independent to spread his word around about Jews. He called them dangerous and parasitic. He blamed Jews for war and all the other problems in the world. The article was placed everywhere, in car dealerships all over the nation. He even placed them in products so shoppers would get the paper. Even President Woodrow Wilson condemned



Ford's attacks but Ford was persistent. Eventually a legitimization from a Jewish lawyer made Ford publish a public apology. After eight years of publishing Dearborn Independent, Henry Ford shut the paper down.

Ford had built a large factory. It was like a city. The large factory had places to eat and its own police force along with fire station. It was very productive. Nearby there was a town Ford had built. It was old fashioned and technology was banned. There were farms and more. It was called Greenfield after his wife's hometown. Henry Ford took down and reassembled buildings to put in Greenfield such as Thomas Edison's workshop.

Eventually they released a new model. The Model T was being outsold by other companies and Ford Motors needed something new. The Model T was being thrown away. The new model disgusted Henry. Henry Ford was appalled by the idea but after the new car was released, business was working again.

One of the worst things about Mr. Ford was he mistreated his son. Henry accused Edsel of hanging around the fancy people and becoming one of the rich snobs. He did not like Edsel's wife who came from a high class level. Ford accused Edsel of being drunk and did not like how Edsel smoked. Henry sent spies after his son. When Edsel left his home, Henry would break in and smash possessions and bottles of liquor. Edsel died at a young age leaving his father at a state of despair. Henry wished that after all he had put his son through Edsel had been angry with him.

Ford did not only mistreat his only child but also his employees. Henry had a friend who had been a boxer who led a mob. They would beat workers if they were off task or talking. Eventually the workers went on strike and Henry's mob beat so many people and several employees were seriously injured.

Towards the end of his life, Henry Ford had several major strokes. Few people knew about them. Very soon Henry died, and all of his workers had to pay their respects. Many people were in despair and at his funeral. He died on April 7th, 1947. HE lived to be eighty-four years old.

Henry Ford created revolutions and tears. He worked hard and tried to give the average American a dream. He was hard working and inspirational.



“If you think you can do a thing or can’t
do a thing, you’re right.”

-Henry Ford

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