

# The Americans

## Chapter 16: Life at the Turn of the 20th Century, 1877–1917

### Life at the Turn of the 20th Century, 1877–1917

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#### *Chapter Opener: Life at the Turn of the 20th Century, 1877–1917*

New technologies improve urban living, and a modern mass culture emerges. Reforms in public education raise literacy rates. African Americans work to end legal discrimination.

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#### Section 0: Science and Urban Life

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#### *Section Opener: Science and Urban Life*

Advances in science and technology help solve urban problems, including overcrowding.

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#### Slide 3: Technology and City Life [continued]

##### **Skyscrapers**

- \* 1890, 58 cities have 50,000 people; 1900, 4 of 10 people in cities
  - \* Invention of elevators, internal steel skeletons lead to skyscrapers
    - Louis Sullivan designs Wainwright Building
  - \* Skyscrapers solve urban problem of limited, expensive space
    - Daniel Burnham designs Flatiron Building
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#### Slide 4: Technology and City Life [continued]

## **Electric Transit**

- \* Before Civil War, horse-drawn streetcars run on iron rails
  - \* By 1900, electric streetcars (trolleys) run from suburbs to downtown
  - \* Some cities build elevated trains or subways
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## **Slide 5: Technology and City Life**

### **Engineering and Urban Planning**

- \* Steel-cable suspension bridges link city sections
- \* Need for open spaces inspires science of urban planning
- \* Frederick Law Olmstead spearheads movement for planned urban parks
  - 1857, helps design Central Park

### **City Planning**

- \* Chicago's population growth results in unregulated expansion
  - \* Daniel Burnham draws plan for city with parks along Lake Michigan
    - designs White City for 1893 World's Columbian Exposition
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## **Slide 6: New Technologies [continued]**

### **A Revolution in Printing**

- \* By 1890, U.S. literacy rate almost 90%
- \* Growing demand for newspapers, magazines, books
- \* Mills produce cheap paper that withstands high-speed presses
- \* Faster production, lower costs make periodicals more affordable

### **Airplanes**

- \* Orville, Wilbur Wright use engines to fly "heavier-than-air" craft
    - first successful flight December 1903
  - \* By 1920, first transcontinental air mail established
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## **Slide 7: New Technologies**

### **Photography Explosion**

- \* Pre-1880s, photography requires heavy equipment, time
  - \* George Eastman develops light-weight equipment, studio processing
  - \* 1888, introduces Kodak camera, easy to operate
    - millions use Kodak camera
    - helps create field of photojournalism
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# Section 1: Expanding Public Education

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## *Section Opener:* Expanding Public Education

Reforms in public education lead to a rise in national literacy and the promotion of public education.

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## Slide 9: Expanding Public Education [continued]

### **Schools for Children**

- \* 1865–1895, states pass laws requiring school attendance for children
  - \* Kindergartens—originally childcare for working women—become popular
  - \* 1880, 62% white children, 34% black children in elementary school
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## Slide 10: Expanding Public Education [continued]

### **The Growth of High Schools**

- \* Industrial economy demands technical, managerial skills
  - \* 1900, more than half a million students in high school
  - \* Expanding education changes American society
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## Slide 11: Expanding Public Education

### **Racial Discrimination**

- \* Small percentage of black teenagers attend high school
- \* Most attend private schools that get no government support

### **Education for Immigrants**

- \* Immigrants encouraged to attend school, be Americanized
  - \* Some resent suppression of their native languages
  - \* Many public school systems have readings from Protestant Bible
    - Catholics have parochial schools
  - \* Adults attend night school, some day programs at work
    - unionists object to employer programs
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## Slide 12: Expanding Higher Education [continued]

### **Changes in Universities**

- \* By turn of century, 2.3% of youth attend college
  - \* 1880–1920, college enrollment more than quadruples
  - \* Research universities emerge, offer new curriculum
  - \* Professional law, medical schools established
  - \* Private universities have entrance exams
  - some state colleges want high school diploma
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## **Slide 13: Expanding Higher Education**

### **Higher Education for African Americans**

- \* Not enough black college graduates to meet needs of communities
  - \* Booker T. Washington—racism will end if blacks get labor skills
  - \* Heads Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, now a university
  - \* W. E. B. Du Bois, first African American to get Harvard doctorate
  - disagrees with Washington
  - \* Founds Niagara Movement to encourage liberal arts study
  - believes well-educated future leaders needed
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## **Section 2: Segregation and Discrimination**

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### ***Section Opener: Segregation and Discrimination***

African Americans lead the fight against voting restrictions and Jim Crow laws.

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## **Slide 15: African Americans Fight Legal Discrimination [continued]**

### **Voting Restrictions**

- \* For at least 10 years after Reconstruction, Southern blacks can vote
  - \* By 1900, all Southern states restrict voting, deny equality
  - \* Some limit vote to those who can read; officials give literacy tests
  - \* Some have poll tax that must be paid annually to vote
  - \* Some add grandfather clause to constitution to let poor whites vote
  - can vote if self, father, grandfather voted before 1867
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## Slide 16: African Americans Fight Legal Discrimination

### **Jim Crow Laws**

- \* 1870s, 1880s, Supreme Court allows poll tax, grandfather clause
- \* Racial segregation laws separate races in private, public places
- \* Segregation laws called Jim Crow laws after old minstrel song

### ***Plessy v. Ferguson***

- \* 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson*—segregation legal in public places
  - \* Allows “separate but equal” doctrine if provide equal service
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## Slide 17: Turn-of-the-Century Race Relations [continued]

### **Opposing Discrimination**

- \* Racial etiquette—informal rules for black-white relations
    - enforce second-class status for blacks
  - \* Moderate reformers, like Booker T. Washington, get white support
  - \* W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells think problems too urgent to postpone
  - \* Born a slave, Ida B. Wells becomes teacher, newspaper editor
    - campaigns for racial justice
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## Slide 18: Turn-of-the-Century Race Relations

### **Violence**

- \* African Americans who do not follow etiquette are punished, lynched
  - more than 1,400 killed 1882–1892

### **Discrimination in the North**

- \* Many blacks migrate North for better paying jobs, social equality
  - \* Are forced into segregated neighborhoods
  - \* Rejected by labor unions; hired last, fired first by employers
  - \* Competition between blacks, working-class whites sometimes violent
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## Slide 19: Discrimination in the West

### **Mexican Workers**

- \* More Mexicans build railroads in Southwest than other ethnic groups
  - forced to work for less than other groups
- \* Mexicans major force in Southwest agricultural industries
- \* Some Southwest Mexicans, African Americans forced into debt peonage:
  - system of slavery to work off debt to employer
  - 1911, Supreme Court declares unconstitutional

### **Excluding the Chinese**

- \* Whites fear job competition, push Chinese to separate areas, schools
  - \* Opposition to Chinese immigration leads to Chinese Exclusion Act
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## **Section 3: The Dawn of Mass Culture**

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### ***Section Opener: The Dawn of Mass Culture***

As Americans have more time for leisure activities, a modern mass culture emerges.

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### **Slide 21: American Leisure [continued]**

#### **Amusement Parks**

- \* Cities begin setting aside green space for recreation
- \* Amusement parks built on outskirts with picnic grounds, rides

#### **Bicycling and Tennis**

- \* Early bicycles dangerous; at first, bicycling is male-only sport
  - \* Safety bicycle increases popularity of sport; women ride too
  - \* Tennis imported from Britain; becomes popular
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### **Slide 22: American Leisure**

#### **Spectator Sports**

- \* Americans become avid fans of spectator sports
- \* By turn of century, boxing, baseball become profitable businesses

#### **Baseball**

- \* 1845, Alexander J. Cartwright organizes club, sets down rules
  - \* National League forms 1876; American League forms 1900
  - \* Discrimination leads to Negro National, Negro American Leagues
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### **Slide 23: The Spread of Mass Culture [continued]**

#### **Mass Circulation Newspapers**

- \* Newspapers use sensational headlines, stories to capture readers
- \* Joseph Pulitzer buys *New York World*, pioneers popular innovations
- \* William Randolph Hearst—New York, San Francisco papers exaggerate stories

### **Promoting Fine Arts**

- \* Artists like Thomas Eakins promote realism—portray life as it is
  - \* Ashcan School paints urban life, working people
  - \* European abstract art introduced; many find difficult to understand
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## **Slide 24: The Spread of Mass Culture**

### **Popular Fiction**

- \* By 1900, thousands of free circulating libraries in country
  - \* Most people like dime novels—glorified adventure tales of the West
  - \* Some want more serious, realistic portrayal of ordinary people, life
  - \* Novelist, humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, or Mark Twain:
    - rejects high culture yet writes American classics
  - \* Galleries, libraries try to raise cultural standards
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## **Slide 25: New Ways to Sell Goods [continued]**

### **Urban Shopping**

- \* 1890, first shopping center opens in Cleveland—glass-topped arcade
- \* Retail shopping districts form near public transportation

### **The Department Store**

- \* 1865, Marshall Field opens first U.S. department store in Chicago
    - stresses personal service
    - pioneers bargain basement
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## **Slide 26: New Ways to Sell Goods**

### **The Chain Store**

- \* Chain stores offer same merchandise under same owners for less
  - buy in quantity, limit personal service

### **Advertising**

- \* Advertising explosion: \$10 million spent 1865, \$95 million 1900
- \* Advertising in periodicals, billboards, sides of buildings

### **Catalogs and RFD**

- \* Montgomery Ward, Sears Roebuck catalogs bring goods to small towns
  - \* Rural free delivery (RFD)—post office delivers direct to every home
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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.

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