

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

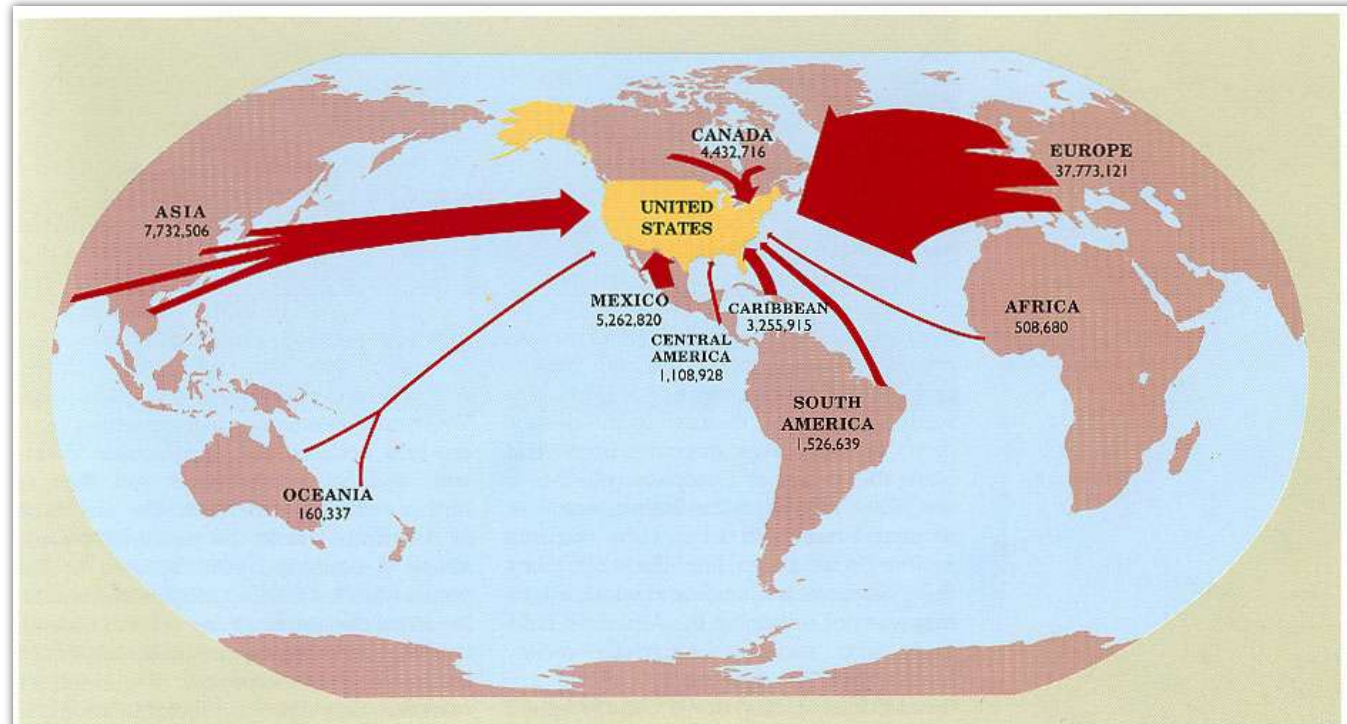
- ▣ China, Japan

▣ Mexico

▣ Middle East

▣ West Indies

- ▣ Jamaica,
Cuba, Puerto
Rico



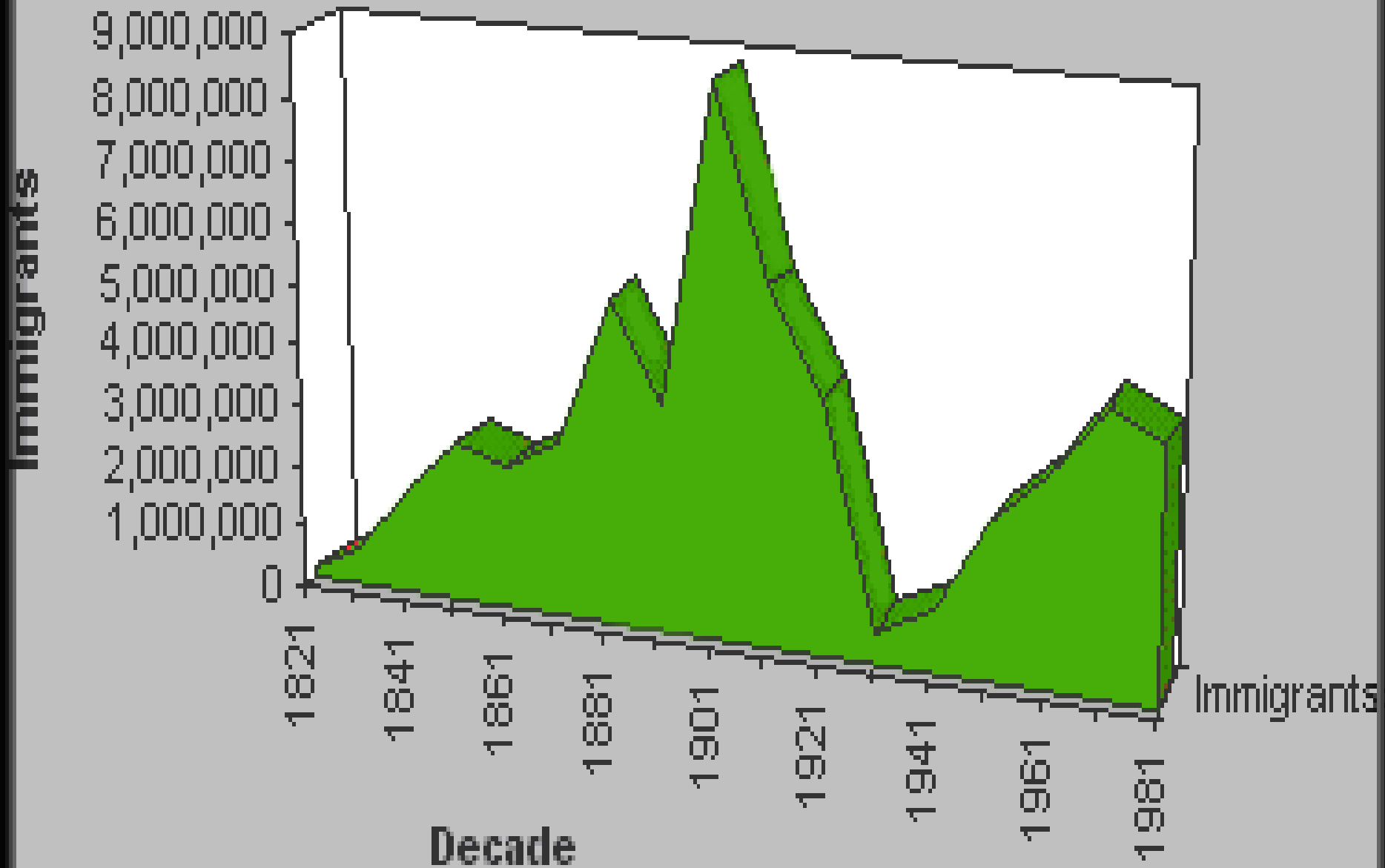
Sources of U.S. Immigration, 1820-1995

7 - EUROPEAN EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

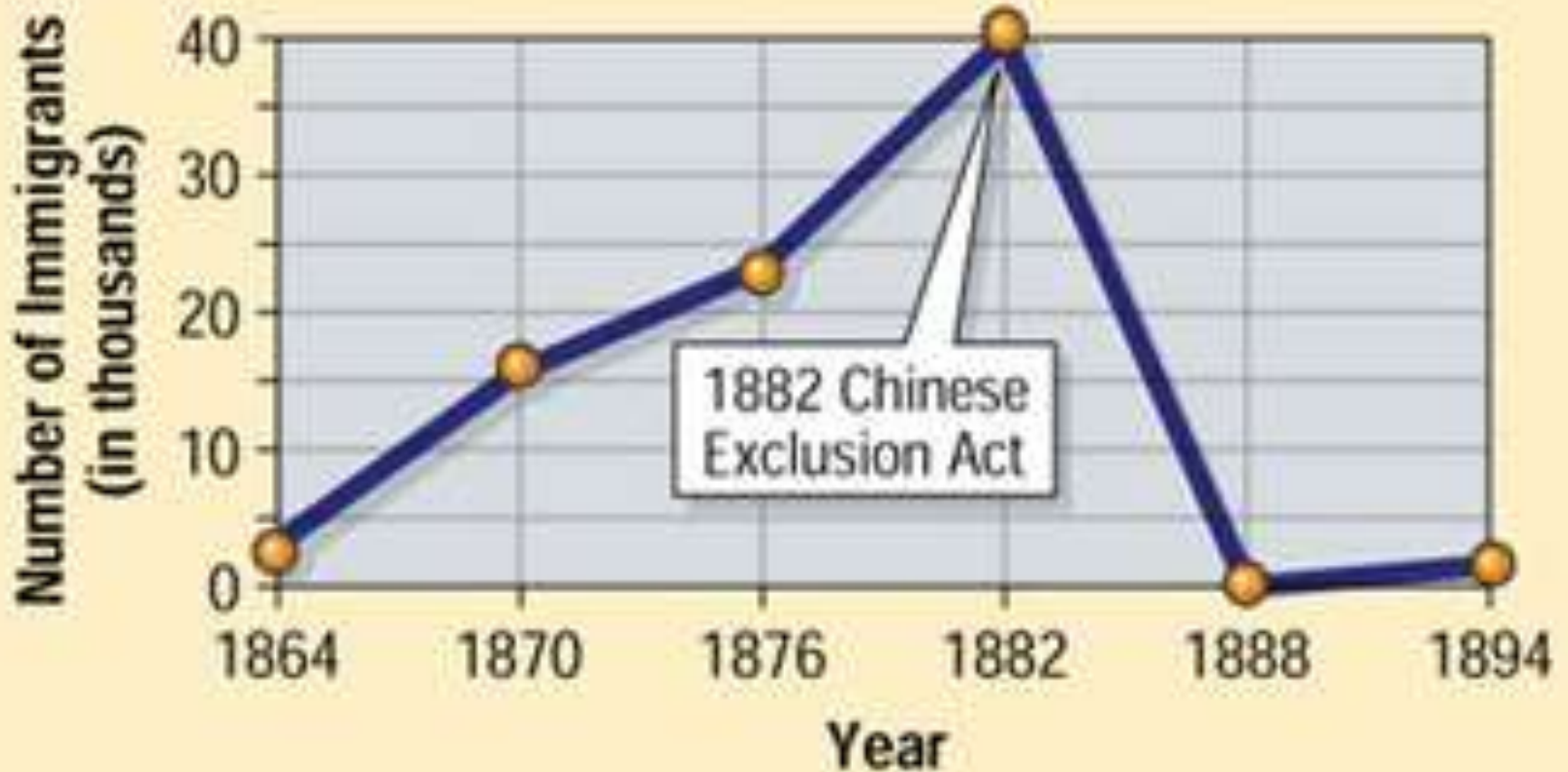
(1820-1920)



Immigrants Per Decade 1821-1981



Chinese Immigration



Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*

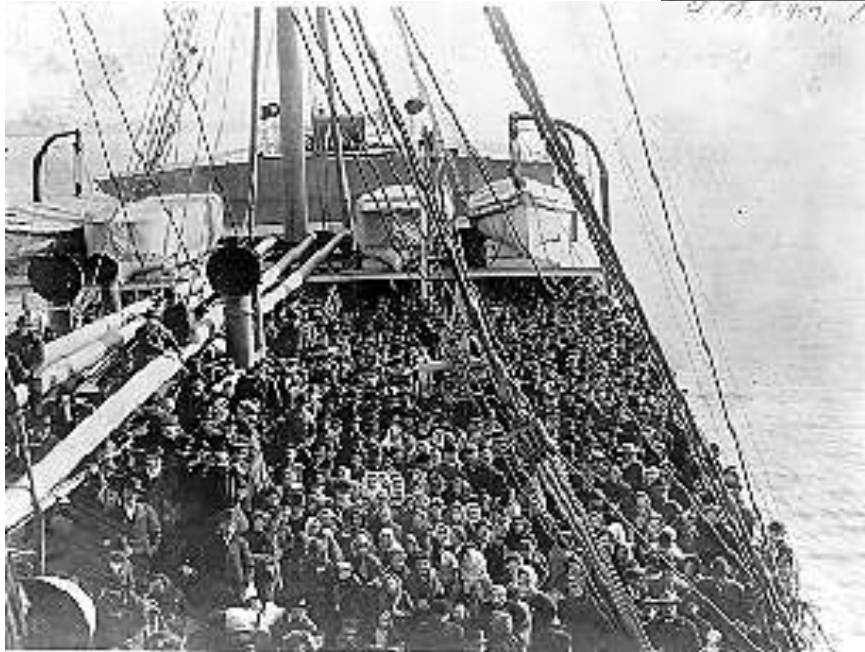
Push or Pull?

- Homestead Act
- Surge in factory jobs
- Religious discrimination
- Famine
- Land shortages
- Political persecution
- Agricultural problems
- Railroad jobs
- Pull
- Pull
- Push
- Push
- Push
- Push
- Push
- Pull

Push or Pull?

- Scarce farming land
- Population crowding
- Scarce industrial jobs
- Gold Rush
- Hawaiian plantation jobs
- Relatively high wages
- Annexation of Hawaii
- National Reclamation Act
- Push
- Push
- Push
- Pull
- Pull
- Pull
- Pull
- Pull

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 breath free.
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”**



Ellis Island – East Coast



Library of Congress, Immigrant Landing
Station, N.Y. LC-USZ62-37784
c1905 Feb. 24.



Library of Congress, Arriving at Ellis
Island LC-B2-5202-12 c 1907.

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

- <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/03/10/us/20090310-immigration-explorer.html>

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,



and They can't

A PICTURE FOR EMPLOYERS.

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THE MOST RECENTLY DISCOVERED WILD BEAST.

Urbanization

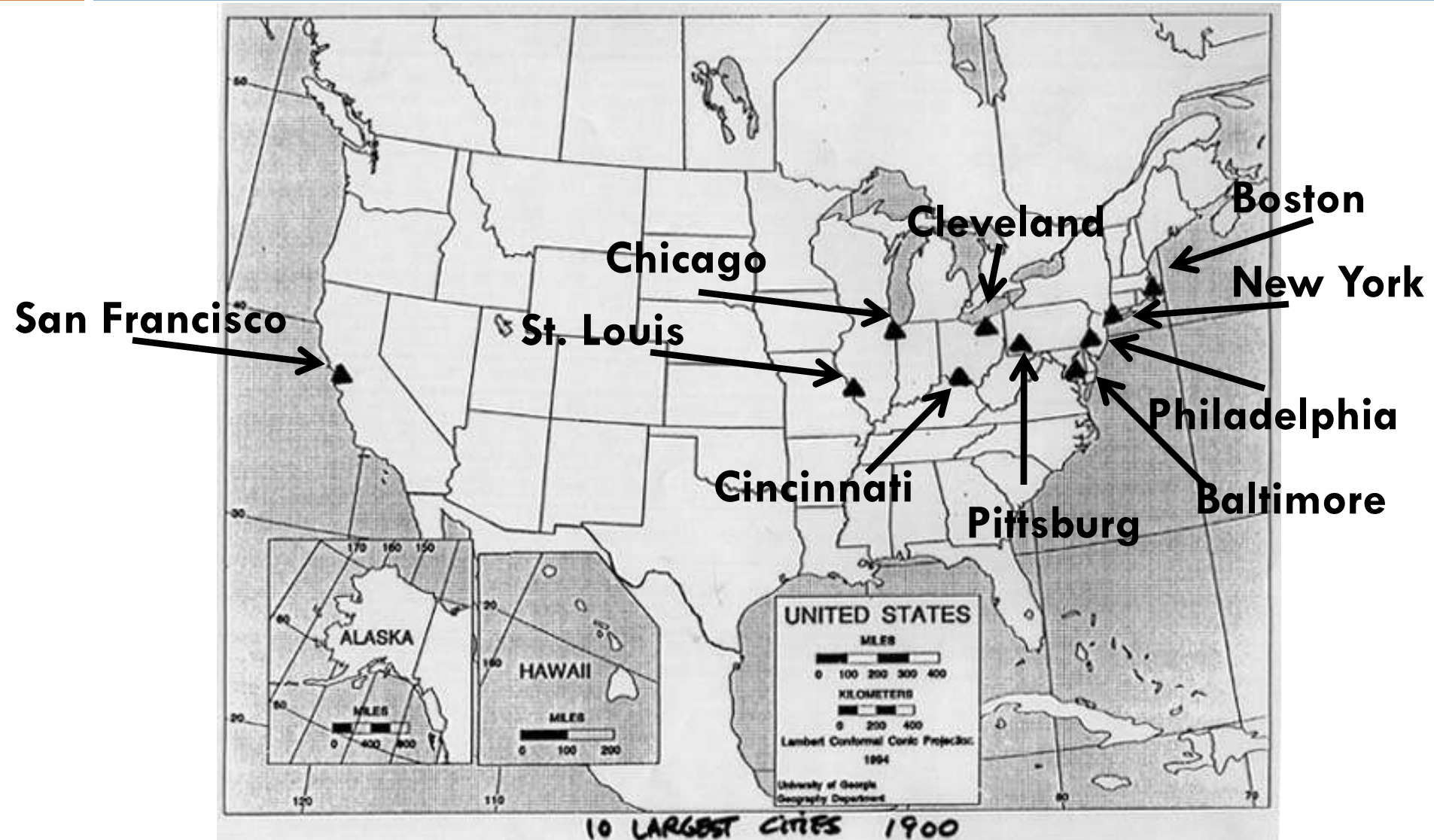
The rapid growth of cities



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



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

Other Trends—Country to City

- 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

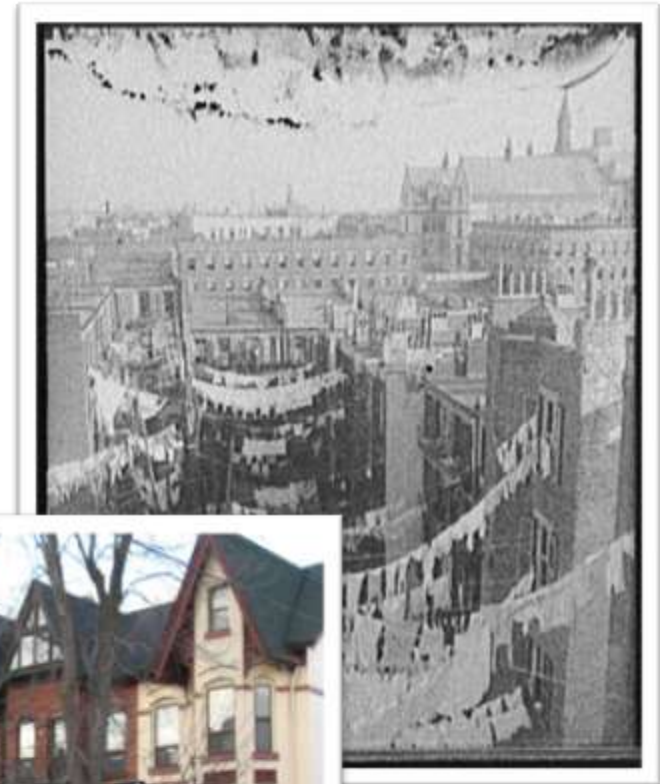
- African Americans migrate North
 - ▣ About 200,000 African Americans move North between 1890-1910
 - ▣ Former farmers
 - ▣ Escape racial violence, race-based limitations
 - ▣ Economic limitations
 - ▣ Most go to Chicago and Detroit
 - Often result in racial tensions



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

L. I. R. R. Station, Corona, N. Y.



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



Social Welfare Reformers

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



PENGUIN CLASSICS

MARK TWAIN &
CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER

The Gilded Age
A Tale of Today

Gilded Age 1870-1890

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



Inefficient
City
Governments

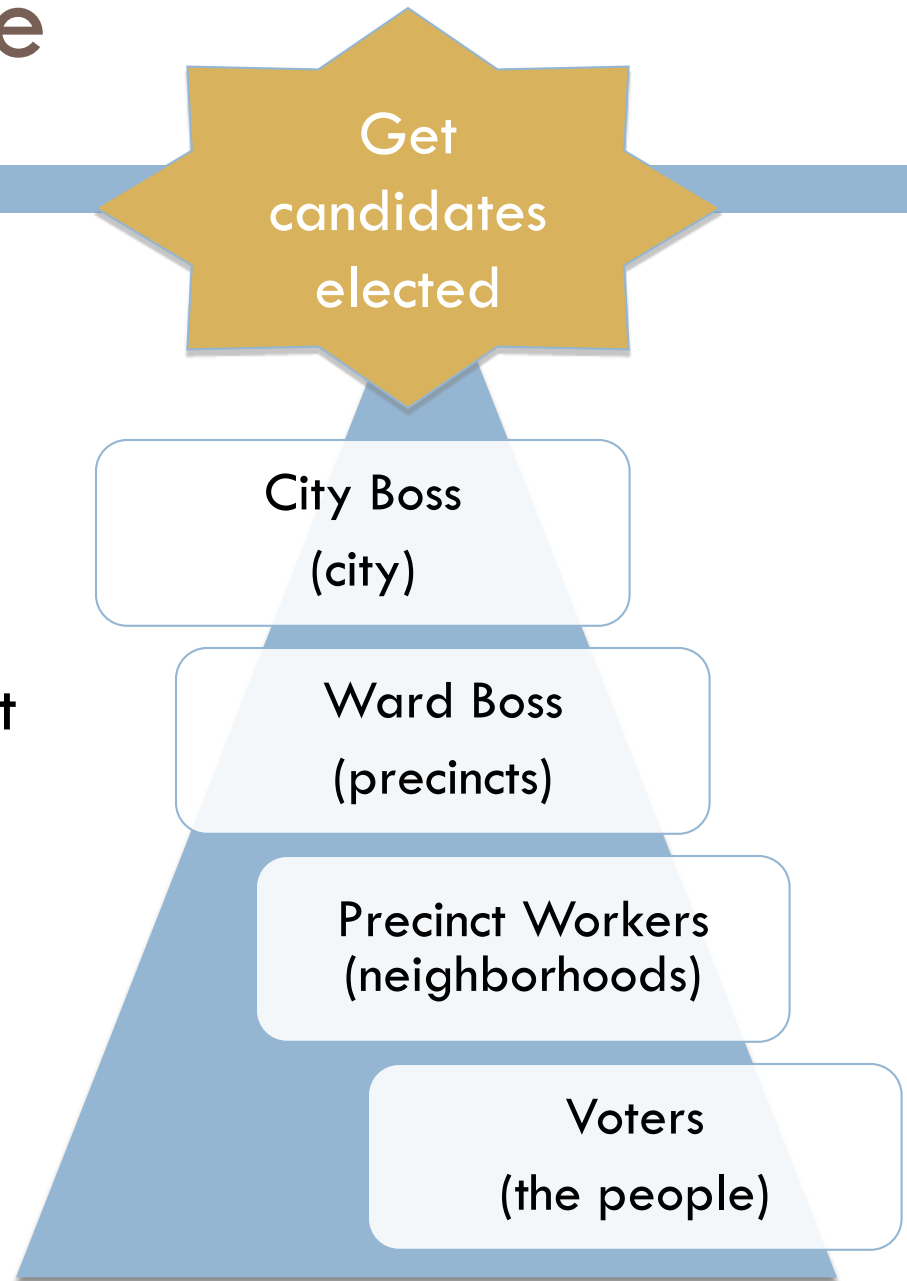
Social
Darwinism

Political
Machine

Political Boss

Political Machine

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



Political Boss

- Political boss controlled
 - Govnment jobs (municipal)
 - Business licenses
 - Influenced courts
 - Built parks, sewer systems, waterworks
 - Gave \$\$ to schools, hospitals, orphanages

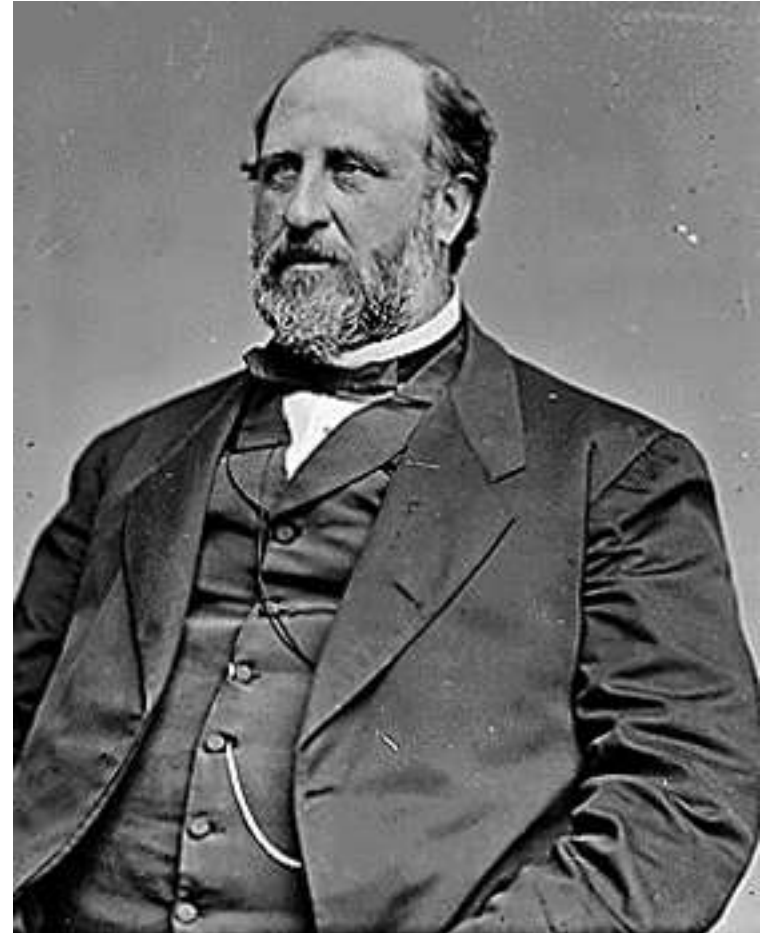
- Many were immigrants or children of immigrants
- Helped solve their problems, gain citizenship
- Housing, jobs

Political Boss

- 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 – 1st to ever serve 2 non-consecutive terms
 - ▣ McKinley wins next election – raises them again