The Americans

Immigrants and Urbanization, 1877–1914

Chapter Opener: Immigrants and Urbanization, 1877–1914

Immigration from Europe, Asia, Mexico, and the Caribbean forces cities to confront overcrowding. Local and national political corruption sparks calls for reform.

Section 0: The New Immigrants

Section Opener: The New Immigrants

Immigration from Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and Mexico reach a new high in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Slide 3: Through the "Golden Door" [continued]

Millions of Immigrants
    * Some immigrants seek better lives; others temporary jobs

Europeans
    * 1870–1920, about 20 million Europeans arrive in U.S.
    * Many flee religious persecution: Jews driven from Russia by pogroms
    * Population growth results in lack of farmland, industrial jobs
    * Reform movements, revolts influence young who seek independent lives

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Slide 4: Through the "Golden Door" [continued]

Chinese and Japanese
    * About 300,000 Chinese arrive; earliest attracted by gold rush
    - work in railroads, farms, mines, domestic service, business
    * Japanese work on Hawaiian plantations, then go to West Coast
    - by 1920, more than 200,000 on West Coast

Slide 5: Through the "Golden Door"

The West Indies and Mexico
    * About 260,000 immigrants from West Indies; most seek industrial jobs
    * Mexicans flee political turmoil; after 1910, 700,000 arrive
    * National Reclamation Act creates farmland, draws Mexican farmers

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Slide 6: Life in the New Land [continued]

A Difficult Journey
    * Almost all immigrants travel by steamship, most in steerage

Ellis Island
    * Ellis Island—chief U.S. immigration station, in New York Harbor
    * Immigrants given physical exam by doctor; seriously ill not admitted
    * Inspector checks documents to see if meets legal requirements
    * 1892–1924, about 17 million immigrants processed at Ellis Island

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Slide 7: Life in the New Land

Angel Island
    * Angel Island—immigrant processing station in San Francisco Bay
    * Immigrants endure harsh questioning, long detention for admission

Cooperation for Survival
    * Immigrants must create new life: find work, home, learn new ways
    * Many seek people who share cultural values, religion, language
    - ethnic communities form
    * Friction develops between "hyphenated" Americans, native-born

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Slide 8: Immigration Restrictions [continued]

The Rise of Nativism
    * Melting pot—in U.S. people blend by abandoning native culture
    - immigrants don't want to give up cultural identity
    * Nativism—overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
    * Nativists believe Anglo-Saxons superior to other ethnic groups
    * Some object to immigrants' religion: many are Catholics, Jews
    * 1897, Congress passes literacy bill for immigrants; Cleveland vetoes
    - 1917, similar bill passes over Wilson's veto

Slide 9: Immigration Restrictions [continued]

Anti-Asian Sentiment
    * Nativism finds foothold in labor movement, especially in West
    - fear Chinese immigrants who work for less
    * Labor groups exert political pressure to restrict Asian immigration
    * 1882, Chinese Exclusion Act bans entry to most Chinese

Slide 10: Immigration Restrictions

The Gentlemen's Agreement
    * Nativist fears extend to Japanese, most Asians in early 1900s
    - San Francisco segregates Japanese schoolchildren
    * Gentlemen's Agreement—Japan limits emigration
    - in return, U.S. repeals segregation

Section 1: The Challenges of Urbanization

Section Opener: The Challenges of Urbanization

The rapid growth of cities force people to contend with problems of housing, transportation, water, and sanitation.

Slide 12: Urban Opportunities [continued]

Immigrants Settle in Cities
* Industrialization leads to urbanization, or growth of cities
* Most immigrants settle in cities; get cheap housing, factory jobs
* Americanization movement—assimilate people into main culture
* Schools, voluntary groups teach citizenship skills
- English, American history, cooking, etiquette
* Ethnic communities provide social support

Slide 13: Urban Opportunities

Migration from Country to City
* Farm technology decreases need for laborers; people move to cities
* Many African Americans in South lose their livelihood
* 1890–1910, move to cities in North, West to escape racial violence
* Find segregation, discrimination in North too
* Competition for jobs between blacks, white immigrants causes tension

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Slide 14: Urban Problems [continued]

Housing
* Working-class families live in houses on outskirts or boardinghouses
* Later, row houses built for single families
* Immigrants take over row houses, 2–3 families per house
* Tenements—multifamily urban dwellings, are overcrowded, unsanitary

Transportation
* Mass transit—move large numbers of people along fixed routes
* By 20th century, transit systems link city to suburbs

Slide 15: Urban Problems [continued]

Water
* 1860s cities have inadequate or no piped water, indoor plumbing rare
* Filtration introduced 1870s, chlorination in 1908

Sanitation
  * Streets: manure, open gutters, factory smoke, poor trash collection
  * Contractors hired to sweep streets, collect garbage, clean outhouses
  - often do not do job properly
  * By 1900, cities develop sewer lines, create sanitation departments

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Slide 16: Urban Problems
Crime
  * As population grows, thieves flourish
  * Early police forces too small to be effective

Fire
  * Fire hazards: limited water, wood houses, candles, kerosene heaters
  * Most firefighters volunteers, not always available
  * 1900, most cities have full-time, professional fire departments
  * Fire sprinklers, non-flammable building materials make cities safer

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Slide 17: Reformers Mobilize
The Settlement House Movement
  * Social welfare reformers work to relieve urban poverty
  * Social Gospel movement—preaches salvation through service to poor
  * Settlement houses—community centers in slums, help immigrants
  * Run by college-educated women, they:
  - provide educational, cultural, social services
  - send visiting nurses to the sick
  - help with personal, job, financial problems
  * Jane Addams founds Hull House with Ellen Gates Starr in 1889

Section 2: Politics in the Gilded Age

Section Opener: Politics in the Gilded Age
Local and national political corruption in the 19th century leads to calls for reform.

Slide 19: The Emergence of Political Machines [continued]

The Political Machine
* Political machine—organized group that controls city political party
* Give services to voters, businesses for political, financial support
* After Civil War, machines gain control of major cities
* Machine organization: precinct captains, ward bosses, city boss

Slide 20: The Emergence of Political Machines

The Role of the Political Boss
* Whether or not city boss serves as mayor, he:
- controls access to city jobs, business licenses
- influences courts, municipal agencies
- arranges building projects, community services
* Bosses paid by businesses, get voters' loyalty, extend influence

Immigrants and the Machine
* Many captains, bosses 1st- or 2nd-generation Americans
* Machines help immigrants with naturalization, jobs, housing

Slide 21: Municipal Graft and Scandal [continued]

Election Fraud and Graft
* Machines use electoral fraud to win elections
* Graft—illegal use of political influence for personal gain
* Machines take kickbacks, bribes to allow legal, illegal activities

Slide 22: Municipal Graft and Scandal

The Tweed Ring Scandal
* 1868 William M. Tweed, or Boss Tweed, heads Tammany Hall in NYC
* Leads Tweed Ring, defrauds city of millions of dollars
* Cartoonist Thomas Nast helps arouse public outrage
- Tweed Ring broken in 1871

Slide 23: Civil Service Replaces Patronage [continued]

Patronage Spurs Reform
   * Patronage—government jobs to those who help candidate get elected
   * Civil service (government administration) are all patronage jobs
   * Some appointees not qualified; some use position for personal gain
   * Reformers press for merit system of hiring for civil service

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Slide 24: Civil Service Replaces Patronage [continued]

Reform Under Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur
   * Republican Rutherford B. Hayes elected president 1876
   - names independents to cabinet
   - creates commission to investigate corruption
   - fires 2 officials; angers Stalwarts
   * 1880, Republican independent James A. Garfield wins election

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Slide 25: Civil Service Replaces Patronage

Reform Under Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur
   * Stalwart Chester A. Arthur is vice-president
   * Garfield gives patronage jobs to reformers; is shot and killed
   * As president, Arthur urges Congress to pass civil service law
   * Pendleton Civil Service Act—appointments based on exam score

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Slide 26: Business Buys Influence

Harrison, Cleveland, and High Tariffs
   * Business wants high tariffs; Democrats want low tariffs
   * 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland wins; cannot lower tariffs
   * 1888, Benjamin Harrison becomes president, supports higher tariffs
   - wins passage of McKinley Tariff Act
   * 1892, Cleveland reelected, supports bill that lowers McKinley Tariff
   - rejects bill that also creates income tax
   - Wilson-Gorman Tariff becomes law 1894
   * 1897, William McKinley becomes president, raises tariffs again

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Slide 27: Let the Games Begin!

Play the Review Game
Compete with your classmates in this show-what-you-know game. Rack up points, reveal an image, and earn more points in a bonus round.