Immigration and Urban Issues
EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION

• 1870-1920: 20 million Europeans immigrate to the U.S.

• Why?
  1. escape religious persecution
  2. rising European population
  3. America offered job opportunities (the American Dream)
ELLIS ISLAND (NY)

- 17 MILLION (1892 – 1924)
- 2% denied entry
Tour of Ellis island:

1. Arrival (opened 1892)
2. Baggage room
3. Great Stairs ("6 second medical exam"- chalk marks)
4. Medical exam (required after 1917)
5. Great Hall (waiting room)
6. Legal inspection (check documents, legal status & in 1921 take a literacy test)
7. Money exchange
8. "Kissing Post"
• Test p. 257
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Where did immigrants settle?
Chinese and Japanese Immigration

• 1851-1883: 300,000 Chinese Immigrate to U.S.

• Why?
  – California Gold Rush
  – Build the transcontinental railroad
  – Farm
ANGEL ISLAND (San Francisco)

- 1910-1940 50,000 Chinese immigrants
- Processing much tougher than Ellis Island
New immigrants vs. Old Immigrants:

• “Problems”: jobs, religion & politics
  – Know-Nothing Party
  – Chinese Exclusion Act (1882):
    • Banned all Chinese immigration (except: students, teachers, merchants & Government officials)
  – Gentlemen's Agreement (Japan-1907):
    • Japan agreed to limit unskilled immigrants to US (if San Francisco repeals a discriminatory law-banned Japanese children from schools)
Problems Immigrants had:

- Place to live
- Job
- Low education
- Language
- Cultural barriers

What would you do to help?
- Who helps
- What you would do
Challenges of Urbanization
What is urbanization?

- Rapid and massive growth of, and migration to, large cities
- Causes? (*industry growth = immigration & migration*)
- Issues:
  - Living conditions:
  - Water, fire, crime, sewage/trash
  - Who should deal with these problems?
    - Private Charity?
    - Local governments?
    - Federal government?
Urban Problems:

Water
Fire & disasters
Crime
Pollution
Housing
Sanitation
Water:

- No piped water
- No indoor plumbing
- No Filtration...
  - Feces ran into water supply
  - Dumped garbage into water supply
  - Rarely took bath
Fire:

• No water system...
• Buildings too close, made of wood
• Used unsafe means to heat buildings
  - Kerosene lamps/heaters
  - Candles
The Great Chicago Fire 1871

- Burned for 24 hours
- 300 people died
- 17,000 buildings destroyed
The San Francisco Earthquake
1906

- Fire burned for four days
- 1,000 people died
- 200,000 people homeless
- 28,000 buildings destroyed
Crime:

- Small police force vs. increased population
- No money, forced to commit crime
- Little risk of getting caught
Pollution:

- Smoke was a sign of economic progress
- Cities worked to attract Industry

In 1868, author James Parton described Pittsburgh as “hell with the lid off”, other cities experienced unbelievable pollution (London)
Housing:

• Tenements: tiny, windowless rooms in crowded districts
Health:

• How did conditions in cities affect people’s health?
Sanitation:

- Garbage dumped anywhere… Rats & bugs
- Pigs & horses…
- “swill children”
So what were people to do about all of these problems???
“Social Gospel Movement”

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- Define what it was:
- Who they were:
- What they did:
Jane Addams

- Active in women’s progressive reform movement

- Founded Chicago’s Hull House in 1889
“Municipal Housekeeping”:

Goal: to provide a clean and safe environment for everyone

Improved conditions would improve health…
What did they do?

- Drove pigs out of the street…
- Substituted municipal garbage collectors for the hogs or “swill children”
- Slowly replaced horses with electric street cars
- Built sewage systems that carried waste off to lakes, rivers
- Hired street cleaning crews
- Passed laws to regulate dumping/pollution
Before and After

MORTON STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Progressive Era reformers such as New York’s street-cleaning commissioner George E. Waring, Jr., modernized sanitation services. Waring increased both pay and morale among the city’s street-cleaning crew with excellent results, as demonstrated in these two photographs, one taken in 1893, the other in 1895, after Waring assumed his post. (George Waring, Street-Cleaning and the Disposal of a City’s Wastes [New York: Doubleday and McClure, 1897])
Results:

- Less diseases
- Better water
- Happier people?