Chapter 7

Immigrants and Urbanization

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

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Immigrants and Urbanization

SECTION 1   The New Immigrants

SECTION 2   The Challenges of Urbanization

SECTION 3   Politics in the Gilded Age

Section-1

The New Immigrants

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

Chapter 7

Section-1

The New Immigrants

Through the "Golden Door"

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

Continued…

Chapter 7

Section-1

Through the "Golden Door" *{continued}*

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

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Section-1

Life in the New Land

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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Section-1

Life in the New Land *{continued}*

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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Section-1

Immigration Restrictions

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

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Section-1

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

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-2

The Challenges of Urbanization

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

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Section-2

The Challenges of Urbanization

Urban Opportunities

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

Section-2

Urban Opportunities *{continued}*

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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Section-2

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

Transportation

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

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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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Section-2

Urban Problems *{continued}*

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

Section-2

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-3

Politics in the Gilded Age

Local and national political corruption in the 19ᵗʰ century leads to calls for reform.

Chapter 7

Section-3

Politics in the Gilded Age

The Emergence of Political Machines

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

Chapter 7

Section-3

The Emergence of Political Machines *{continued}*

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

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Section-3

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 broken in 1871

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Section-3

Civil Service Replaces 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

Continued...

Section-3

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
- 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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Section-3

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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