Ch 7 Immigrants and Urbanization
Section 1 The New Immigrants

Immigrants from Europe
1. 1870-1920, 20 million Europeans arrived in the U.S.
2. Before 1890 most came from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany
3. After 1890 more and more came from Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Russia
4. They came to escape religious persecution, rising population, find work, and independence

Immigrants from China
1. Arrived on the West coast
2. Came in search of wealth (gold rush)
3. Many helped build the RRs
4. Immigration was sharply limited by Congress in 1882

Immigrants from Japan
1. Many were recruited by Hawaiian planters
2. Came to the mainland in search of high American wages

Immigrants from Mexico - Came in search of work and to flee political turmoil, nearly 7% of its population arrived after 1910

A Difficult Journey – nearly all arrived by steamship
1. One week across the Atlantic
2. Three weeks across the Pacific
3. Hundreds were crowded into cargo holds and rarely allowed on deck

Ellis Island – chief U.S. immigration station from 1892-1943 in New York Harbor, 16 million immigrants passed through its gates
    1. Had to pass inspection
        a. Physical Examination – any had serious health problems were sent home
        b. Government Inspection – checked documents and legal requirements for entering the U.S.
        c. Had to pass a literacy test in their native language
        d. Prove that they were able to work
        e. Also had to show that they had at least $25
    2. Only about 2% had to return home

Angel Island – immigration station in San Francisco where the Chinese, primarily, entered the U.S.
    1. Unlike at Ellis Island, immigrants experienced harsh questioning and a long detention while government officials decided whether or not to admit them
    2. Filthy, ramshackle buildings
    3. Chinese were confined like prisoners

Culture Shock – confusion and anxiety resulting from immersion in a culture whose ways of thinking and acting they didn't understand

Cooperation for Survival
1. Ethnic Communities – sprang up in areas that had large concentrations of immigrants
    a. Served as life rafts for many
2. Native-born Americans often dislike the immigrants; unfamiliar customs and languages and viewed them as a threat to the American way of life

Melting Pot – a mixture of people of different cultures and races who blended together by abandoning their native languages and customs

Immigration Restrictions
1. Nativism – overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
    a. Gave rise to anti-immigrant groups and led to a demand for immigration restrictions
    b. Many Americans feared the growing number of Catholics and Jews entering the country
    c. Anglo Saxons (Germanic ancestors of the English) were superior to other ethnic groups
2. Anti-Asian Sentiment – rose from their unfamiliar language and customs along with their markedly different looks

a. Chinese Exclusion Act – 1882, banned entry to all Chinese except students, teachers, merchants, tourists, and government officials for ten years
   i. In 1892 it was extended another 10 years and then in 1902 it was extended indefinitely
   ii. Wasn't repealed until 1943
3. Gentlemen's Agreement – 1907-1908, Japan's government agreed to limit emigration to the U.S.

Section 2 The Problems of Urbanization

Urbanization – growth of cities, occurred in the Northeast and Midwest
1. Immigrants Settle in Cities – they were the cheapest and most convenient to live
   a. Americanization Movement – education program designed to help immigrants assimilate to American culture and to help them become citizens
2. Migration from the country to the city
   a. Advancements in farming technology meant less laborers were needed
   b. African Americans moved in an effort to escape racial violence, economic hardship, and political oppression

Urban Problems
1. Housing
    a. Row Houses – single-family dwellings that shared side walls with other, similar houses
        i. Eventually crowded with several immigrant families
    b. Dumbbell Tenements – long, narrow, five or six story buildings that were shaped like barbells, the central part was indented on either side to allow for an air shaft and an outside window for each room
        i. Garbage was dumped down airshafts and windows were nailed shut
2. Transportation – advancements had been made with the electric street cars and subways, but as cities continued to grow cities failed to keep up with the growing demand
3. Water
    a. Residents had grossly inadequate water mains and piped water (or none at all)
    b. Homes seldom had indoor plumbing
    c. Disease spread because many didn't have access to safe water
4. Sanitation
    a. Horse manure filled streets, sewage flowed through open gutters, and factories spewed foul smoke
    b. People dumped garbage into alleys and streets

5. Fire – limited water supply contributed to the spread of fires
    a. Cities were packed with wooden buildings
    b. Use of candles and kerosene heaters
6. Crime – pickpockets and thieves flourished in urban crowds and con men took advantage of immigrants while gangs controlled areas of cities

Reformers Mobilize – mostly young, educated men and women from the middle class
1. Social Gospel Movement – preached salvation through service to the poor
    a. Inspired followers to erect churches in poor communities and persuaded some business leaders to treat workers more fairly
2. Settlement House Movement – established community centers in slum neighborhoods that provided assistance and friendship to local men, women, and children – especially immigrants
    a. Jane Adams – founded Chicago's Hull House in 1889

Section 3 The Emergence of the Political Machine

Political Machine – an organized group that controlled the activities of a political party in a city and offered services to voters and businesses in exchange for political or financial support

1. Seized control of local governments in many cities
2. Organized like a pyramid
    a. Local precinct workers or captains
    b. Ward Boss
    c. City Boss
3. City Boss – controlled thousands of municipal jobs, including those in the police, fire, and sanitation departments
    a. Also controlled business licenses, inspections, and influenced the courts
    b. By solving problems, bosses could reinforce voters' loyalty, win additional political support, and extend their influence
4. Immigrant Support
    a. Many political bosses were 2nd or 3rd generation immigrants
    b. Helped immigrants become naturalized, find places to live, and get jobs in return for their votes

Election Fraud and Graft
1. Power of political machines and loyalty of voters wasn't always enough to win elections, some turned to fraud
    a. Padded lists of eligible voters
2. Kickbacks – the return of part of a payment as a result of a secret agreement
    a. Made many individual politicians very wealthy

3. Tweed Ring Scandal
   a. Tammany Hall – New York City's powerful Democratic political machine lead by William Marcy Tweed
   b. Tweed Ring – between 1869-1871, a group of corrupt politicians led by Tweed, pocketed as much as $200 million from the city in kickbacks and payoffs
   c. The Ring was finally broken in 1871 and Tweed was sentenced to 12 years in prison

Section 4 Politics in the Gilded Age

Patronage – the giving of government jobs to people who had helped a candidate get elected, the Spoils System
   1. Led to incompetence and fraud while also interfering with the daily functioning of government
   2. Merit System – jobs in civil service (government administration) would go to the most qualified persons, no matter what political views they held or who recommended them

Rutherford B. Hayes – after winning the election of 1876, he began to reform the civil service system although many of his ideas were shot down by Congress

James A. Garfield – owed his Republican nomination for the election of 1880 to the battle between the stalwarts and the reformers
1. Stalwarts – opposed changes in the spoils system
2. Garfield gave reform Republicans most of his patronage jobs
3. Garfield's Assassination – July 2, 1881 he was shot by Charles Guiteau, a man he had turned down for a job, at a D.C. train station

Chester A. Arthur – became President after Garfield's assassination, was previously a stalwart but became a reformer
1. Pendleton Act – 1883, authorized a bipartisan civil service commission to make appointments to federal jobs through the merit system

Efforts to Regulate Tariffs Fail
1. In 1884, Grover Cleveland became the first Democratic president in 28 years, and he tried to no avail to lower tariff rates
2. In 1888 Cleveland with a low-tariff platform ran against Benjamin Harrison, who was financed by large contributions by companies who wanted even higher tariffs
3. Harrison lost the popular vote but won the electoral vote

  a. McKinley Tariff Act of 1890 – raised tariffs to their highest levels ever

4. In 1892 Cleveland was elected president again, but refused to sign a bill lowering the tariff because it provided for a federal income tax
5. In 1896, William McKinley was elected president and he raised tariffs once again