

## Development of Cities and Urbanization

### 1. Why did cities grow so rapidly during this time?

#### I. Immigration

##### A. Europeans

1. Poor rural farmers came because there were many jobs available, such as building transcontinental railroads, and few immigration restrictions.
2. Some moved to avoid forced military service
3. Some, especially Jews in Poland and Russia, fled to avoid religious persecution
4. Most European governments made it simple to move to America
  - a) Old laws that prevented peasants and skilled workers from leaving were removed
5. Big ethnic neighborhoods formed because immigrants often clumped into neighborhoods with people of the similar race, language, and religion
  - a) Example: “Little Italy”
  - b) Recreated churches, clubs, and newspapers from home country

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(<http://www.history.com/topics/united-states-immigration-to-1965>)

##### B. Asians

1. China was overcrowded, had bad unemployment, was poor, and suffered from famine.
2. The Taiping Rebellion was a large-scale revolt against the authority and forces of the Qing Empire in China,
  - a) 20 million dead
  - b) Caused many to come to USA
3. The Chinese Act of 1882 was passed because the Chinese immigrants created great competition for jobs while reducing the wages and threatened white “racial purity”
  - a) Suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years
4. Japan was in an economic depression causing Japanese to come to America for jobs.
5. Most immigrants lacked money to buy farms and the education to get higher paying jobs so they stayed in the nation’s growing cities and worked factory jobs.

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([http://amhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/non-flash/immigration\\_main.html](http://amhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/non-flash/immigration_main.html))

(<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/exclusion.html>)

#### II. Urbanization

- A. New transportation
  - 1. 1890 Horsecars: railroad cars pulled by horses
  - 2. Cable cars
  - 3. 1887 electric trolley cars
  - 4. Elevated roadways
  - 5. Subway systems
  - 6. Importance: Allowed for better organization of mass transit in the congested cities.
- III. Advancement in engineering and architecture allowed for more people to live a city because they were able to build taller buildings and skyscrapers.
  - A. Built up instead of out because the demand of land was great so the cost of land also rose.  
Pg 258  
<http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch6en/conc6en/ch6c1en.html>
- IV. Benefits of Living in a City
  - A. Rural Americans moved to cities because they offered more and higher paying jobs
  - B. Cities had new and convenient technologies: bright lights, running water, modern plumbing and entertainment such as: museums, libraries, night clubs, and theaters.
  - C. Offered the opportunity to elevate one's social class  
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## 2. What was life like in cities during this time?

- I. Living conditions
  - A. Poor rural farmers
    - 1. were allowed to take their savings with them
    - 2. most countries had repealed old laws; consequently forcing them to become peasants
    - 3. lived in neighborhoods of same social status/ethnicity
  - B. New York, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit were often cities where immigrants stayed
    - 1. "little Italy" and Chinese people
    - 2. Jews "lower East Side" in New York City
    - 3. fled to avoid religious persecution
    - 4. They mostly lived in neighborhoods that were often separated into ethnic groups.
    - 5. most immigrants booked passage through steamships
    - 6. moved to avoid being forced into the military
    - 7. "If they did not receive stamps of approval, and many did not because they were deemed criminals, strikebreakers, anarchists or carriers of disease, they were sent back to their place of origin at the expense of the shipping line."
- II. Working conditions
  - A. Not accepted as much as natives

- B. Low wages
  - C. harsh working conditions
  - D. however, adjusted well if they had marketable skills or money
- III. Employment opportunities in the U.S
- A. In an urge to be apart of the “American Dream” immigrants were willing to take low paying jobs
  - B. Worked as skilled servants
  - C. worked on the railroad
  - D. Some worked as merchants
  - E. Due to native-born Americans kept them out of many businesses, Chinese immigrants opened their own
- IV. Example of Life in the cities:
- A. San Francisco: Asian immigrants arrived here living in a two-story shed at the wharf.
    - 1. About 500 people squeezed into this structure often called a “wooden house” or *muk uk* by the chinese
    - 2. California, in January 1910, opened barracks on Angel Island to house Asian immigrants
    - 3. most were young males in their teens or twenties
    - 4. On the walls of the detention barracks, the immigrants wrote anonymous poems

Sources: Pages 255-257

<http://immigrants1900.weebly.com/jobs.html>

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/snpim1.htm>

### **3. Why were cities so sharply divided by race, class, and ethnicity?**

#### **I. Race**

- A. If people of same race had similar jobs in working class then they would earn the same salary and could afford same living conditions.
- B. There was usually much segregation and prejudice against immigrants so they banded together to live normal lives and avoid prejudice.

#### **II. Class**

- A. The wealthy established own gated communities in hearts of the cities and build massive mansions.
- B. Usually the wealthy flocked together in communities they made up and created, only for rich.
- C. The middle class usually did not earn as much as upper class so they lived in suburbs, made possible by the electric rail car, which allowed travel to become more easier to and from the city’s center.
- D. Middle class consisted of doctors, lawyers, engineers, managers, social workers, architects, and teachers.

- E. The working class lived in the crowded parts of cities, in tenements which were dark, crowded, multi family apartments.
- F. Many families in tenements sent children to work also because of lack of money.

### III. Ethnicity

- A. New immigrants tended to live together, because they felt more comfortable in packs if their own people, to become used to the language.
- B. Recreated churches, synagogues, clubs, and newspapers just like in homeland.
- C. Cultures of different ethnic groups also brought the different immigrants together in celebrations that they recognized from the homeland.
- D. Chinese Immigrants tended to live together due to the fact that many americans thought of them to be causing crime and mischief in city, they were greatly discriminated.
- E. The Chinese Exclusion act barred chinese immigration for 10 years and prevented chinese from becoming citizens.

### IV. Religion

- A. Religion caused hostility in America because the Germans and Irish immigrating were Roman Catholic.
- B. Nativists feared immigration of Catholics from Europe would overpower the mostly protestant united states and give the Catholic Church too much power in the government.
- C. Industrialization, Urbanization, and Modernism ended the traditional beliefs of many.  
[http://www.sageamericanhistory.net/gildedage/topics/capital\\_labor\\_immigration.html](http://www.sageamericanhistory.net/gildedage/topics/capital_labor_immigration.html)  
Text pg. 254-261

## **4. What was the effect of urban political machines on the growth and development of these cities?**

### **How did these organizations form? Were they good or bad for the development of these cities?**

- I. Political machines were generated to deal with civil issues such as sewer systems and poverty and to generate political support for the person or group of people who funded it.
- II. In exchange for providing for city dwellers, eager party members could secure votes with those they influenced.
- III. Once elected, parties made money through bribery, permit fraud, etc.
- IV. A city would be politically and socially under the control of a single individual or a small committee.  
(page 261)
- V. Example: Tammany Hall, New York
  - A. Began as a society to discuss politics
  - B. They gave support to Jackson in the election of 1828.
    - 1. Jackson's Spoils System rewarded many members with government jobs.
  - C. Largely supported by immigrant population
    - 1. "powerhouse of Irish politics"
    - 2. Because of Democrat support, factory workers gravitated toward them.
  - D. Provide coal, food, and other essentials during cold winters

1. People were very fond of the party in a time before welfare  
<http://history1800s.about.com/od/thegildedage/a/tammanyhall01.htm>  
<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/bosses.htm#HAGUE>

## 5. Who were the developers of these political machines?

### I. Thomas Pendergast (Pendergast Machine)

- A. controlled Kansas City and later had strong control over the Missouri gov't
- B. success based on electoral dishonesty and physical intimidation
  1. Elections
    - a) rigged voting by switching ballot boxes, beat up opposing voters w/ or w/out police help, positioned machine employees as electoral judges
    - b) even the dead "would rise from their cemetery to vote"
- C. received much help from brother James who helped create the Pendergast Machine but died before it became the political powerhouse of the era
- D. helped working-class, immigrants, poor, and later paid more attention to middle-class
  1. provided \$ to those that needed help w/ med. bills, distributed coal for the winter, food baskets to the hungry, and clothes to the needy
  2. famous for Boss' Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the poor
- E. Downfall of Pendergast Machine
  1. minions rig voting that sets off a series of federal investigations
  2. Gov. Lloyd Stark turns against Pendergast and requests another investigation
  3. investigation leads to "Insurance Scam" that revealed that the machine had brokered a corrupt deal between the state's Director of Insurance and insurance companies
    - a) he receive \$750,000 but failed to record it on federal tax return
    - b) convicted of tax evasion and machine become nothing more than a small faction

(<http://shs.umsystem.edu/historicmissourians/name/p/pendergast/#section5>)

(<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/pubs/article/article.asp>)

### II. William Marcy "Boss" Tweed

- A. became Grand Sachem of Tammany in 1860s
  1. Tammany Hall began as fraternal organization and slowly delved into discussing politics → political machine of New York city
    - a) emerged as Democratic machine
- B. controlled the flow of money in his favor
  1. charged fees to companies wanting to do business with city, demanded payoffs from contractors in the city, extorted money from his fraudulent law firm
    - a) Acquired millions

- C. built up his ring of supports in powerful positions also known as the Tweed Ring
- D. Downfall of Boss Tweed
  - 1. after the Orange Riot of 1871 Tammany Hall started to lose power
  - 2. Tweed rival provided evidence of the Tweed Ring's corruption to *New York Times*
  - 3. Boss Tweed paid fine and was released early from his 12 year conviction
  - 4. later rearrested for a civil suit
    - a) fled to Spain but was recognized from a Thomas Nast cartoon where he was sent back to prison and died there

(<http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/tammany-hall.cfm>)

(<http://keithyorkcity.wordpress.com/2012/09/29/boss-tweed-new-yorks-corruption-king/>)

(<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm118.html>)

## 6. How did immigrants respond to these political machines? How did middle-class reformers respond?

### I. Immigrants

- A. voted in overwhelming numbers for the political machines
  - B. in exchange for votes, the immigrants were provided with jobs, housing, food, heat, and police protection
  - C. as long as the “machine” stayed in political control, the immigrants kept their jobs
- ([http://www.albany.edu/~dkw42/s1\\_immigrants.html](http://www.albany.edu/~dkw42/s1_immigrants.html))  
(textbook pg 261)

### II. Middle-class (progressives)

- A. objected to political machines
  - B. didn't like political machines because of their corruption
  - C. one of their goals was to get rid of corruption in the government
- (<http://teacherpages.nhcs.net/schools/hhs/billymason/Lecture%20Notes/The%20Progressive%20Era%201901.htm>)  
(<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1061.html>)

### III. Americanization Movement

- A. Americanization- causing someone to acquire American traits and characteristics
  - B. schools taught immigrant children English, American history, and the responsibilities of citizenship
  - C. tried to instill discipline and a strong work ethic
  - D. the parents of these immigrant children were worried that they would forget their own cultural traditions
  - E. there were also English classes for adults
- (<http://culturismnews.blogspot.com/2008/04/americanization-movement.html>)

Reed, Carlie,  
Otto, Blake,  
Luna, Iman

(textbook pg 270)