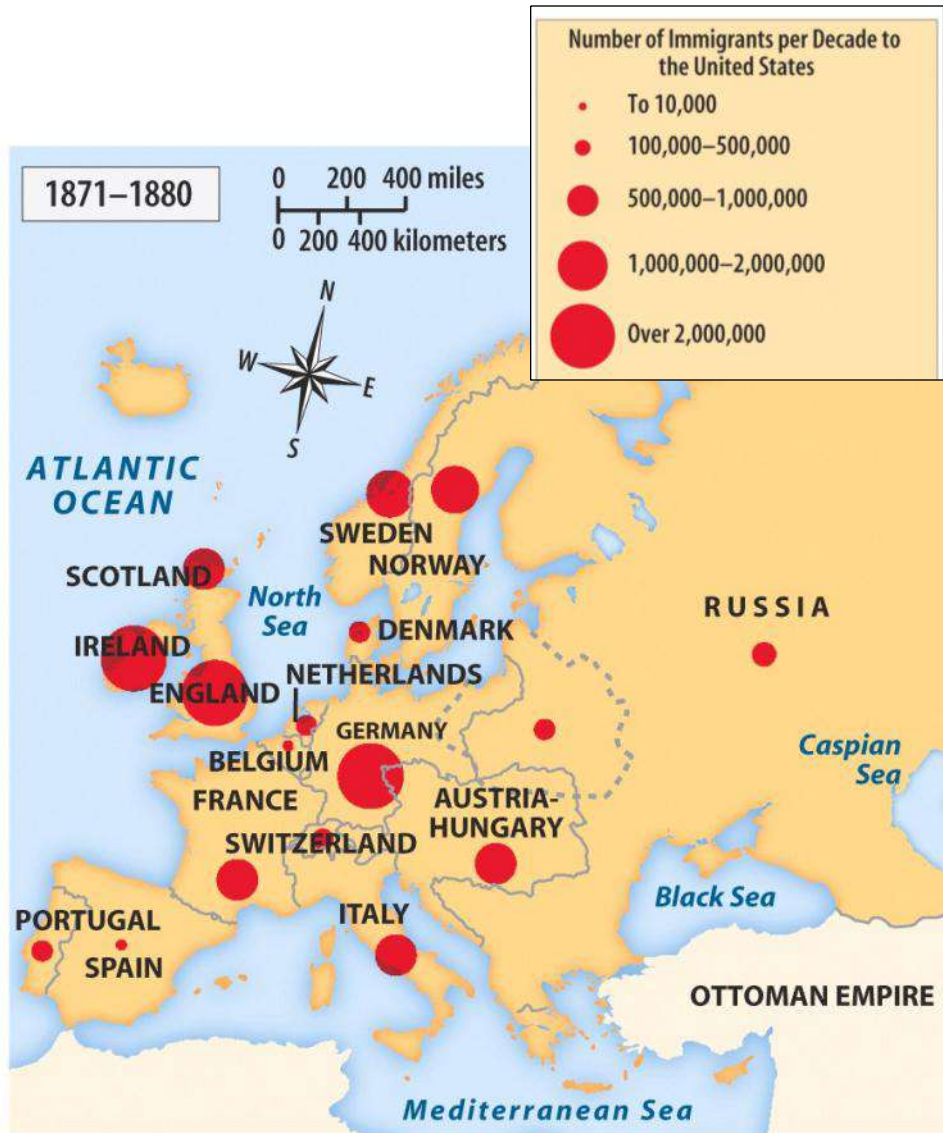


- Essential Question:
  - What impact did immigration and urbanization have on American life during the Gilded Age (1870-1900)?

# What was immigration like during the Gilded Age?



From 1880 to 1921,  
a record 23 million  
immigrants arrived  
in the U.S. looking for  
jobs and opportunities

The USA did not have  
quotas (limits) on how  
many immigrants from  
a particular country  
could enter the country

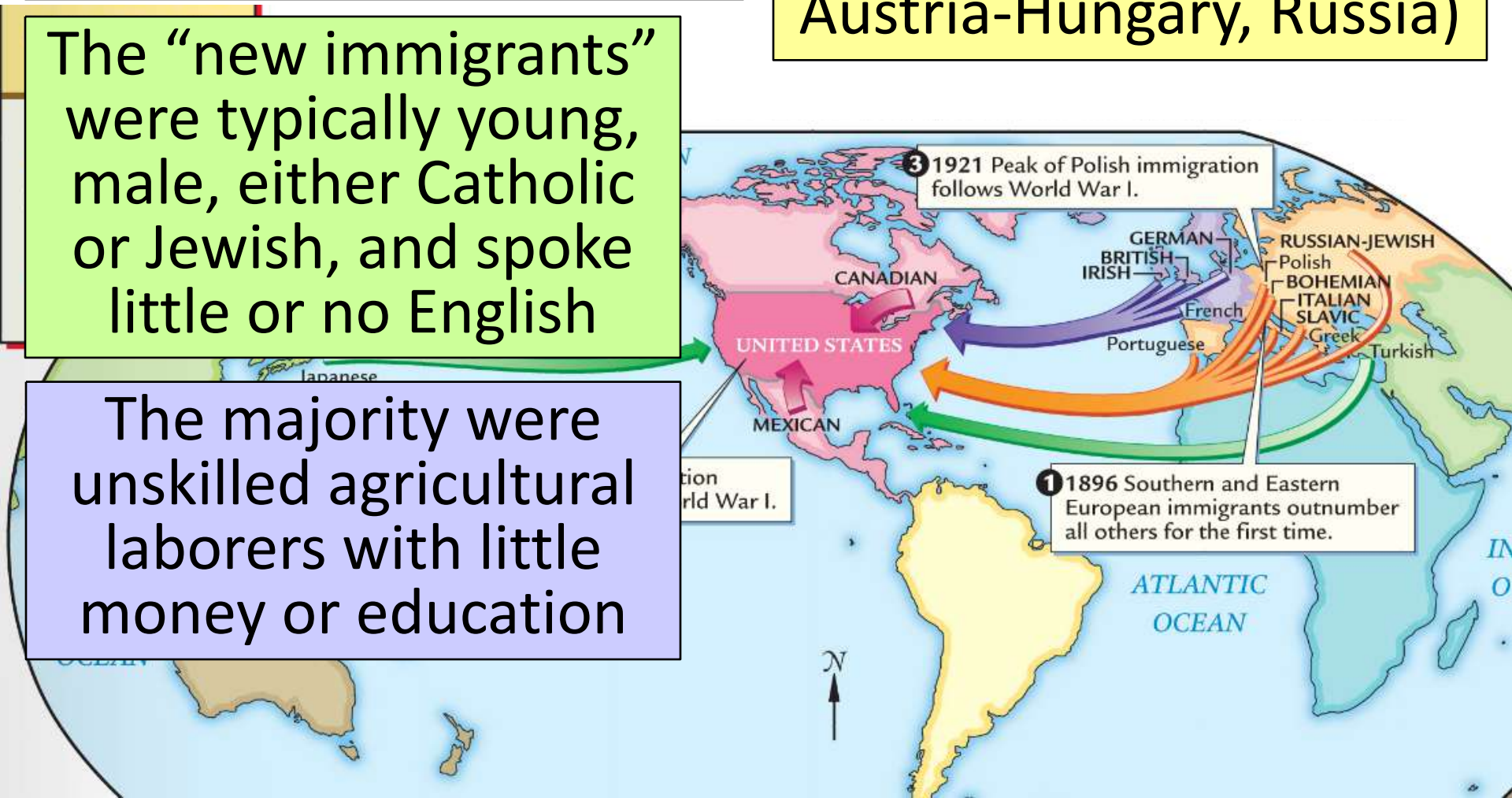


From the colonial era to 1880, most immigrants came from England, Ireland, or Germany in Northern Europe

The “new immigrants” were typically young, male, either Catholic or Jewish, and spoke little or no English

The majority were unskilled agricultural laborers with little money or education

Between 1880 and 1921, 70% of all immigrants to the USA came from southern and eastern Europe (Italy, Poland, Austria-Hungary, Russia)





75% of all immigrants entered the USA through the immigration center at Ellis Island, in New York

Immigrants had to pass a health examination and anyone with a serious health problem or disease was not let in

Inspectors questioned immigrants to make sure that they were not criminals, could work, and had some money (\$25)



Many Americans expressed nativism and viewed immigrants with a sense of fear, suspicion, and hostility

Nativists had deep-seated prejudices about immigrants based on ethnicity, religion, political and social beliefs

Many Americans accused immigrants of taking jobs away from “real” Americans and called for quotas that would limit the number of immigrants







# What were cities like in the Gilded Age?



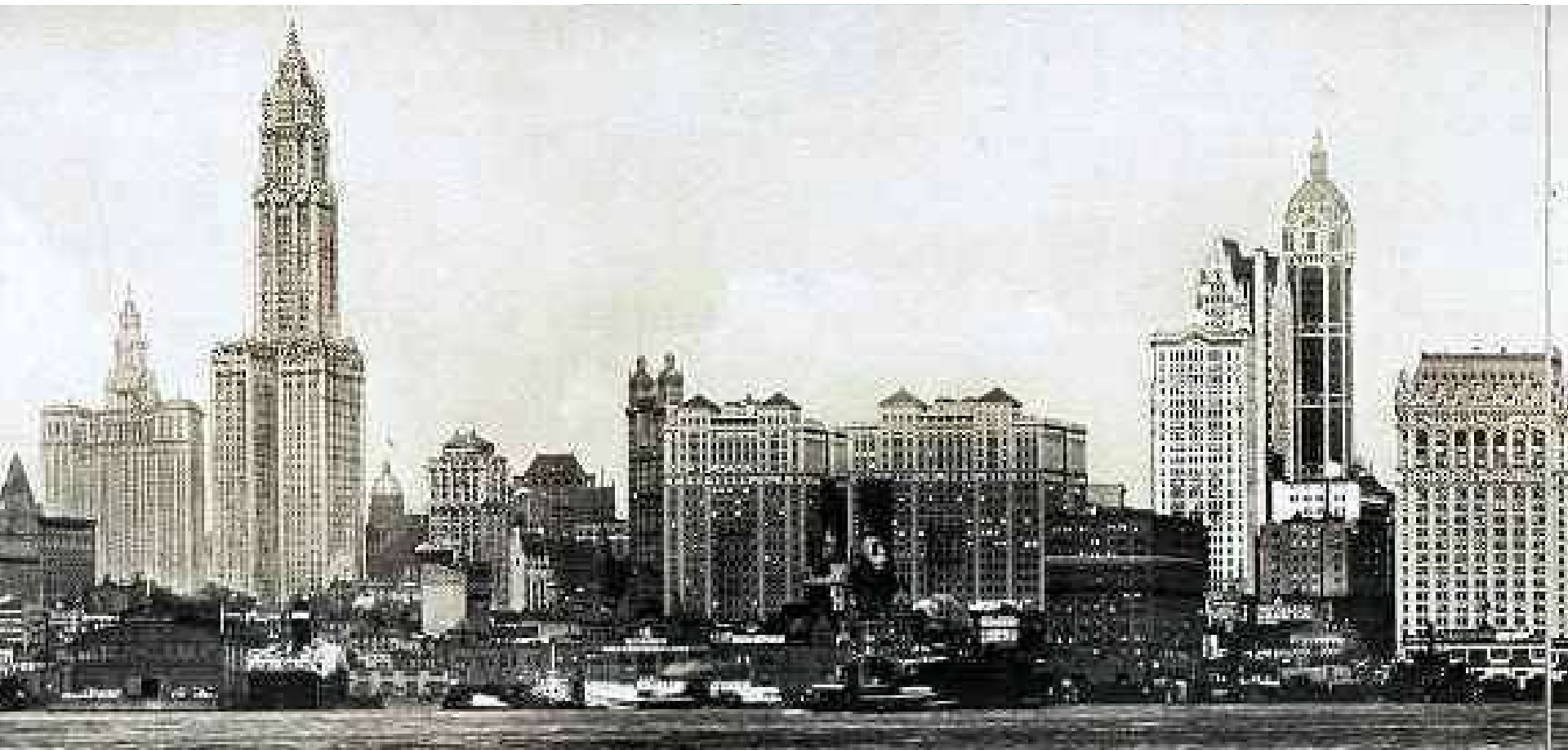


# The Gilded Age experienced massive urbanization

In 1850, only 15% of Americans lived in cities...

...By 1900, 40% of Americans lived in cities

City growth was due to rural Americans moving to cities and immigrants entering the USA





Engineering innovations, such as expansive bridges and skyscrapers, led to modern American cities

Cities expanded outward from industrial centers in the central business districts to a ring of outer suburbs



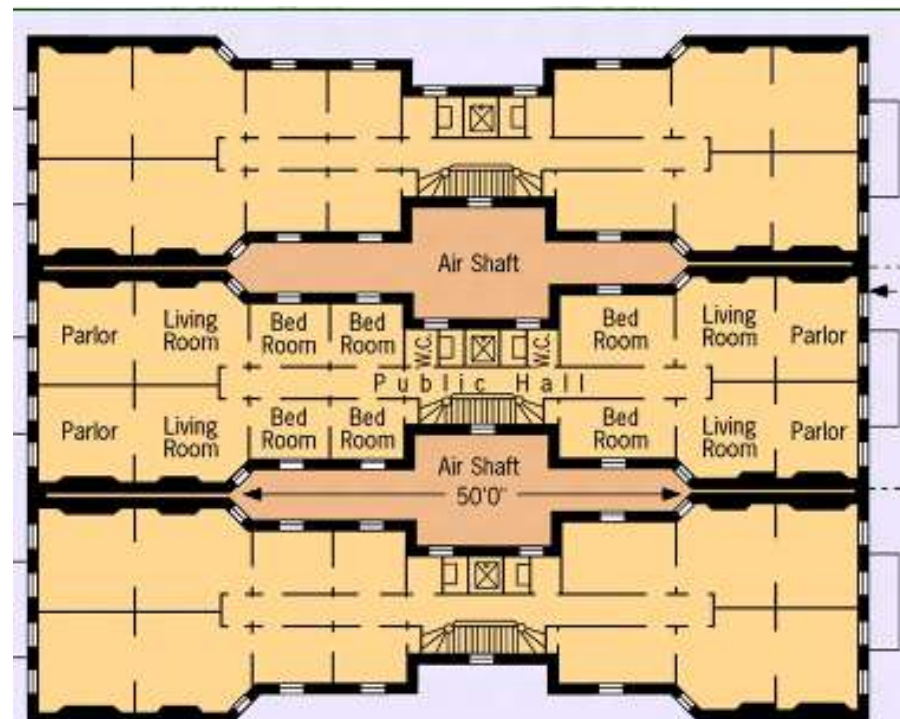
As cities grew larger and beyond walking distance, trolley lines, elevated rail lines, and subways were created



Most American cities were not prepared for such rapid population growth

Most urban immigrants lived in tenements: low rent apartments built the poorest parts of town called slums

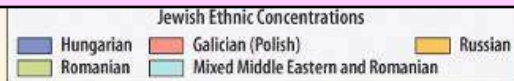
Many urban poor developed lung disease or tuberculosis; About 60% of immigrant babies died before their first birthday



About 2/3 of immigrants settled in cities, such as New York, Chicago, Boston, or Philadelphia and lived in ethnic neighborhoods called enclaves



Enclaves provided new immigrants with a sense of community and security, as the immigrants were surrounded by the familiar customs, food and language of their homeland





# Ellis Island

- Most immigrants in the Gilded Age came through Ellis Island.
- Use the handout to learn more about immigration during the Gilded Age.





# What were working conditions like in the Gilded Age?



The majority of immigrants worked in industrial jobs

Industries were rapidly growing and in need of cheap workers

Most immigrants were unskilled and were willing to accept almost any kind of job, no matter how un-attractive or low paying





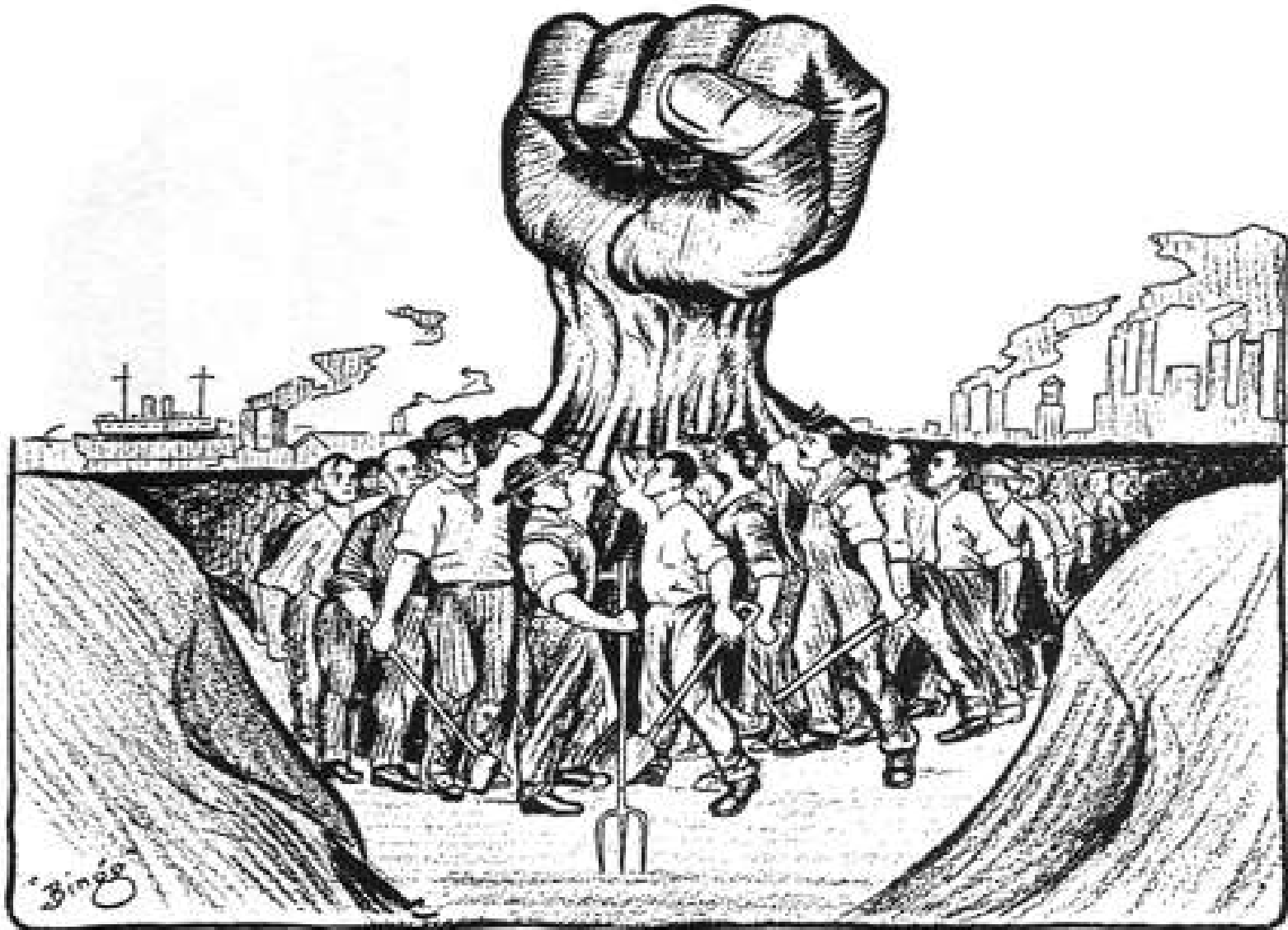
# What problems did workers face in the Gilded Age?



THE PROTECTORS OF OUR INDUSTRIES.

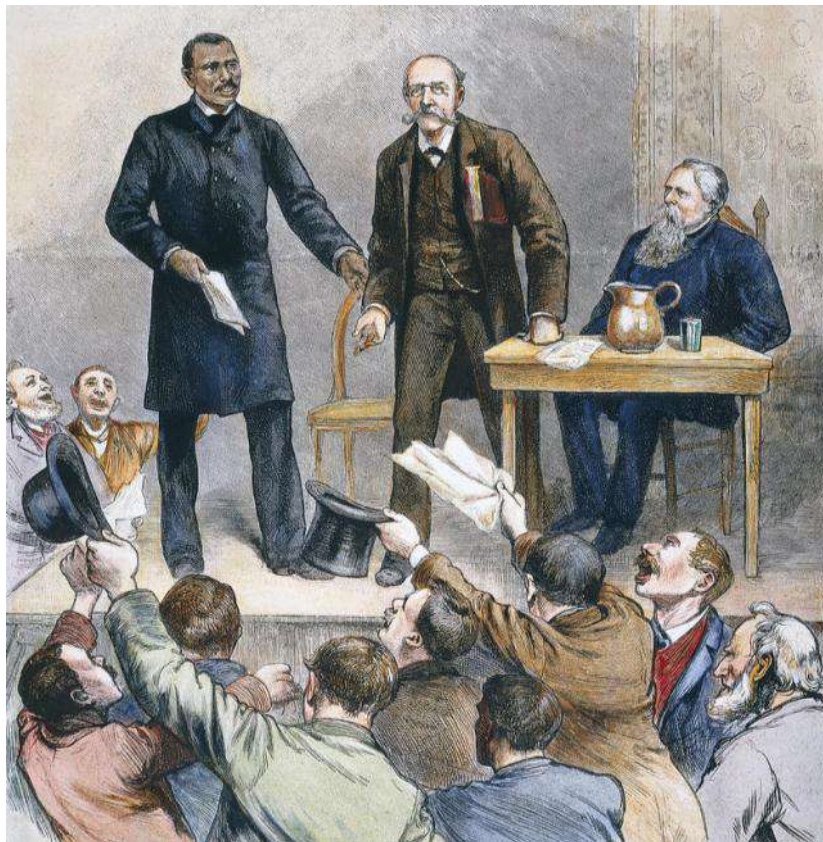


In response to the low wages, long hours, and dangerous working conditions, many workers joined labor unions to collectively bargain for improvements



# Among the first labor unions in America was the Knights of Labor

The Knights of Labor  
was open to all  
workers regardless of  
race, gender, or skill



The most successful union was the American Federation of Labor (AFL) led by Samuel Gompers

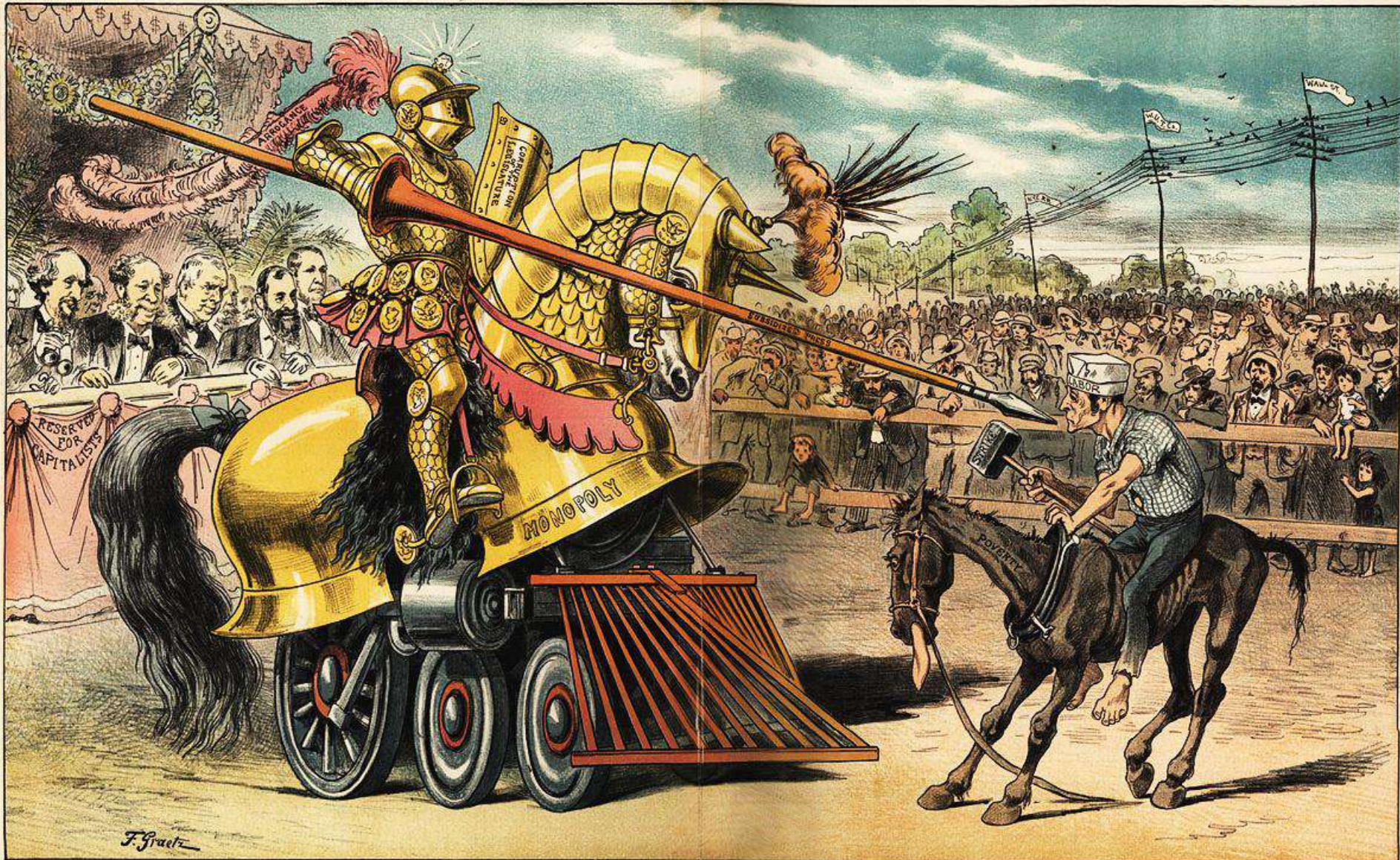


The AFL only included skilled workers, but it used collective bargaining to gain better pay, shorter hours, and better working conditions for its union members

Most workers were unskilled and ineligible to join the AFL



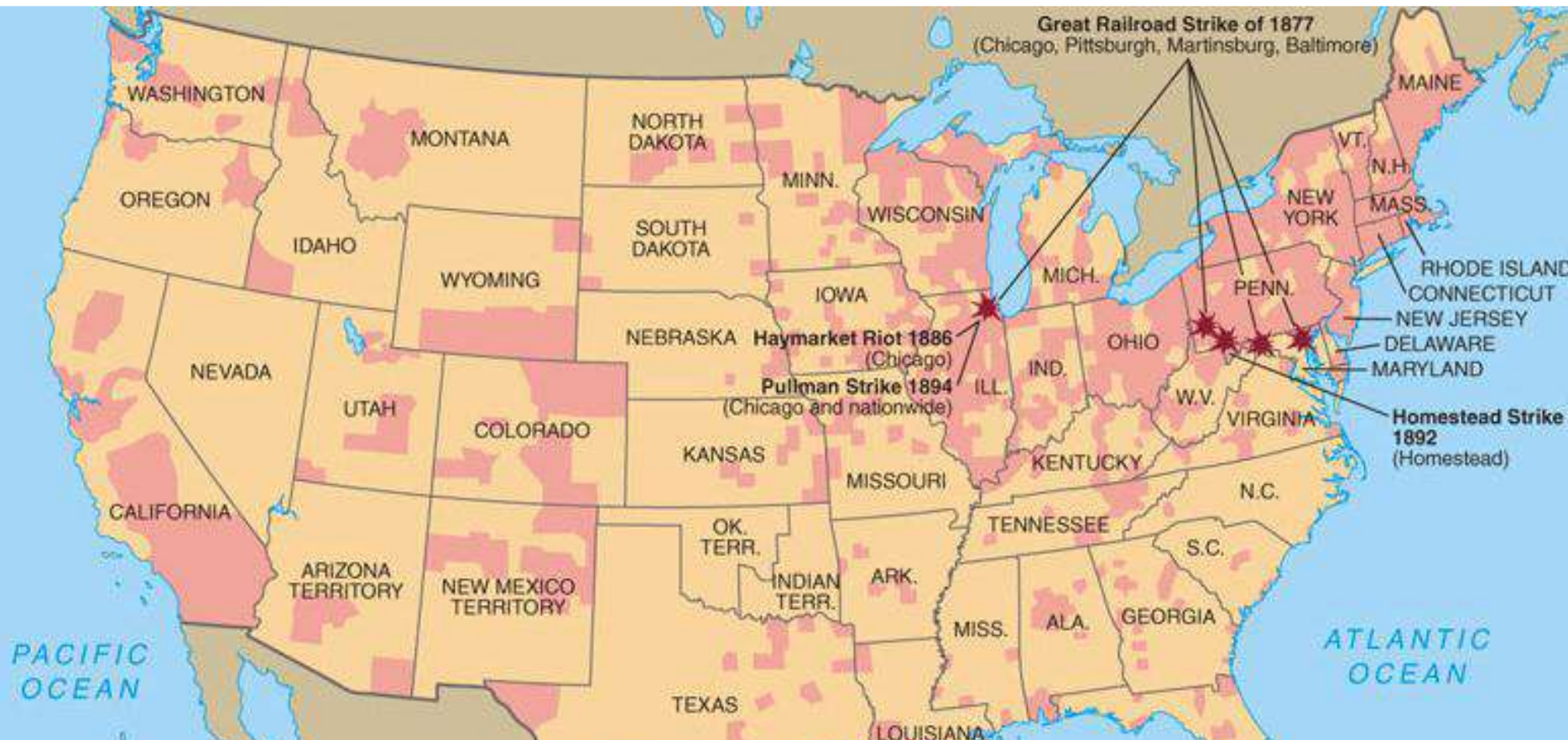
By the end of the Gilded Age, only 4% of all American workers were unionized



THE TOURNAMENT OF TODAY.—A SET-TO BETWEEN LABOR AND MONOPOLY.



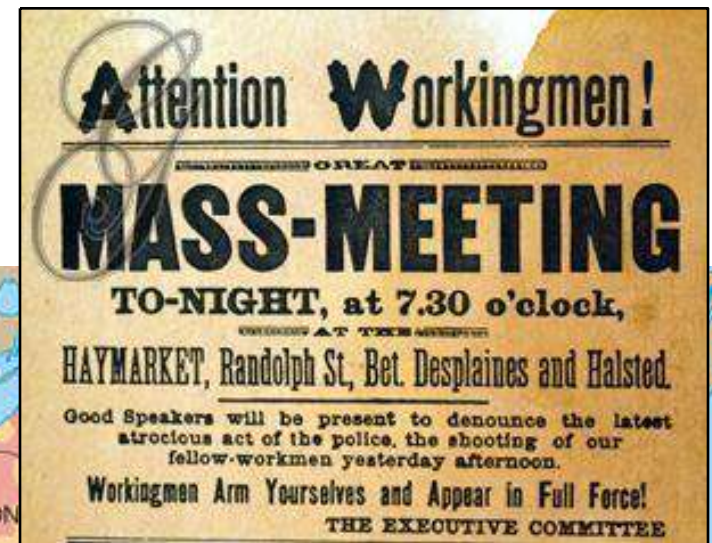
One of the tactics used by unions was to strike: Strikes were designed to stop production in order to force management to accept union demands



Business leaders resisted strikes by hiring replacement workers or private police to break up strikes

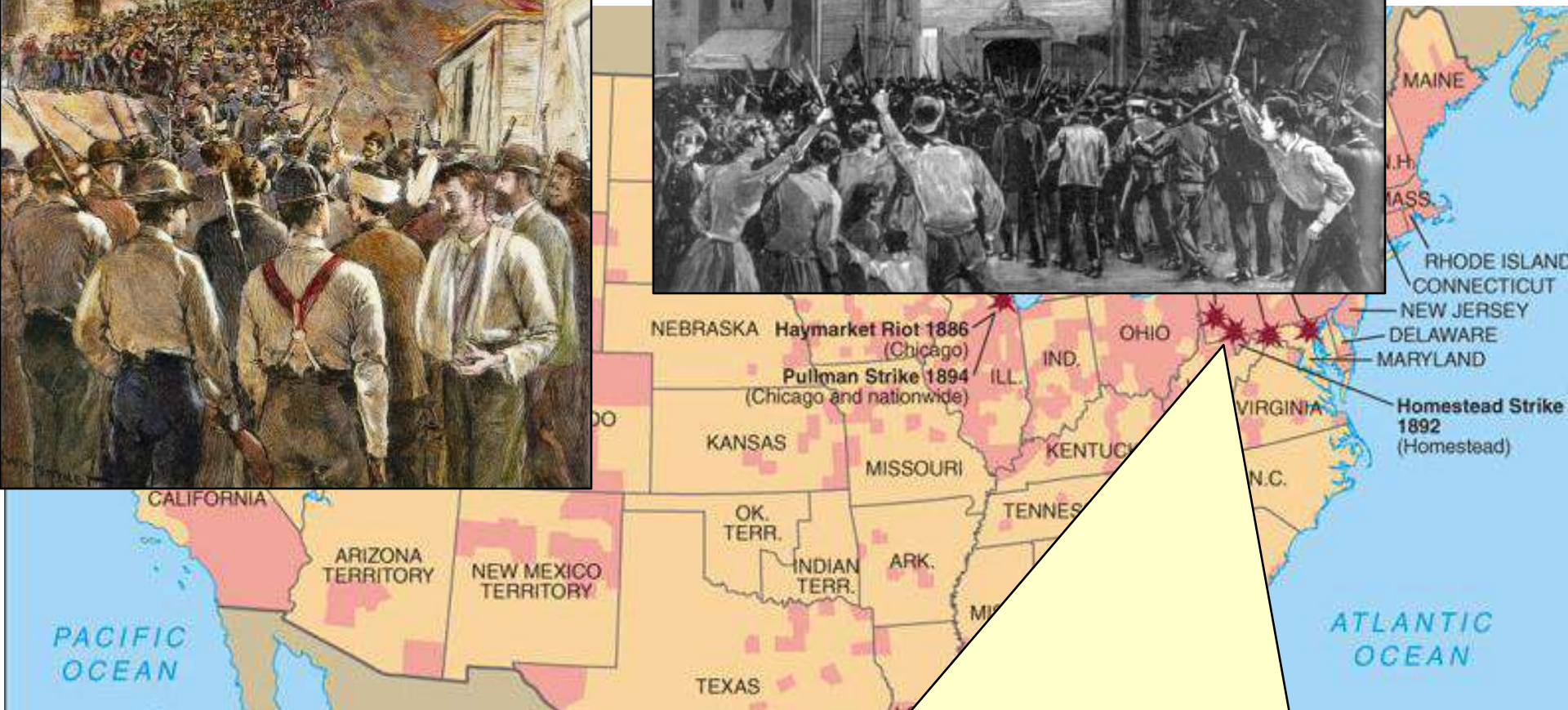
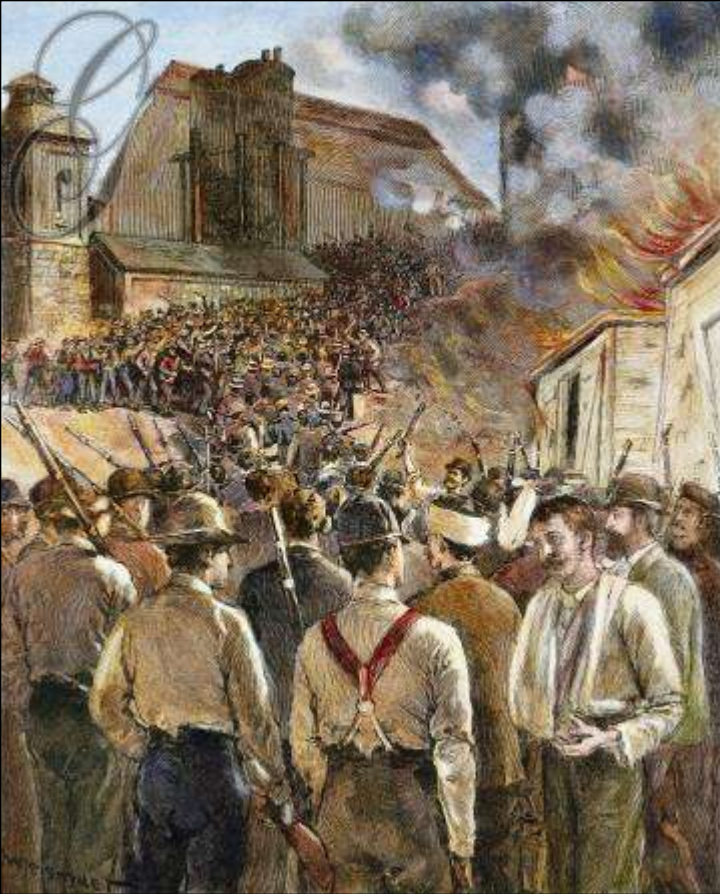
During some strikes, violence broke out





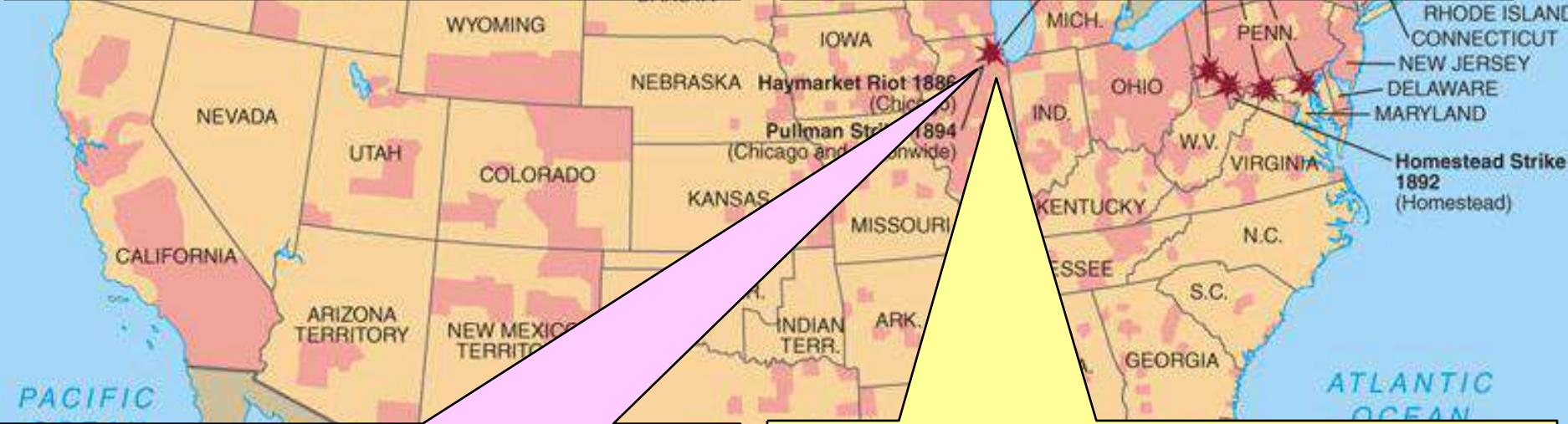
During the Chicago Haymarket Strike (1886), unionists demanded an 8-hr day; When violence broke out, public opinion turned against unions, viewing them as violent and “un-American”





Violence erupted in the Homestead Strike (1892) at Carnegie's steel plant; Federal troops were called to re-open the factory with replacement workers





Railroad workers led a national strike when the Pullman Palace Company cut wages by 50%...

...President Cleveland sent the army to end the strike; Strikers in 27 states resisted & dozens died

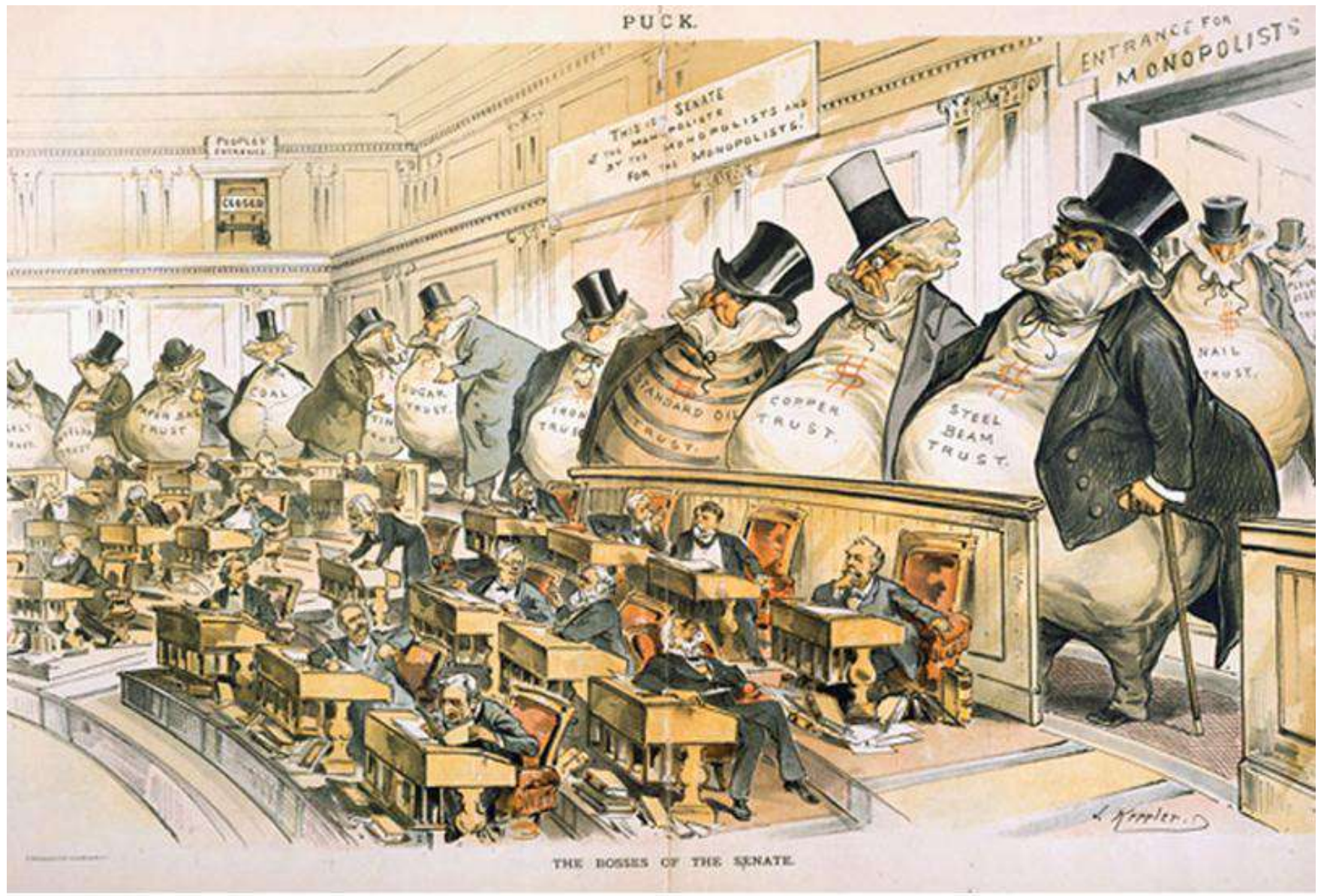
- Essential Question:
  - What impact did immigration and urbanization have on American life during the Gilded Age (1870-1900)?



What problems did government face in the Gilded Age?



The Gilded Age was an era of political corruption in national, state, and urban governments





Many city governments were run by political machines

Political machines were parties led by a powerful boss who controlled a network of politicians

Political machines rallied citizens, especially immigrants, to vote for them by offering services



4E863.24 TAMMANY HALL BARBECUE, 1884.



Many city governments were run by political machines

Because machine politicians controlled access to city jobs, business licenses, and building projects, they tended to be corrupt

The most notorious urban politician was Boss Tweed of New York's Tammany Hall political machine

The "Tweed Ring" defrauded New York City of millions of dollars until it was exposed by reporter Thomas Nast

Many politicians used fraud to win elections, used their influence for personal gain (graft), or took bribes



THE STREET.

HON. WILLIAM M. TWEED. "Why, a fellow feels quite Honest in this Neighborhood."

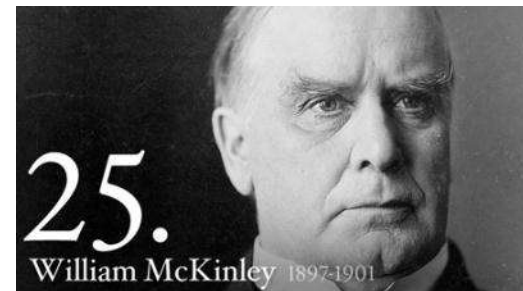
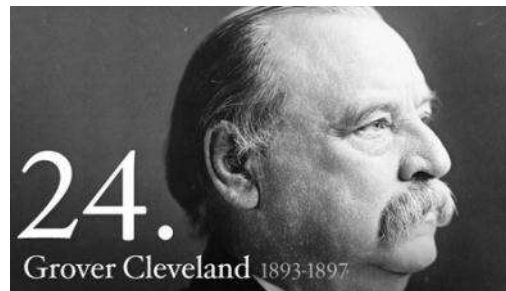
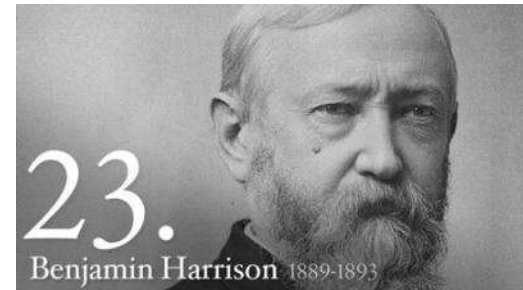
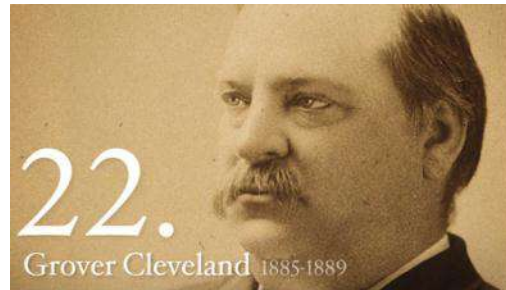
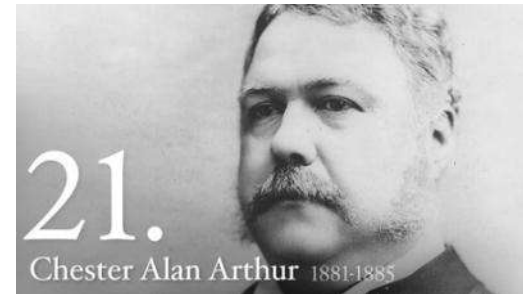
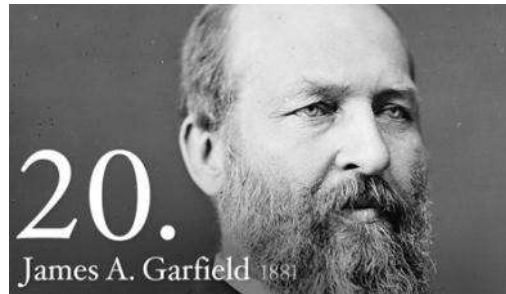
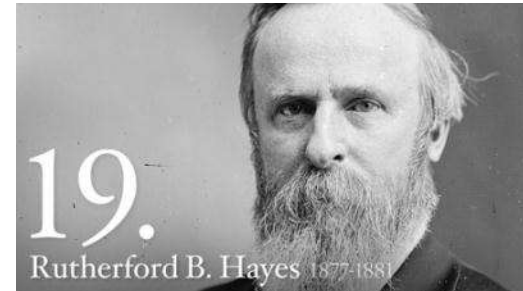
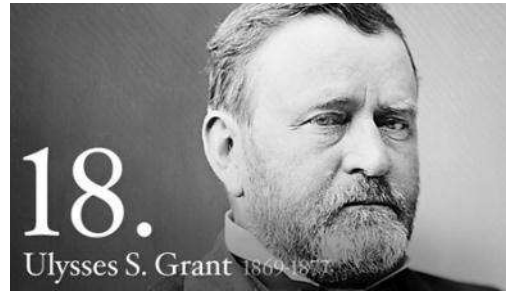
Many government positions, such as tax collectors or post office officials, were appointed as rewards for loyalty to a political party (called patronage)

Congress passed the **Pendleton Act in 1883** that created merit-based exams for most civil service jobs in the federal government





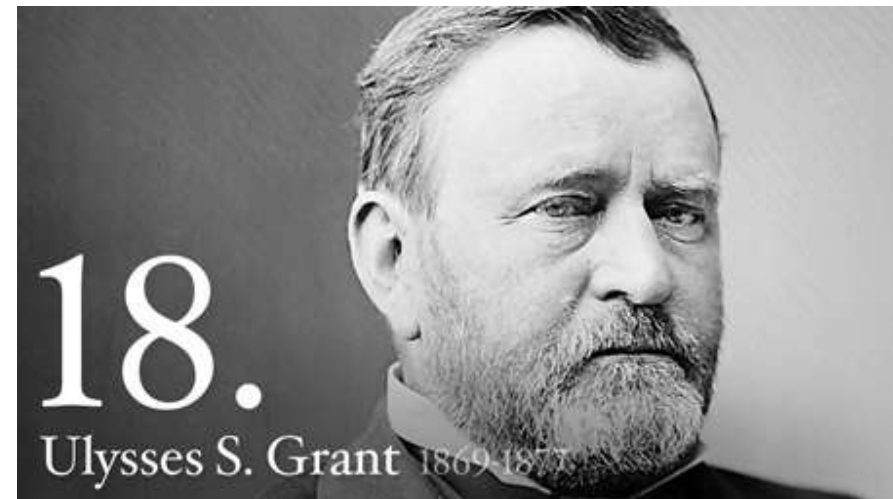
In the Gilded Age,  
presidents were seen  
as less powerful than  
monopolists like  
Carnegie, JP Morgan,  
and Rockefeller



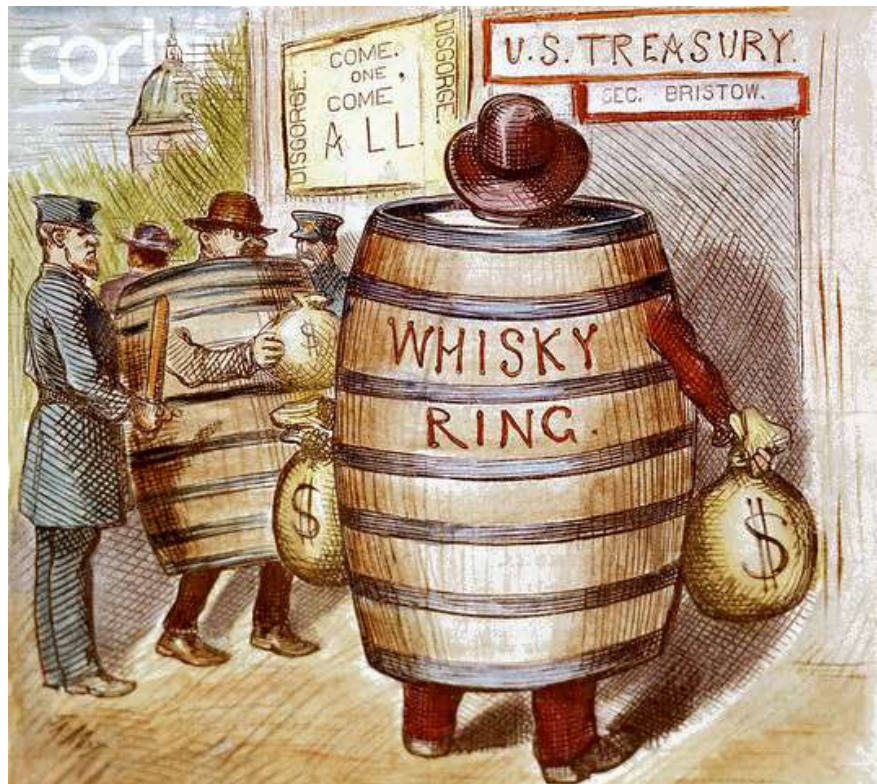


Grant was the most important president of the era, but his administration was plagued by scandals

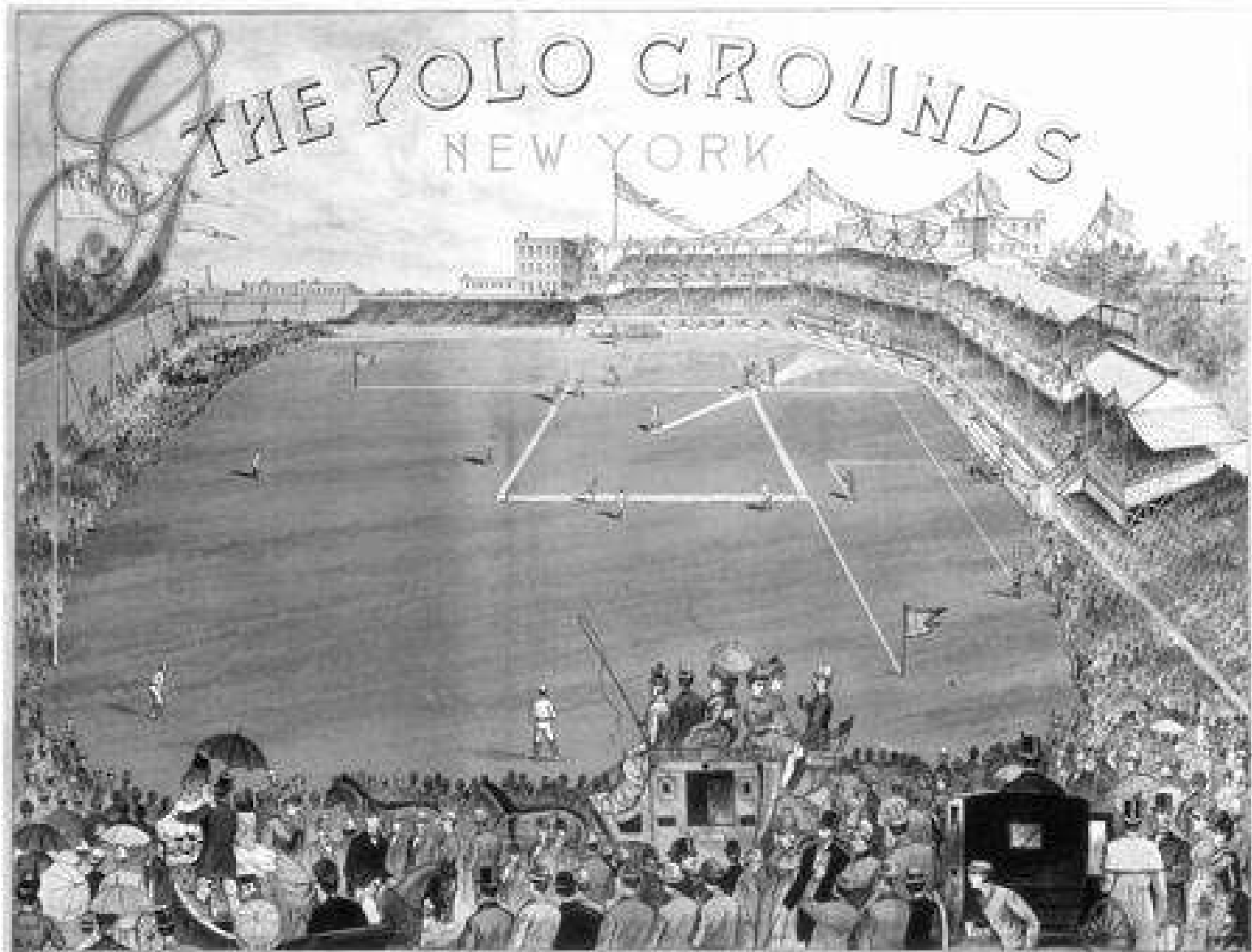
The worst scandal was Crédit Mobilier which involved bribes by railroad companies to gain lands grants



Whiskey Ring involved companies bribing government officials to avoid paying taxes



# What was leisure time in the Gilded Age?



SEASON OF 1887.  
HOME GAMES OF THE NEW YORK BALL CLUB FOR THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.



## A LOOK AT THE FACTS

A shorter workweek allowed many Americans more time for leisure activities, and they certainly took advantage of it.



- In 1890, an average of 60,000 fans attended professional baseball games daily.
- In 1893, a crowd of 50,000 attended the Princeton-Yale football game.
- *A Trip to Chinatown*, one of the popular new musical comedies, ran for an amazing 650 performances in the 1890s.
- In 1900, 3 million phonograph records of Broadway-produced musical comedies were sold.
- The love of the popular musicals contributed to the sale of \$42 million worth of musical instruments in 1900.
- By 1900, almost 500 men's social clubs existed. Nine hundred college fraternity and sorority chapters had over 150,000 members.

While working and living conditions were difficult for poor immigrants, middle-class Americans actually saw their work time decrease

Many middle-class Americans fought off city congestion and their jobs by enjoying amusement parks, bicycling, vaudeville theater (variety shows), and sports such as baseball and boxing

### Changes in the U.S. Workweek

Year	Hours per week
1860	66
1890	60
1920	51

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

Conclusions: During the Gilded Age,  
the United States was a land of opportunity

Millions of  
“new immigrants”  
swarmed to the  
U.S. from Eastern  
and Southern  
Europe, swelling  
American cities

Urbanization  
stimulated industry  
and modernized  
cities, but led to  
terrible conditions  
for poor workers  
and immigrants

The industrial revolution  
created jobs in Eastern factories





# Identify the top 5 changes of the Gilded Age

## Rank order and be ready to explain your list

### URBANIZATION

- The influx of immigrants and migrants causes a population boom in cities.
- City services, such as housing, transportation, water, and sanitation, are stretched to the limit.
- Reformers try to fix urban problems through education, training, charity, and political action.

### IMMIGRATION AND MIGRATION

- Poverty and persecution cause millions of people to leave Europe, China, Japan, the Caribbean, and Mexico for the United States.
- Immigrants are forced to adapt to a new language and culture.
- Changes in agriculture cause people to migrate from the rural U.S. to the cities in search of work.
- Many immigrants and migrants face discrimination in their efforts to find jobs and housing.

### POLITICS

- Political machines develop to take advantage of the needs of immigrants and the urban poor.
- City politicians use fraud and graft to maintain political power.
- Corruption in national politics results in the call for civil service jobs to be awarded on the basis of merit.
- Big business's growing influence on politics defeats tariff reform that would aid wage-earners.