Rise of Immigration---Why? 💡
1870-1900/ 11 million immigrants from Europe
Conflicts with immigrants
- old immigrants vs. American Protective Association
- new immigrants
1st US Laws to restrict immigration
- Chinese Exclusion Act 💡
- Immigration Centers---Ellis Island 💡
Gilded Aged 🤔
Growth of Urbanization---Why? 💡
Social Gospel 🤔

The wealthy would manifest itself in an elite class of Americans who lived extravagant lifestyles. Many common people resented their snobbish attitudes and wealth. In some respects, there was a caste system in the U.S.

1861--------3 millionaires--------1900--------3,800

By 1900, 90% of the wealth in the U.S. was controlled by 10% of population.

Written by Neil Diamond
Far
We've been traveling far
Without a home
But not without a star
Free
Only want to be free
We huddle close
Hang on to a dream
On the boats and on the planes
They're coming to America
Never looking back again
They're coming to America
Home.
Don't it seem so far away
Oh, we're traveling right today
In the eye of the storm
In the eye of the storm
Home.
It's a new and a shiny place
Make our bed, and we'll say our grace
Freedom's light burning warm
Freedom's light burning warm
Everywhere around the world
They're coming to America
Every time that flag's unfurled
They're coming to America
Got a dream to take them there
They're coming to America
Got a dream they've come to share
They're coming to America
They're coming to America
They're coming to America
They're coming to America
Today, today, today, today
My country 'tis of thee
Today
Sweet land of liberty
Today
Of thee I sing
Today
Of thee I sing
Today!
Oral histories of Jewish immigrants to Pittsburgh

“Our synagogue was in a room with the windows blacked out. We were afraid to speak Yiddish on the streets. We often had to hide from people who came to persecute the Jews.”

“During the pogrom (organized government persecution of the Jews) in Vitebsk (Russia) around 1905, my collarbone was broken and the back of my head still bears the scar of a dagger.”

“I still have a scar on my thigh where a Russian soldier struck me with his sword. I was three years old and my mother tried to protect me with her body, but he got to me. It did not seem reasonable for me to serve the Czar in the Army.”

Oral histories of Italian immigrants

“The main reason was bread. There was always bread in America.”

“Life in America was better. There was always work in America.”

“I never went to an American school, but I insisted that my children attend university in the United States where they had more chance.”

“I have progressed; I have lived well. I have been able to send my children to good schools so that today they hold positions of respect. My brother who stayed here in Italy cannot say that.”

### Old vs New Immigration

![Chart: Old vs New Immigration](chart.png)

### Immigrants from Europe

![Map: Immigrants from Europe](map.png)

**European Immigration, 1870–1920**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>900</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1870
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>RELIGION</strong></th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Catholic and Jewish</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIRTHPLACE</strong></td>
<td>North/Western Europe</td>
<td>Southern/Eastern Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REASONS</strong></td>
<td>Both escaping poverty, religious and political persecution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DESTINATION</strong></td>
<td>Moved to farms in the Midwest</td>
<td>Moved to cities in the Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OCCUPATION</strong></td>
<td>Became farmers</td>
<td>Unskilled workers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Old Immigrants resented the New Immigrants.*

*New Immigrants came to this country for the same reasons as the Old Immigrants.*

**American Protective Association**

- Americans formed groups to oppose the “immigrant threat”
- Supported laws to restrict certain groups of immigrants.
- **Immigrant groups:** Chinese, Central and Southern Europeans.

**Why did Old Immigrants resent New Immigrants?**

- “inferior stocks”
- Plot by European governments to unload their prisoners and mentally ill.
- Chinese worked for 5 years and left the U.S. with U.S. money
- Labor Unions hated immigrants because employers would hire “scab” labor to replace workers if they had a “Labor Strike”
- US Govt. restricts immigration with the following:
  - Chinese Exclusion Act and Ellis Island

*Sociologist E. A. Ross (1866–1951) wrote in 1914,*

“Observe immigrants . . . in their gatherings. You are struck by the fact that from ten to twenty per cent are hirsute, low-browed, big-faced persons of obviously low mentality . . . They . . . clearly belong in skins, in wattle’d huts at the close of the Great Ice Age. These oxlike men are descendants of those who always stayed behind.”
American Citizens: What weight can my vote have against this flood of ignorance, stupidity and fraud?

Regarding the exploitation of immigrant labor, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) wrote in 1860,

“The German and Irish millions, like the Negro, have a great deal of guano in their destiny. They are ferried over the Atlantic, and carted over America, to ditch and to drudge, to make corn cheap, and then to lie down prematurely to make a spot of green grass on the prairie.”

President Grover Cleveland (1837–1908) declared in 1897,

“It is said . . . that the quality of recent immigration is undesirable. The time is quite within recent memory when the same thing was said of immigrants who, with their descendants, are now numbered among our best citizens.”

Chinese Exclusion Act

• Resentment and discrimination against the Chinese.
• First law to restrict immigration.
• Taking away jobs from Nativists
• President Hayes vetoed this act and Congress would override it.
• He would not be re-elected.
• Chinese immigration would be outlawed until the 1920’s.
Ellis Island was built in 1892 as the 1st “Immigration Center.” Later, closed in the 1940s. Today it is a museum.

• The goal was to “screen” immigrants coming from Europe.
• Immigrants took physical examinations and were held at Ellis Island before they were released to the US mainland.

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The Gilded Age, 1870 to 1900

Phrase penned by Mark Twain as satire for the way America had become. It revealed the “best and worst” of America.

❖ The Gilded Age suggests that there was a glittering layer of prosperity that covered the poverty and corruption that existed in much of society.
❖ Theme: The Coming of America
❖ It needed reform.
The Emergence of Political Machines

**Organized group that controls city political party**
- 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
- May serve as mayor by:
  - controls city jobs, business licenses
  - influenced courts, municipal agencies
  - arranged 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

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

William Boss Tweed
- Received large fees for interests (*kickbacks*) from the Erie Railroad
- Tweed Ring milked the city with false leases, padded bills, false vouchers, unnecessary repairs and over-priced goods
- *Return of a portion of the money received in a sale or contract often illegal and corrupt in return for special favors.*

Populace: 1870
- 40 million population
- 75% lived in rural areas

Populace: 1900
- 76 million population
- 60% lived in rural areas
In 1860 no American city could boast a million inhabitants. 

1890, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia had spurted past the million mark.

**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—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, overcrowded, unsanitary

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

Crop prices decrease, new machinery and corrupt railroads forced many farmers to look for new jobs.

**Growth of Urbanization**

Cities grew rapidly
- Near raw materials
- Industrial areas
- Transportation routes
- Opportunities in the job market.

Terrible Conditions
- Poor sanitary and living conditions
- Tenement apartments
- Sweatshops
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

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

CITIES

Cities provided opportunities

• Machine-made jobs

• High wages

• Ended monotony of the farm.
**Job opportunities for Women**

- School teaching
- Domestic service
- Women doctors
- Lawyers, typists, telephone girls, librarians, journalists and social workers.

Women gainfully employed rose from 2.5 million in 1880 to 8 million in 1910.

**Cities were attractive**

- with telephones
- bright lights and electricity.
- Central heating
- Public water systems
- Indoor plumbing
- Sewage disposal
- Asphalt pavements and transportation.

**Cities had many faces**

- Slums
- Criminals
- Beggars
- Pollution
- Bad smells
- Grafters (corrupt politicians)

Cities offered beautiful parks, museums, libraries, churches, hospitals and schools.

Became the intellectual nerve center of the country.

**Urban Growth: 1870 - 1900**
Chicago became the main railroad junction in the U.S.

Immigrants move to Chicago because of the job opportunities:
- Meatpacking
- Steel mills
- Cattle industry
- Multi-cultural community

Many American nativists disliked new immigrants because they would not assimilate into American society.

Would stay segregated in their ethnic neighborhoods.
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