Immigration and Urbanization

Module 4
Lesson 1
The New Immigrants

• 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
Chinese and Japanese

• About 300,000 Chinese arrive; earliest one 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
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
A Difficult Journey

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

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
Seeking Opportunities

• Many immigrants lack skills, take low-paying jobs
  — factories, mills, mines

• People of Asian descent became farm workers
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
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
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
Lesson 2
The Challenge of Urbanization

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
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
Urban Problems

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

Social Stratification—organization of people into social classes by wealth
Poverty

• Poor working environments, low-paying jobs with long hours and dangerous conditions
• Unions and strikes are organized
Transportation
• **Mass transit**—move large numbers of people along fixed routes
• By 20th century, transit systems link city to suburbs

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
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
Reformers Mobilize

- 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
- **Social Mobility**—the ability of families or individuals to move into a higher social class
Lesson 3
Politics in the Gilded Age

• **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
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
Municipal Graft and Scandal

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
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 broke
Civil Services and Patronage

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
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

• 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
Governor Theodore Roosevelt

• Reforms took place at the state level
  — puts public interest ahead of partisan politics
  — refuses to fill civil service jobs through patronage
Business Buys Influence

• 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
Lesson 4
New Technologies

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
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
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

Feeding Cities
• Farmers produce more crops on the same amount of land with fewer workers
• George Washington Carver’s idea of crop rotation, new uses for crops
• Haber-Bosch process created chemical fertilizers
• Refrigerated railroad cars and food preservatives
Advances in Communication

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 Dec. 1903
• By 1920, first transcontinental air mail established
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
Lesson 5
The Dawn of Mass Culture

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
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
The Spread of Mass Culture

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

Philosophy

• **Pragmatism**—philosophy aimed to reconcile tensions between science, morality, and religion
• Pragmatic ideals influenced government officials
Performing Arts

• Americans choose from music, drama, circus, and motion pictures
  — Vaudeville theater performances
  — Barnum & Bailey Circus

• Motion pictures more widespread than live performances
  — William Dickson develops Kinetograph
  — 3,000 Nickelodeon theaters by 1907

• Ragtime music sweeps the nation

• Thomas Edison invents the phonograph in 1877
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
Mass Circulation Newspapers

• Newspapers use sensational headlines, stories to capture readers

• **Joseph Pulitzer** buys *New York World*, pioneers popular innovations

• **William Randolph Hearst**—NY, San Francisco papers exaggerate stories
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
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