

Immigration, Urbanization, and Everyday Life 1860-1900

The New American City

- Changes most visible in cities
 - Population of cities grew rapidly in both North and South
 - Chicago
 - Population grew by 5x
 - New Orleans
 - 1870-1900 population doubled
- Massive immigration
 - 1870-1900
 - 11 million immigrants
 - Cities “opportunity”
 - Conflict with natives



Migrants and Immigrants

- Concentration of industry in cities created jobs
 - Pull factors:
 - Good wages
 - Broad range of jobs
 - Reputation for political and religious freedom
 - New steamships with “steerage”
 - Push factors
 - Poverty of farmers
 - Replaced by machines
 - Overcrowding in Europe
 - Religious persecution
 - Jews in Russia
- Migration so severe towns literally wiped out
 - New England
- Women’s need reduced on farm
 - Agricultural innovations, reduced subsistence tasks
 - Exodus to cities

Immigration

- Immigrants

- Northern European

- 1860s-1880s
 - Flocked to NE coast
 - Germans 3 million
 - English, Scottish, Welsh
 - Irish 1.5 million
 - “old immigrants”
 - Mainly English speaking
 - High literacy
 - High occupational skills

- West Coast

- Chinese
 - 81,000
 - Chinese Exclusion Act 1882

- 1890's “new” immigrants

- Italians, Greeks, Slavs, Jews, Armenians, Russians
 - Poor/illiterate
 - Unaccustomed to democracy
 - Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and Jewish



Characteristics

- Mainly single men
 - Called “birds of passage”
 - Embarked at Hamburg, Germany
 - Difficult journey
 - Often returned
 - Deplorable conditions
- Customs
 - Physical examinations
 - Entry points
 - Castle Garden, ,1855
 - Ellis Island, 1892 NY
 - Angel Island, 1910 CA
- Adjustment
 - Exchanged currency
 - Arranged lodgings
 - Purchased railroad

tickets



Ellis Island





U.S. Immigration Station. Angel Island, Cal.





Courtesy of the National Archives

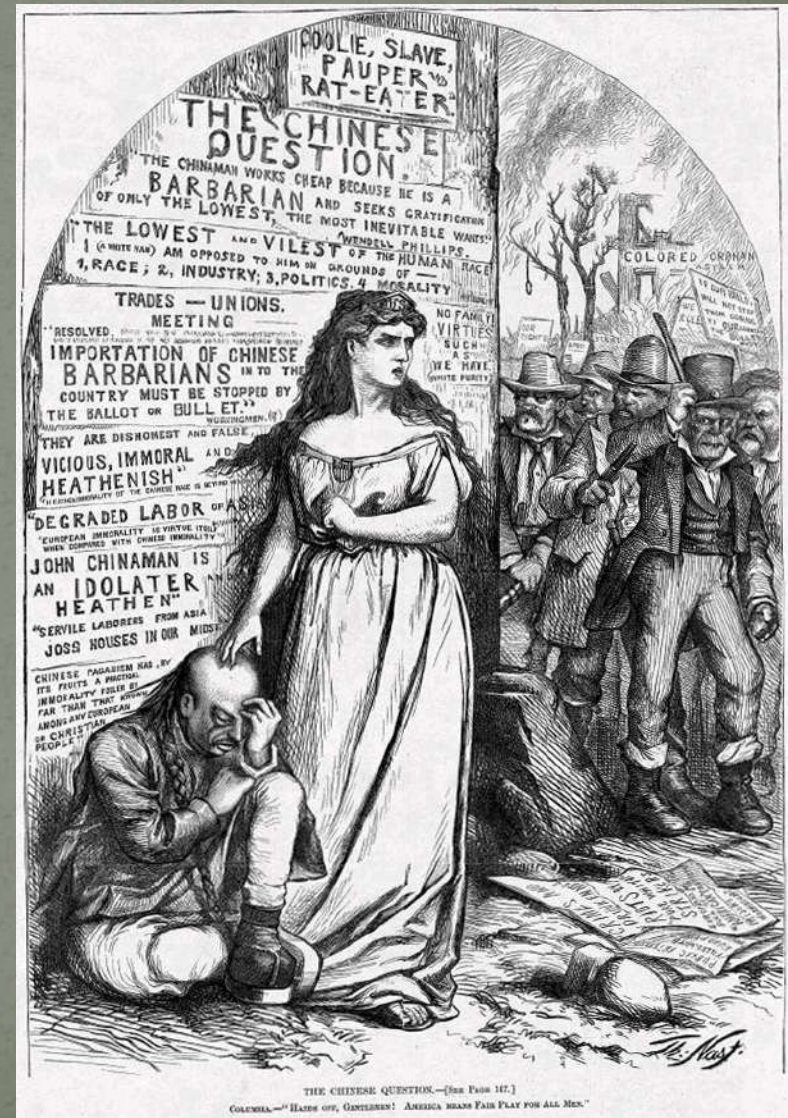
Restrictions on Immigration

- Chinese Exclusion Act 1882
 - Banned new immigrants from China
- 1885
 - Prohibited contract labor
 - To protect American workers
- Restrictions led by:
 - Unions
 - Nativists
 - Social Darwinists
 - Thought new immigrants “inferior”



Adjusting to Urban Society

- By 1900 = 40% of U.S. urban
- Chain Migration
 - Chinatown, Little Italy
- Adjustment
 - Ethnic neighborhoods
 - Skilled w/ Anglo-American customs
 - British Isles immigrants adaptation easier
 - Irish
 - Large population
 - Dominate Democratic party politics
 - Control Catholic church's hierarchy in major NE cities
 - New sense of Ethnic distinctiveness
 - Irish-American
 - To assimilate, or not?
 - Chinese, some Irish
 - Made enough money to return home to be successful
 - Nearly 50% went back to Italy



Slums and Ghettos



- Generally clustered within walking distance of manufacturing districts
- Began with landlords subdividing old buildings
 - Over packed with residents
 - Poor the renters, the worse the slum
 - Slums/tenements = 4,000 in one city block
- Ghettos
 - When pressure, law, and prejudice prevent from renting elsewhere
- Difficulties
 - Children
 - Whooping cough, scarlet fever, high IMR
 - Near Industrial districts
 - Noise, pollution, foul odors

Fashionable Avenues and Suburbs



- 1870s, 1880s
 - Wealthy, city dwellers moved to suburbs
 - Distance from tenements
- Middle-class
 - Copy rich
 - Live on outskirts
 - “suburban sprawl”
- Informal segregation
 - Separated by income
 - Trolley cars allow boundary expansion

Department Stores

- Lower-class spending
 - Encourage spending of lower-classes
 - “high-quality, low-cost” merchandise advertized
- New Stores
 - Macy’s New York
 - Wannamaker’s Philly
 - Marshall Fields Chicago
 - Advertised “rock-bottom” prices
 - Price wars
 - End of season sales



Working-Class Politics and Reform

- Big difference between upper/middle class and working class
 - Highlighted in growing urban centers
- Political Bosses and Machine Politics
 - Early 19th century, swelling urban poor gave rise to new types of politicians
 - Listened and lobbied to improve the poor's lot
 - Presided over city's "machine"
 - Unofficial political organization designed to keep a party or faction in office
 - Assisted local ward and precinct captains
 - Enormous influence
 - Often did help immigrants
- Tammany Hall
 - Started as fraternal order after revolutionary war
 - Democratic, 1830s-1930s
 - Other machines in Baltimore, Philly, Atlanta, and San Francisco
 - Controlled fire and police departments
 - Rewarded friends
 - Tax breaks for contractors
 - Welfare agent
 - Needed to be viewed as generous
 - Tangled urban services with corrupt politics
- Boss Tweed
 - 1869-1871
 - Put city \$70 million in debt
 - Satirized by Thomas Nast
 - Convicted of fraud and corruption in 1873



A black and white portrait of a man with a beard, wearing a top hat and a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is seated and looking slightly to the right. The portrait is enclosed in a decorative oval frame with intricate scrollwork. Above the frame is a banner with the text "OUR BOSS" in a stylized font. The entire image is set within a rectangular border with a repeating pattern.

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Battling Poverty: The Awakening of Reform

- Jacob Riis
 - Believed basic cause of urban distress was immigrants lack of self-discipline and self-control
 - Focused on moral improvements
 - “Americanize” immigrants
 - Targets youth first
 - Hartley, Brace, YMCA, YWCA
 - Religious, moral
 - Offered alternatives to slums
- New Approaches
 - Salvation Army
 - 1865, England
 - Food, shelter, temp. employment
 - Slum brigades
 - New York Charity Organization Society 1882
 - Scientific approach
 - Josephine Shaw Lowell
 - Divided NYC into districts
 - Kept files, self-sufficiency
- Moral and Purity Campaign
 - 1872
 - NY Society for Suppression of Vice
 - Created by Anthony Comstock
 - “Comstock Law” to ban mailing of lewd materials and photos
 - Close gambling, lottery, censor obscene publications
 - Prostitution
 - Big issue
 - Morally wrong, but sense of freedom and source of income for women
 - 1892
 - Gambling dens, saloons, and brothels targeted
 - Charles Parkhurst
 - City Vigilance League
 - Only lasted 3 years



Social Gospel

- 1870s, 1880s
 - Protestant ministers
 - Radical alternatives
 - Rich deserved part of the blame, had responsibility
 - Wanted social justice for the poor
 - Applying Christian principles to fix social problems
- William S. Rainsford
 - “institutional church movements”
 - Help immigrants
 - Boy’s clubs, rec facilities for poor, industrial training programs
 - J.P. Morgan helped
- Social Gospel Movement
 - 1870s, Washington Gladden (protestant)
 - True Christianity commits those to fight social injustice anywhere it exists
- Walter Rauschenbusch
 - Minister in “hell’s kitchen”
 - Christian society would unite all churches, reorganize industrial system, and work for international peace
 - Federal Council of Churches 1908
 - Encouraged middle class protestants to attack social problems



Boys Club Band, WATERBURY, Conn.

Religion and Society

- All religions found need to adapt to stresses and challenges of modern urban living

- **Catholics**

- Lots of immigrants
 - Defended unions

- **Protestants**

- Dwight Moody
 - Moody Bible Institute
 - Chicago 1889

- **Salvation Army**

- Imported from England 1879
 - Provided basic necessities for homeless and poor
 - Preached Christian gospel



Settlement Houses

- New Approach

- Relief workers live in slums and ghettos

Young, idealistic well-educated middle-class men and women

- See struggle “first hand”

- Jane Addams

- Advocate

Most famous

- Hull House –Chicago

- 1889

- By 1895 50 Settlement houses in nation

- Usually led by women
 - Sisterhood of reform
 - New hope

- Taught English
 - Pioneered early-childhood education
 - Taught industrial arts
 - Est. neighborhood theaters and musical schools

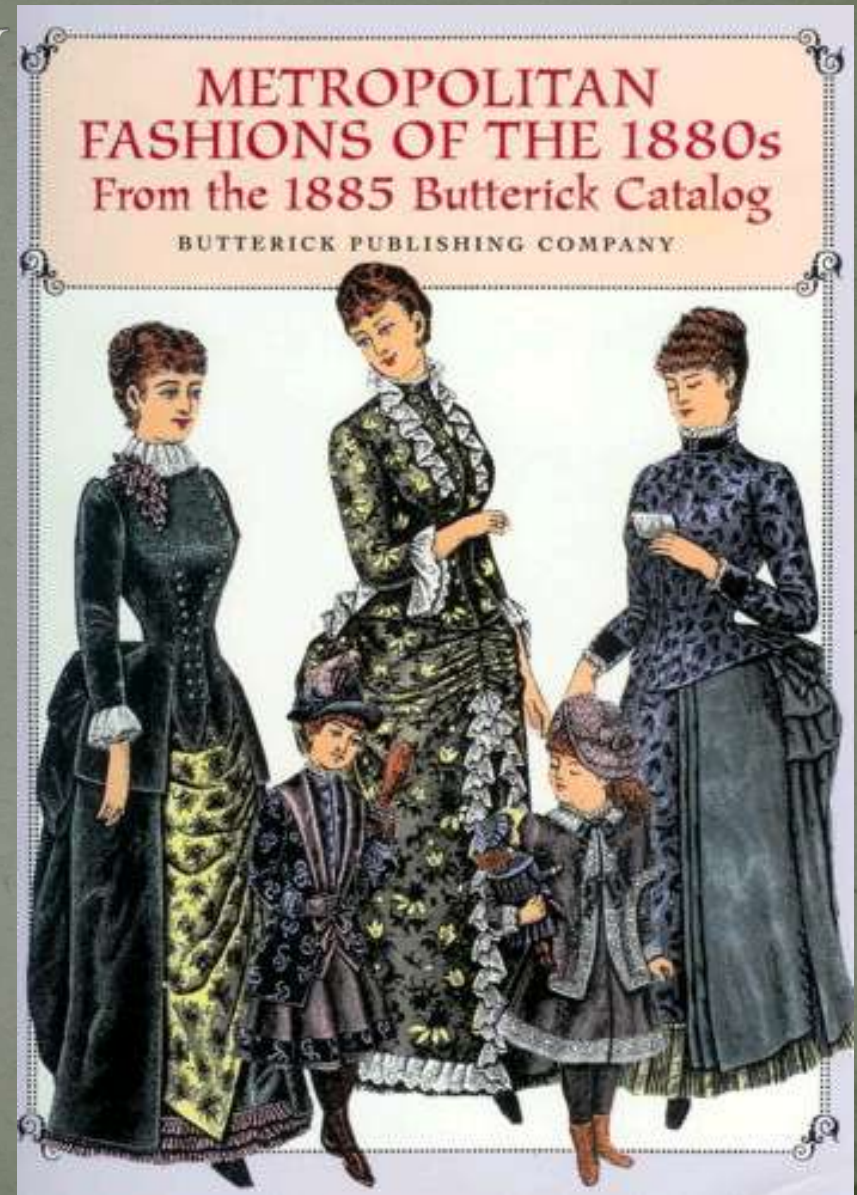


Middle Class Society and Culture

- Victorian Era
 - After Queen Victoria
 - Set of social ideas and morals
- E.L. Godkin
 - *The Nation*
 - Minister
 - Believed financial success of middle and upper class linked to their superior talent, classes were linked to their superior talent, intelligence, morality, and self-control
 - Separate spheres
 - Reinforced by:
 - Elegant department stores
 - Elite colleges and universities
- Manners and Morals
 - Victorian Views
 - Emerged 1830s-1840s
 - Resisted on the assumptions:
 - Human nature malleable, could be improved
 - Social value of work
 - Development of self-discipline, self-control
 - Advance progress of the nation
 - Good manners
 - Value of literature, fine arts
 - Reformers
 - Henry Ward Beecher
 - manners/ protocol
 - Pre-civil war: slavery/alcoholism
 - Carrie Nation
 - hatchet/ saloons
 - Catherine Beecher
 - *The American Woman's Home* 1869

Cult of Domesticity

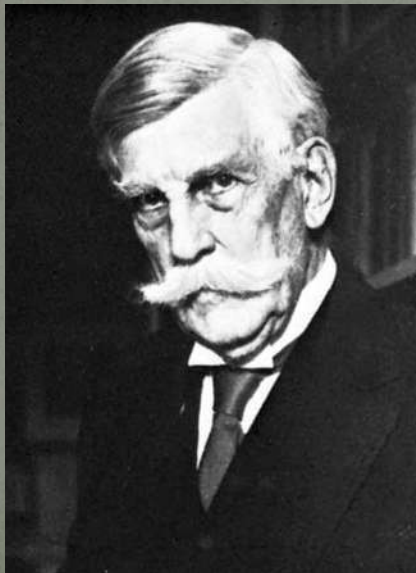
- 1840s
 - Architects, clergyman, and other “professionals” promoted the idea
- 1880s, 1890s
 - New obligation: foster an artistic environment to nurture family’s cultural improvement



Intellectual and Cultural Movements

- Social Sciences and Professions

- Application of scientific method and theory of evolution
- New social sciences
 - Behavioral psychology, sociology, anthropology, and political science



- Professions

- Law
 - Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. argues law should evolve with times
 - Clarence Darrow
 - Criminal behavior could be caused by background

- The African-American Debate

- W.E.B. Du Bois
 - Advocated full rights for Blacks and equal access to education
- Booker T. Washington
 - Hard work, racism would disappear

Public Education



- Concern that Americans lacked sufficient knowledge
- Reformers
 - William Torrey Harris
 - # of years in school increased
 - Order and punctuality in classroom
 - Compulsory attendance
 - Tenure system
 - Kindergarten copied from Germany
 - By 1900- 90% literacy in elem.
- Other Reforms
 - Tax-supported high schools
- Catholics
 - Opened parochial schools
 - Felt public school was anti-catholic

Transformation of Higher Education

- 1900
 - 1880-1900
 - 150 colleges
 - Morrill Land Grant Act 1862, 1890
 - Only 4% of 18-21 enrolled in college
 - Wealthy capitalists endowed schools
 - Women's colleges
- Requirements
 - More electives
 - Modern languages and sciences
 - 1st generation of scholars who could compete with Europe
- Medical Schools
 - Revolutionized by Cornell and Harvard
 - Changed lax standards
 - Copied European curriculum
 - Other degrees followed suit:
 - Law programs
 - Wide variety of subjects



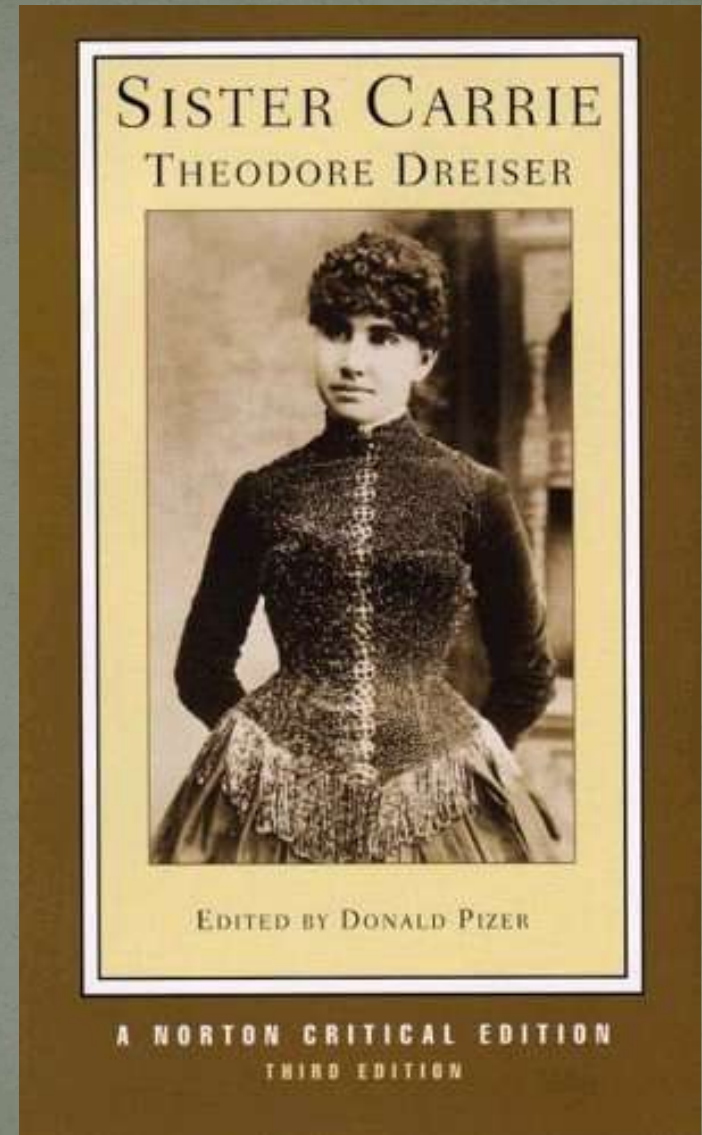
Modernism in Architecture and Painting

- Architecture
 - Followed Louis Sullivan
 - Chicago 1880s, 1890s
 - Building's form should follow function
 - Rejected "historical style"
 - Frank Lloyd Wright
 - Employee of Sullivan
 - Liked "organic" architecture
 - Prairie houses 1890s
 - Chicago
 - Anti-Victorian
 - Daniel H. Burnham
 - Chicago
 - Columbian Exposition 1893 (World's Fair)
 - Revived classical/Greek architecture



Cultures in Conflict

- Genteel Tradition and its Critics
 - 1870s, 1880s
 - Movement to improve American taste in interior furnishing, textiles, ceramics, wallpaper, and books
 - Goal: create a national artistic culture
 - New guidelines for literature
 - Remove sexual allusions, vulgar slang, etc.
- Rebels
 - Mark Twain *Huckleberry Finn*
 - 1st great “realist” author
 - Theodore Dreiser *Sister Carrie*
 - caused sensation and shocked moral “sensibilities”



Painting

- Winslow Homer
 - Foremost American painter of seascapes and watercolors
- New generation
 - Thomas Eakins
 - Painted everyday lives of working-class
 - Used photographs to study anatomy
 - James McNeill Whistler
 - *Arrangement in Grey*
 - Study of color
 - influenced modern art
 - Mary Cassatt
 - Portrait painter

- Ashcan School
 - Social realists
 - Painted everyday life



Working-class leisure

- Pre-Civil War
 - Idleness dangerous
 - Turn of the Century
 - Reforms urged “wholesome” recreation
 - Wealthy: museums, concert halls
 - Working class: saloons, dancing halls, boxing, professional sports
 - Streets
 - Entertainment for poor
 - Hive of neighborhood social life
 - Saloons
 - New Orleans Jazz
 - Scott Joplin
- “Maple Leaf Rag”



Working-class leisure

- Vaudeville
 - Evolved from minstrel shows
 - Animal routine, dance numbers, blackface acts
 - Barnum/Bailey's Circus 1880s
 - Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show
- Amusement Parks
 - Physical escape
 - NY's Coney Island
- Dance Halls
 - Female wage-earners escape
- Ragtime
 - Originated in 1880s with Black saloons
 - Introduced 1890s, "craze"



Sports

- Spectator

- Boxing

- John L. Sullivan
 - Mainly males watched, all classes

- Baseball

- Urban game that demanded teamwork
 - Organized teams into leagues

- Football

- 1st intercollegiate game 1869
 - Mainly college sport

- Basketball

- Invented in 1891 at Springfield college in Mass
 - 1st profession league 1898

- Amateur

- Healthy exercise now important to middle and upper classes
 - Golf, Tennis, croquet, bicycling
 - Most in private clubs





From Victorian to New Women

- The “sphere” widens
 - Example:
 - Frances Willard
- Women’s Clubs
 - Took on civic affairs
- College
 - Oberlin 1836
 - Barnard 1889, Pembroke 1891, Radcliffe 1894
- Bicycling
 - Exploration, freedom
 - “split-skirt”
- Divorce Rare
 - 1880= 1 in 21
 - 1900= 1 in 12

