Chapter 15: 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.

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.

I. Through the “Golden Door”
   A. Millions of Immigrants
      1. Some seek better lives; others temporary jobs
   B. Europeans
      1. 1870–1920, about 20 million Europeans arrive in U.S.
      2. Many flee religious persecution: Jews driven from Russia by pogroms
      3. Population growth results in lack of farmland, industrial jobs
      4. Reform movements, revolts influence young who seek independent lives
   C. Chinese and Japanese
      1. About 300,000 Chinese arrive; earliest one attracted by gold rush
         a. work in railroads, farms, mines, domestic service, business
      2. Japanese work on Hawaiian plantations, then go to West Coast by 1920, more than 200,000
   D. The West Indies and Mexico
      1. About 260,000 immigrants from West Indies; most seek industrial jobs
      2. Mexicans flee political turmoil; after 1910, 700,000 arrive
      3. National Reclamation Act creates farmland, draws Mexican farmers

II. Life in the New Land
   A. A Difficult Journey
1. Almost all immigrants travel by steamship, most in steerage

B. Ellis Island
   1. Chief U.S. immigration station, in New York Harbor
      a. Immigrants given physical exam by doctor; seriously ill not admitted
      b. Inspector checks documents to see if meets legal requirements
   2. 1892–1924, about 17 million immigrants processed at Ellis Island

C. Angel Island
   1. Immigrant processing station in San Francisco Bay
   2. Immigrants endure harsh questioning, long detention for admission

D. Cooperation for Survival
   1. Immigrants must create new life: find work, home, learn new ways
   2. Many seek people who share cultural values, religion, language
      a. Ethnic communities form
      b. Friction develops between “hyphenated” Americans, native-born

III. Immigration Restrictions
   A. The Rise of Nativism
      1. Melting pot—in U.S. people blend by abandoning native culture
         a. Many immigrants don’t want to give up cultural identity
      2. Nativism—overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
         3. Believe Anglo-Saxons superior to other ethnic groups
            a. Some object to immigrants’ religion: many are Catholics, Jews
      4. 1897, Congress passes literacy bill for immigrants; Cleveland vetoes
         a. 1917, similar bill passes over Wilson’s veto

B. Anti-Asian Sentiment
   1. Nativism finds foothold in labor movement, especially in West
      a. Fear Chinese immigrants who work for less
      b. Labor groups exert political pressure to restrict Asian immigration
2. 1882, Chinese Exclusion Act bans entry to most Chinese

C. The Gentlemen’s Agreement
   1. Nativist fears extend to Japanese, most Asians in early 1900s
      a. San Francisco segregates Japanese schoolchildren
      b. Gentlemen’s Agreement—Japan limits emigration
         i. in return, U.S. repeals segregation

15 2: The Challenges of Urbanization
The rapid growth of cities force people to contend with problems of housing, transportation, water, and sanitation.

Section 2: The Challenges of Urbanization
I. Urban Opportunities
   A. Immigrants Settle in Cities
      1. Industrialization leads to urbanization, or growth of cities
      2. Most immigrants settle in cities; get cheap housing, factory jobs
      3. Americanization movement—assimilate people into main culture
         a. Schools, voluntary groups teach citizenship skills
            i. English, U.S. history, cooking, etiquette
      4. Ethnic communities provide social support
   B. Migration from Country to City
      1. Farm technology decreases need for laborers; people move to cities
      2. Many African Americans in South lose their livelihood
         a. 1890–1910, move to cities in North, West to escape racial violence
         b. Find segregation, discrimination in North too
         c. Competition for jobs between blacks, white immigrants causes tension

II. Urban Problems
   A. Housing
      1. Working-class families live in houses on outskirts or boardinghouses
         a. Later, row houses built for single families
b. Immigrants take over row houses, 2–3 families per house
2. Tenements—multifamily urban dwellings, are overcrowded, unsanitary

B. Transportation
1. Mass transit—move large numbers of people along fixed routes
2. By 20th century, transit systems link city to suburbs

C. Water
1. 1860s cities have inadequate or no piped water, indoor plumbing rare
2. Filtration introduced 1870s, chlorination in 1908

D. Sanitation
1. Streets: manure, open gutters, factory smoke, poor trash collection
2. Private contractors hired to sweep streets, collect garbage, clean outhouses
   a. often do not do job properly
3. By 1900, cities develop sewer lines, create sanitation departments

E. Crime
1. As population grows, thieves flourish
2. Early police forces too small to be effective

F. Fire
1. Fire hazards: limited water, wood houses, candles, kerosene heaters
2. Most firefighters volunteers, not always available
3. 1900, most cities have full-time, professional fire departments
4. Fire sprinklers, non-flammable building materials make cities safer

III. Reformers Mobilize
A. The Settlement House Movement
1. Social welfare reformers work to relieve urban poverty
2. Social Gospel movement—preaches salvation through service to poor
3. Settlement houses—community centers in slums, help immigrants
   a. Run by college-educated women, they:
      i. provide educational, cultural, social services
      ii. send visiting nurses to the sick
iii. help with personal, job, financial problems
4. Jane Addams founds Hull House with Ellen Gates Starr in 1889

15 3: Politics in the Gilded Age
Local and national political corruption in the 19th century leads to calls for reform.

I. The Emergence of Political Machines
   A. The Political Machine
      1. Political machine—organized group that controls city political party
      2. Give services to voters, businesses for political, financial support
      3. After Civil War, machines gain control of major cities
      4. Machine organization: precinct captains, ward bosses, city boss
   B. The Role of the Political Boss
      1. Whether or not city boss serves as mayor, he:
         a. controls access to city jobs, business licenses
         b. influences courts, municipal agencies
         c. arranges building projects, community services
      2. Bosses paid by businesses, get voters’ loyalty, extend influence
   C. Immigrants and the Machine
      1. Many captains, bosses 1st- or 2nd-generation Americans
      2. Machines help immigrants with naturalization, jobs, housing

II. Municipal Graft and Scandal
   A. Election Fraud and Graft
      1. Machines use electoral fraud to win elections
      2. Graft—illegal use of political influence for personal gain
      3. Machines take kickbacks, bribes to allow legal, illegal activities
   B. The Tweed Ring Scandal
      1. 1868 William M. Tweed, or Boss Tweed, heads Tammany Hall in NYC
         a. Leads Tweed Ring, defrauds city of millions of $
      2. Cartoonist Thomas Nast helps arouse public outrage
         a. Tweed Ring broken in 1871
III. Civil Service Replaces Patronage
   A. Patronage Spurs Reform
      1. Patronage—government jobs to those who help candidate get elected
         a. Civil service (government administration) are all patronage jobs
      2. Many appointees unqualified; some use position for personal gain
      3. Reformers press for merit system of hiring for civil service
   B. Reform Under Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur
      1. Stalwart Republicans oppose any changes to system
      2. Republican Rutherford B. Hayes elected president 1876
         a. names independents to cabinet
         b. creates commission to investigate corruption
         c. fires 2 officials; angers Stalwarts
      3. 1880, Republican independent James A. Garfield wins election
         a. Stalwart Chester A. Arthur is vice-president
         b. Garfield gives patronage jobs to reformers; is shot and killed
         c. As president, Arthur urges Congress to pass civil service law
      4. Pendleton Civil Service Act—appointments based on exam score
IV. Business Buys Influence
   A. Harrison, Cleveland, and High Tariffs
      1. Business wants high tariffs; Democrats want low tariffs
      2. 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland wins; cannot lower tariffs
      3. 1888, Benjamin Harrison becomes president, supports higher tariffs
         a. wins passage of McKinley Tariff Act
      4. 1892, Cleveland reelected, supports bill that lowers McKinley Tariff
         a. rejects bill that also creates income tax
         b. Wilson–Gorman Tariff becomes law 1894
      5. 1897, William McKinley becomes president, raises tariffs again