

Chapter Twenty-One A New Urban Culture

Please remember to study your Powerpoint slides!

IMMIGRATION & URBANIZATION – *City Life & ‘New’ Americans*

- Immigrants came to the United States for different reasons and in different waves.
- Old Immigrants came from areas of northern and western Europe before 1880. (English, French, Germans, Dutch, and Scandinavians → Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland)
- New immigrants were those from Southern and Eastern Europe who came to the US after 1880. (Italians, Hungarians, Rumanians, Russians, the Polish, Bulgarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Yugoslavians, Greeks, etc.)
- Push factors were conditions that caused people to leave their homeland. Push factors include famine (ex: Irish potato famine), religious persecution, political persecution, lack of land, lack of freedom, lack of jobs, and overpopulation.
- Pull factors attract people to an area. Pull factors include the desire for religious freedom, political freedom, job opportunities, land, and hopes of a better life.
- European immigrants entered the United States through Ellis Island.
- Asian immigrants entered the United States through Angel Island.
- Most immigrants traveled to the United States aboard a ship in the vessel's steerage. Steerage conditions were difficult (crowded, dirty, lack of food, disease spread easily, etc.)
- Immigrants went through tough medical, mental, and legal inspections (questioning) before being allowed to enter the country.
- Most immigrants settled in ethnic neighborhoods called ghettos, which were located in cities. (Little Italy and Chinatown are examples)
- Ethnic neighborhoods are areas in which people of the same culture lived together. Ethnic neighborhoods provided a level of comfort for immigrants because they had the same language, culture, and traditions.
- Urbanization (the movement from rural areas to the cities) was the result of industrialization and immigration. Factories, located in the cities, provided jobs for recent immigrants.
- The immigrants' experiences were very different from the reality of their life in the United States.
- Immigrants worked in factories with poor conditions for little pay. Many lived in tenements (dirty and crowded apartments). Many of their children were forced to work to help with the cost of living.

- Immigrants also faced opposition from many Americans. These individuals were called Nativists.
- Nativists believed in limiting immigration to the United States and the influence these immigrants had on Americans. Some Americans feared they would lose jobs to immigrants. Because of anti-immigration attitudes, immigrants faced discrimination and prejudice.
- The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed to limit the number of Chinese entering the United States. The Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907 limited the number of Japanese citizens entering the United States.
- Quotas were created to limit the number of immigrants entering the United States from other countries.
- Some Americans believed immigrants should be forced to assimilate into the American culture. Assimilation means immigrants were forced to give up their ways of life and become part of the American culture. This is also called the melting pot theory.
- The salad bowl theory is the belief that different cultures could live together while still holding on to their own traditions, beliefs, and language.
- As more people flocked to the cities, they became overcrowded and problems arose. Problems included poor living conditions, unhealthy and unsanitary conditions, crime, pollution, traffic, etc.