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The Historical Impact of the Telegraph

Imagine a left where horseback riding was the only way to send information. In today's world, we don't stop to think about how lucky we are to have advances in communication, or what history accomplished that lead to our modern-day advancements. Throughout this project, I will be talking about a very important piece of technology, the Telegraph. I don't see a lot of appreciation, regarding this, and I believe it's about time we look at some of history's positive moments vs war.

The Telegraph was created in 1830 by a man named Samuel Morse. Many people used the Telegraph to send long-distance messages quickly, because then unlike now, they could not send messages with speed. The Telegraph functioned by transmitting electrical signals over a laid copper wire between stations. When the Telegraph opened, the cost for only ten words was about 210 dollars in today's money. Though, a ten-word transatlantic message to England cost about 2,600. Looking at the overhead cost, we can see that transmitting wasn't cheap; therefore, the rich mostly used the Telegraph.

One of the main reasons the Telegraph was so important is that it would take days for the news to travel, depending on where you wanted to send it. With the Telegraph, people could now send messages with ease and peace of mind. For example, in the seven-year war (a global conflict that ran from 1756 until 1763), it took a while for the message to get along, so people

thought it was longer than it was. If they had the Telegraph during this time, it would have been more comfortable, and people would have known more information sooner. The government used the Telegraph during wars to send secret information to other cities like the capitals. It wasn't until later on that the telegraph was used within ships. The company "Wireless Telegraph and Signal Co. Ltd commercialized wireless telegraph technology around 1897. Their technology helped ship Operators communicate with the engine room, and provided security knowing distress signals could be sent if the ship was ever in any danger.

The Telegraph was also useful in the Titanic, if you didn't know. The only reason anyone survived during this time is that once the Titanic hit the iceberg, the crew transmitted the signal CQD, which means "Come Quick, Danger". It's because of this newly developed technology that anyone survived at all.

In closing, I would like to point out that even though many situations within history have a negative story, we should balance it out by looking at some of the positives. Collectively, we've come so far as a species and sacrificed so much for innovative growth. The Telegraph is a great example of our historic success, and it's because of this history we can enjoy instantly sending a text message instead of waiting for it to be delivered by horseback or even a vehicle for that matter.