CHAPTER 7: IMMIGRATION AND URBANIZATION

Topics:
~New Immigrants
~Rapid Growth of Cities (Urbanization)
~Politics of a Gilded Age
Where did they come from?

- Western & Northern Europe
  - England, Sweden, Ireland, Germany
- Southern & Eastern Europe
  - Italy, Russia, Poland
- Asia
  - China, Japan
- Mexico
- Middle East
- West Indies
  - Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico
Chinese Immigration

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970
Push or Pull?

- Homestead Act

- Surge in factory jobs

- Religious discrimination

- Famine

- Land shortages

- Political persecution

- Agricultural problems

- Railroad jobs

- Pull

- Pull

- Pull

- Push

- Push

- Push

- Push

- Push

- Push

- Pull
### Push or Pull?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Direction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scarce farming land</td>
<td>Push</td>
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<td>Population crowding</td>
<td>Push</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scare industrial jobs</td>
<td>Push</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Rush</td>
<td>Pull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaiian plantation jobs</td>
<td>Pull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relatively high wages</td>
<td>Pull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annexation of Hawaii</td>
<td>Pull</td>
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<td>National Reclamation Act</td>
<td>Pull</td>
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The Journey
The Journey

- One week on a steamship across Atlantic
- Three weeks across Pacific
- Steerage – ship’s cargo hold
- Crowded
- Bug-infested beds
- Diseases
- No fresh air
- Poor sanitary conditions – toilets
- Many died

Once they reached America . . .
The Journey

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”
Arriving at Ellis Island
Arriving at Ellis Island

- About 17 million passed through this immigration station
- Required to undergo inspections which could take up to 5 hours or even overnight
  - Had to pass a physical exam
  - Had to pass a document check and questioning
  - Could not have any felonies on their record
  - Must be able to work
  - Must have money
- About 20% of people were detained for a day or more, but only about 2% were denied entry into the US
Reading Maps: Immigration

Immigrants from the West Indies and Mexico

- **West Indies**
  - Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, etc
  - Arrived mainly in eastern and southeastern US
  - Came to America seeking jobs in the wake of the industrial boom

- **Mexico**
  - Many Mexican immigrants came to the southwestern US
  - Also came looking for work
  - Escape political turmoil—between 1910 and 1920, 7% of the Mexican population emigrated to the US
  - 1902 National Reclamation Act
Asian Immigrants

- Mostly Chinese
  - Next largest group was Japanese
- Chinese referred to the US as “Gold Mountain”
- Famine and extreme poverty in China
- Americans wanted the Chinese to come and work (particularly on the transcontinental railroad), but when the economy turned bad they turned against the Chinese
  - More discrimination against Chinese than any other immigrant group
Asian Immigrants

- Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act
  - 1882-1943
  - Banned all Chinese except
    - Students, teachers, merchants, tourists, government officials
  - Must have a relative here
    - “Paper Sons”
Japanese Immigrants

- Faced same anti-Asian feelings
- Gentlemen’s Agreement 1907-08 (U.S. Pres & Japan)
  - Japan decrease immigration of unskilled workers to U.S.
  - San Francisco desegregate the schools
- Mob Attacks
- 1913 California law denied land ownership to Japanese immigrants
- “Race undesirability” – CA Attorney General
Angel Island - San Francisco Bay
Angel Island

- More of a detention center than a processing center
  - People were interrogated in prison-like conditions
  - People might be detained for weeks, months, years...

- Up to 100 people might have to stay in a 1,000 sq. ft. sleeping area

- Immigrants found Angel Island:
  - Stressful, demoralizing, humiliating
    - Interrogations were often designed to trap

- Many potential immigrants were deported
  - Even some suicides
Angel Island

- Chinese penciled, painted, carved poems on wall about their experiences
Anti-immigration Sentiment

What led to so much hostility towards immigrants?
Angel Island Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW6f96SgknY
Anti-immigration Sentiment

- America – The Melting Pot
  - Diverse races, cultures blend together
  - Give up native language, customs
  - Become like “Americans”

- Immigrants kept some of their cultural identities
Rise of Nativism

- Anti-immigrant groups form
  - Open favoritism toward native-born Americans
  - Believe Anglo-Saxons are superior
  - Germanic ancestors of English

- Immigrants from “right” countries OK
  - British, German, Scandinavian
  - Free, energetic, progressive

- Wrong countries
  - Slavic, Latin, Asian – downtrodden, stagnant
Rise of Nativism

- Religion
  - Protestant OK
  - Not Catholic, or Jewish
    - Thought they would undermine democratic government
    - Vicious attacks
    - Closed doors to Jews
Nativist Groups

- Immigration Restriction League
  - Pressured Congress - Restrictions
    - 1896 Literacy Test – 40 words
    - President Cleveland vetoed
    - Passed in 1917, despite Wilson’s veto.
Challenges & Coping

- Discrimination
- Place to live, work
- Foreign language, culture, religions

To cope:
- Find similar people
- Ethnic communities form
- Build churches, synagogues, social clubs, aid groups, orphanages, retirement homes, cemeteries
Why They can live on 40 cents a day,

A PICTURE FOR EMPLOYERS

and They can't.

J. KEPLER

2005 Instructional Resources Corporation
THE MOST RECENTLY DISCOVERED WILD BEAST.
Urbanization

The rapid growth of cities
Urbanization in the US

- The technological boom of the 19th century led to growing industrialism in the US—this contributed to rapid urbanization
  - Available factory jobs required many unskilled laborers
- Concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest
- Most immigrants coming to the US settled in cities
  - Convenient to jobs
  - Cheap living accommodations
10 Largest Cities in the US—1900

- New York
- Chicago
- Philadelphia
- St. Louis
- Boston
- Baltimore
- Cleveland
- Cincinnati
- San Francisco
- Pittsburg
Americanization Movement

- A movement to assimilate people of diverse backgrounds into the dominant culture
  - Make them “Americans”

- Social campaign sponsored by the government and concerned citizens
  - Implemented in schools and voluntary associations
    - Taught immigrants English, history, government, cooking, etiquette

- Immigrants did not always want to abandon their culture
  - Live in ethnic communities—often overcrowded neighborhoods
In addition to immigrants moving to cities, many former rural families moved to urban centers. Fewer farm jobs with mechanization.
Other Trends—Country to City

- African Americans migrate North
  - About 200,000 African Americans move North between 1890-1910
  - Former farmers
  - Escape racial violence, race-based limitations
  - Economic limitations
  - Most go to Chicago and Detroit
    - Often result in racial tensions
Urbanization Problems

- **Housing**
  - Decentralized—transportation problems
  - Overcrowded
  - New options:
    - Row-houses
    - Tenements
      - Poor plumbing, ventilation
      - Unsanitary & overcrowded
Urbanization Problems

- Transportation
  - Before the development of mass transit systems, workers would often face challenges in getting to work
  - Mass transit systems allowed workers to get to jobs more easily
    - 1873—Street cars in San Francisco
    - 1897—Subways in Boston
Urbanization Problems

- **Water**
  - Minimal indoor plumbing
  - Unsafe—diseases like cholera, typhoid fever
  - Filtration introduced in 1870s
  - Chlorination in 1908
Urban Problems

- Sanitation
  - Horse manure
  - Open sewage
  - Factory smoke
Urban Problems

- **Crime**
  - With greater populations came greater crime
  - New York City—first full-time police force in 1844
Urban Problems

- Fire
  - Many contributing factors:
    - Limited water supply
    - Wood buildings
    - Use of candles, kerosene
    - Close buildings
    - Earthquakes
  - Cincinnati, OH
    - 1st professional fire department—1853
  - Great Chicago Fire (1871)
Social Welfare Reformers

- Targeted urban-poor—mainly immigrants
- Social Gospel Movement—early reform movement
  - Salvation through service to the poor
- Settlement houses—community centers
  - Run by middle-class, college-educated, women
  - Provided education
    - Classes in English, health, painting, etc
  - Visiting nurses
- Aid for widows, deserted women, injured women
Jane Addams—one of the most influential reformers. Jane Addams and Ellen Starr established Hull House, a famous settlement house in Chicago.
The Gilded Age

A Tale of Today
What does “The Gilded Age” mean?

“Get rich quick – by doing very little”

Opulence – showy wealth

Self-indulgent

Corruption

Where did the term come from?

Mark Twain book

by this name
Political Machine

- Controlled political parties in cities
- Exchanged services for votes or financial support

Get candidates elected

- City Boss (city)
- Ward Boss (precincts)
- Precinct Workers (neighborhoods)
- Voters (the people)
Political Boss

- Political boss controlled
  - Government jobs (municipal)
  - Business licenses
  - Influenced courts
  - Built parks, sewer systems, waterworks
  - Gave $$ to schools, hospitals, orphanages
- Many were immigrants or children of immigrants
- Helped solve their problems, gain citizenship
- Housing, jobs
Many became corrupt

- Voting fraud to get votes
- **Graft** – illegal use of political influence for personal gain
- Kickbacks
- Bribes, favors from businesses
- Gambling

Police rarely interfered – until 1890, they were hired by them
Boss Tweed

- Tammany Hall
- Defrauded NYC
- County Courthouse
  - Taxpayers paid $13 million
  - Actual cost @3 million
Thomas Nast

- A political cartoonist who drew for Harper’s Weekly
- Campaigned against Boss Tweed by drawing critical cartoons
"That's what's the matter."

Boss Tweed. "As long as I count the Votes, what are you going to do about it? say?"
Pendleton Civil Service Act 1883

- Patronage
  - Give gov’t jobs to people who helped you get elected
  - “spoils system”
  - Many not qualified
  - Used for personal gain

- Reformers helped push for Civil Service merit system
  - “Most qualified gets the job”
Reform

- Gradual progress under Presidents
  - Rutherford B. Hayes – 1876
  - James A. Garfield – 1880
    - Assassinated in 1881
  - VP Chester A. Arthur becomes President
    - Urged Congress to pass the Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883
      - Civil Service Commission – bipartisan would make appointments based upon merit, examination
Reform

- With no more campaign contributions from employees . . .
- Politicians turned to wealthy business owners
- Alliance became strong
- Fight over raise/lower tariffs
  - Grover Cleveland – lower them
  - Benjamin Harris – McKinley Tariff Act of 1890
    - Raises to highest tariffs ever
  - Cleveland gets re-elected – 1\textsuperscript{st} to ever serve 2 non-consecutive terms
  - McKinley wins next election – raises them again