

## **Chapter 8**

# **Politics, Immigration, and Urban Life (1870–1915)**

# America: Pathways to the Present

## Chapter 8: Politics, Immigration, and Urban Life (1870–1915)

### Section 1: Politics in the Gilded Age

### Section 2: People on the Move

### Section 3: The Challenge of the Cities

### Section 4: Ideas for Reform

# Politics in the Gilded Age

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 1

- **How did business influence politics during the Gilded Age?**
- **In what ways did government reform the spoils system and regulate railroads?**
- **What effect did the transition from depression to prosperity have on politics in the 1890s?**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# The Business of Politics

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 1

- **The Gilded Age** suggests that there was a glittering layer of prosperity that covered the poverty and corruption that existed in much of society. This term was coined by Mark Twain.
- In the late 1800's businesses operated without much government regulation. This is known as ***laissez-faire*** economics. Laissez-faire means 'allow to be' in French.
- Although people accepted laissez-faire economics in theory, they supported government involvement when it benefited them. For example, American businesses accepted land grants and subsidies. A **subsidy** is a payment made by the government to encourage the development of certain key industries, such as railroads.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# The Spoils System

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 1

- Under the Spoils System, candidates for political office would offer potential jobs in exchange for votes. The spoils system also gave supporters access to money and political favors.
- During the Gilded Age, the Republicans and Democrats had roughly the same number of supporters. To keep party members loyal, candidates rewarded supporters and tried to avoid controversial issues.
- The Republicans appealed to the industrialists, bankers, and eastern farmers. They favored the gold standard, high tariffs, and the enforcement of **blue laws**, regulations that prohibited certain activities people considered immoral.
- The Democratic party attracted the less privileged groups such as northern urban immigrants, laborers, southern planters, and western farmers.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Reforming the Spoils System

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 1

## President Rutherford B. Hayes

- Elected in 1877
- Hayes began to reform the civil service, the government's nonelected workers, by appointing qualified political independents instead of giving positions to supporters.
- He did not have the support of Congress or his own Republican party.
- Hayes did not seek a second term.

## President James A. Garfield

- Before the 1880 presidential election the Republican party was split into three factions.
  - The Stalwarts defended the spoils system.
  - The Half-Breeds hoped to reform the system.
  - The Independents opposed the spoils system.
- Garfield wanted to reform the system. His running-mate was Chester Arthur, a Stalwart.
- On July 2, 1881 Garfield was assassinated by a Stalwart who wanted Arthur as president.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

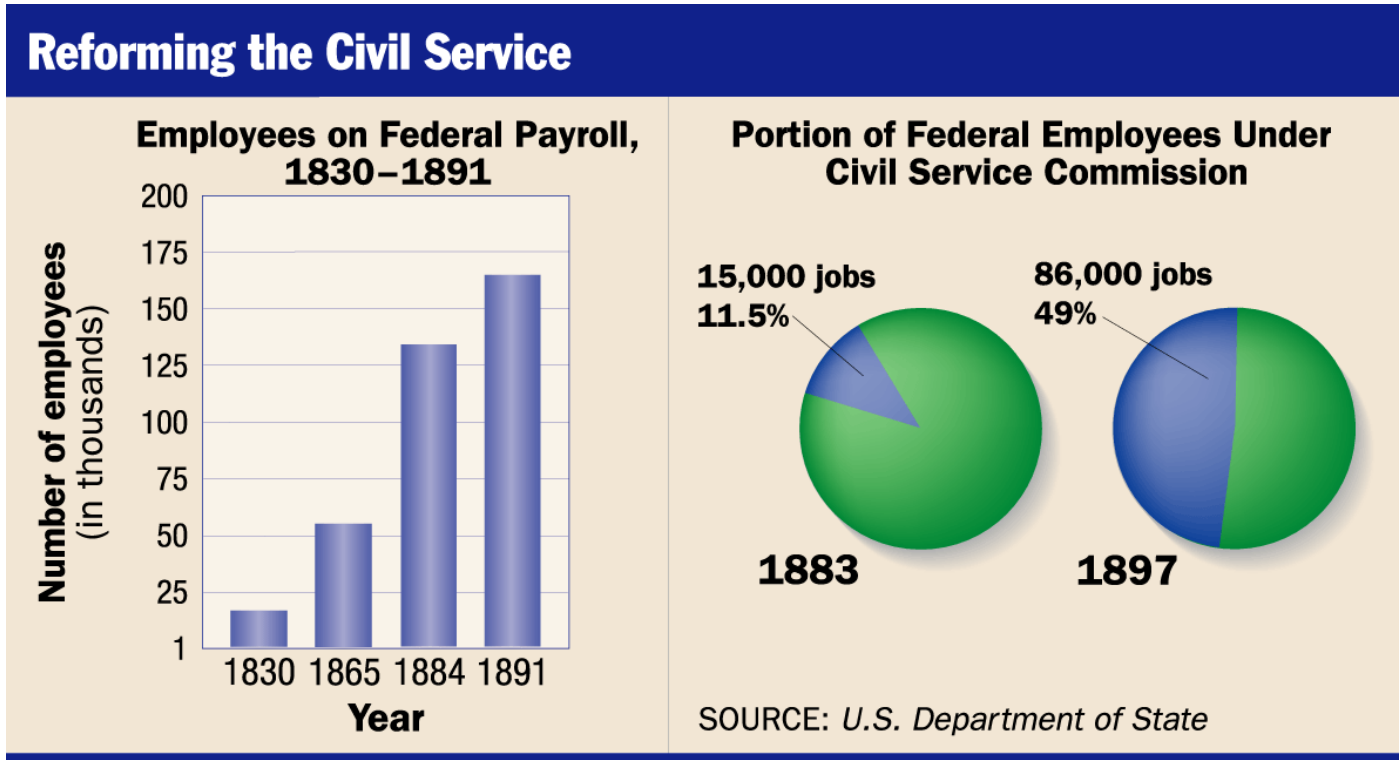
SECTION



# Arthur Reforms the Civil Service

## Chapter 8, Section 1

- After the assassination, President Arthur was able to get congressional support for the Pendleton Civil Service Act. This act created a commission which classified government jobs.



MAIN MENU



SECTION



# Regulating Railroads

- By 1880, about 14 states had railroad commissions that looked into complaints about railroad practices. One practice that caused problems was railroads offering **rebates**, partial refunds, to favored customers.
- In 1877, the Supreme Court, in *Munn v. Illinois* allowed states to regulate certain businesses within their borders, including railroads. But since railroads cross state borders, it was argued that only the federal government could regulate them.
- In 1887, Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Act and set up the nation's first federal regulatory board, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). However, the ICC did not have the power to set railroad rates and was often overruled in the Supreme Court.





# Politics in the Gilded Age–Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 1

**What did Mark Twain mean by the phrase The Gilded Age?**

- A) Everything was wonderful because it was covered with gold.**
- B) He supported the economics of the gold standard .**
- C) It was a prosperous time for all people.**
- D) There was a glittering layer of prosperity that covered the poverty and corruption that existed in much of society.**

**What did Rutherford B. Hayes do to ensure that he wouldn't be reelected?**

- A) He regulated the railroad industry.**
- B) He appointed qualified people to civil service positions.**
- C) He supported laissez-faire economics.**
- D) He supported the enforcement of blue laws.**

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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# People on the Move

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 2

- **What were the experiences of immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s?**
- **What different challenges did immigrants from Europe, Asia, and Mexico face?**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# The Immigrant Experience

## Chapter 8, Section 2

- Immigrants came to the United States fleeing crop failures, shortages of land and jobs, rising taxes, famine, and religious and political persecution.
- In the 1880s in Russia many Jewish people fled a wave of **pogroms**, or violent massacres of Jews.
- Steam-powered ships could cross the Atlantic Ocean in two or three weeks. Most immigrants traveled in **steerage**, a large open area beneath the ship's deck.
- Between 1865 and 1890 about 10 million immigrants arrived. Most came from northwestern and central Europe.
- In the 1890s, most new immigrants came from central, southern, and eastern Europe and the Middle East.
- More than 70 percent of all immigrants came through New York City which was called the "Golden Door."



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Immigrants from Europe

PRENTICE HALL

## Chapter 8, Section 2

- In 1892, the federal government required all new immigrants to undergo a physical exam.
- Immigrants with contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, faced **quarantine**, a time of isolation to prevent the spread of disease.
- Urban neighborhoods dominated by one ethnic or racial group of immigrants were called **ghettos**.
- Some ghettos formed because immigrants felt more comfortable living near people with the same language and traditions.
- Other ghettos formed from **restrictive covenants**, when homeowners agreed not to sell real estate to certain groups.
- Still other ghettos formed when ethnic groups isolated themselves because of threats of violence, mostly from whites.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

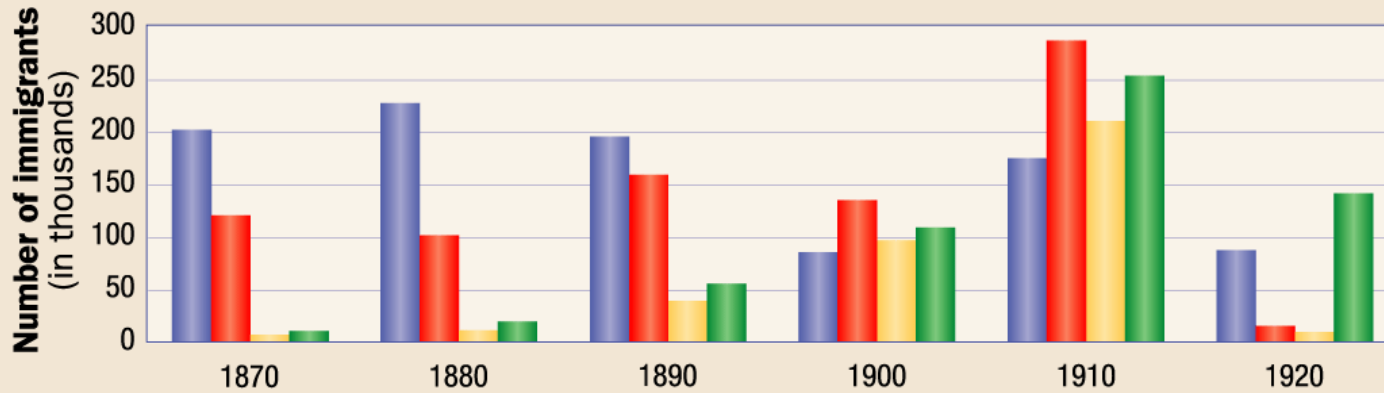
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SECTION



# Immigrants from Europe

## European Immigration, 1870–1920



Northwestern Europe		Central Europe	Eastern Europe	Southern Europe
Great Britain	Luxembourg	Germany	Russia	Italy
Ireland	Switzerland	Poland	Baltic States	Spain
Scandinavia	Netherlands	Czechoslovakia	Romania	Portugal
France		Yugoslavia	Bulgaria	Greece
Belgium		Austria-Hungary	European Turkey	

SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*



MAIN MENU



SECTION



# Immigrants from Asia

## Chapter 8, Section 2

- Most immigrants who entered the United States through the West Coast were from Asia. Chinese and Japanese formed the largest groups.
- In the mid-1800s, American railroad companies recruited about a quarter of a million Chinese workers.
- Under pressure from labor unions, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. The act prohibited Chinese laborers from entering the country. It was not repealed until 1943.
- In 1906, the San Francisco school board ruled that all Chinese, Japanese, and Korean students should attend separate schools. The Japanese government condemned the policy.
- President Theodore Roosevelt made a compromise with the Japanese government. It was called the **Gentlemen's Agreement** because it was not official. It called for San Francisco to end its policy and for Japan to stop issuing passports to laborers.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Immigrants from Mexico

## Chapter 8, Section 2

- **Employers hired Mexican laborers to work on farms, ranches, and mines. They also helped construct railroads in the southwest.**
- **When the United States entered World War I in 1917, demand for workers increased sharply.**
- **New opportunities were a “pull” factor that drew Mexican workers to the United States. Turmoil at home was a “push” factor that encouraged them to leave Mexico.**
- **The 1910 Mexican Revolution and the civil war that followed killed approximately ten percent of Mexico’s population.**
- **When the Immigration Restriction Act of 1921 limited immigration from Europe and Asia, labor shortages increased Mexican immigration.**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION





# People on the Move—Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 2

## What was the Gentlemen's Agreement?

- A) An agreement to secure jobs for Russian immigrants in return for American manufactured goods.
- B) A compromise that China would provide more labor for the railroads in return for American wheat.
- C) A compromise that schools in the United States would not segregate Japanese students in exchange for Japan to stop issuing passports to laborers.
- D) A compromise between homeowners not to sell real estate to certain groups of people.

## What was a restrictive covenant?

- A) Immigrants felt more comfortable living near people with the same language and traditions.
- B) The labor party did not want Chinese people lowering pay rates.
- C) A compromise between homeowners not to sell real estate to certain groups of people.
- D) A group of people that wanted to sell their land to speculators.

Want to link to the Pathways Internet activity for this chapter? [Click Here!](#)



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# The Challenge of the Cities

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 3

- **Why did cities expand in the late 1800s and early 1900s?**
- **What new developments helped cities grow?**
- **How did living conditions in cities change?**
- **What were the results of city growth?**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# How Cities Grew

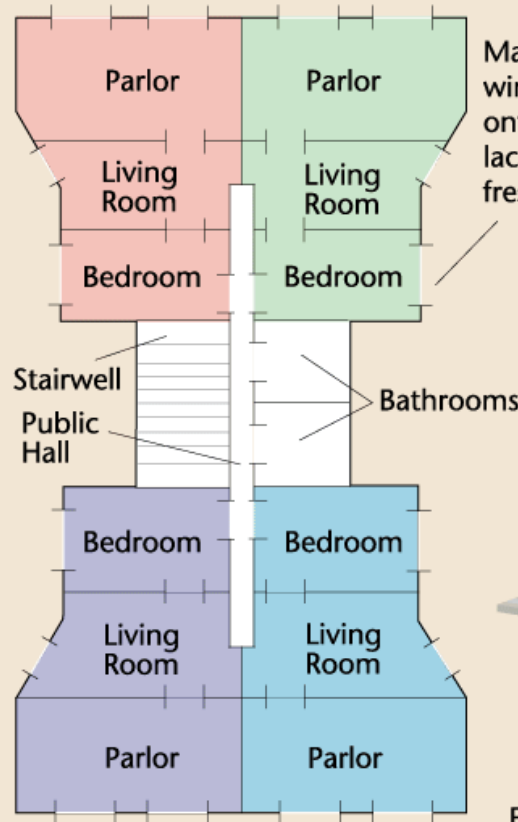
- **Before the Civil War cities were small. Most people walked wherever they needed to go.**
- **The introduction of the horse-drawn carriage allowed people to move out of the cities to the **suburbs**, or residential communities surrounding the cities.**
- **Later in the 1800s, motorized transportation made commuting even easier.**
- **The first elevated trains opened in 1868 in New York and the first subway trains appeared in Boston in 1897.**
- **Buildings became taller too. The first skyscraper in Chicago was ten stories tall.**



# Urban Living Conditions

## Chapter 8, Section 3

### The Dumbbell Tenement



Many side windows opened onto an air shaft lacking light and fresh air.

The dumbbell shape was a response to the 1879 New York law requiring all rooms to have outside windows.



Each floor consisted of four small apartments.

**Floor Plan**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# The Results of City Growth

- Rapidly growing cities were difficult to govern.
- Increased revenue and responsibilities gave city governments more power and competition for control grew more intense.
- Different groups represented the interests of different classes.
- The **political machine**, born from these clashing interests, was an unofficial city organization designed to keep a particular group in power.
- Political machines worked through the exchange of favors. Many people who wanted favors would pay money, **graft**, to the machine. **Graft** was a major source of income for the machines.



# The Challenge of the Cities–Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 3

**What caused the birth of the political machine?**

- A) Different interest groups wanted control of the city’s resources.**
- B) The urban poor needed political advocates.**
- C) The political machines organized the new transportation technologies.**
- D) Political machines helped keep voting honest.**

**What first enabled people to move out to the suburbs?**

- A) railroads**
- B) subways**
- C) new construction**
- D) horse-drawn carriages**

Want to link to the Pathways Internet activity for this chapter? [Click Here!](#)



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION





# Ideas for Reform

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 4

- **How did different movements help the needy?**
- **How and where did sociology develop?**
- **What efforts were made to control immigration and personal behavior in the late 1800s?**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Helping the Needy

<h2>The Charity Organization Movement</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kept detailed files on people who received their help</li><li>• Decided who was worthy of help</li><li>• Wanted immigrants to adopt American, middle-class standards.</li></ul>
<h2>The Social Gospel Movement</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sought to apply the gospel teachings of charity and justice to society's problems.</li></ul>
<h2>The Settlement Movement</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moved into poor communities</li><li>• Their <b>settlement houses</b> served as community centers and social service agencies.</li><li>• Hull House, a model settlement house in Chicago, offered cultural events, classes, childcare, employment assistance, and health-care clinics.</li></ul>



# The Development of Sociology

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 4

- **Philosopher Auguste Comte coined the term **sociology** to describe the study of how people interact with one another in a society.**
- **Sociology is a social science. A sociologist collects data on societies and measures the data against theories of human behavior.**
- **Sociology provided a scientific counterpart to the settlement houses' practical experience.**
- **Sociologists studied cultures around the world to learn what institutions and practices define a society.**
- **In the late nineteenth century, many sociologists studied the effects of industrialization and urbanization on established communities.**



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Controlling Immigration and Behavior

## Chapter 8, Section 4

- Many Americans linked the problems of the cities to the new immigrants. By controlling immigrants, they hoped to restore what they believed was a past of purity and virtue.
- Groups were formed to pursue this goal. Some sought to keep immigrants out of the United States. Others wanted to change their behavior.
- Many people were Nativists, who believed in **nativism**, or favoring native-born Americans over immigrants.
- In the 1850s, the Know-Nothing Party had gained many followers by vowing to restrict immigration. The rise of immigrants to positions of power in the cities during the late 1800s provoked a new wave of antiforeign bias.
- Several groups, such as the American Protective Association, tried to make it more difficult for immigrants to assimilate to American culture or to even come into this country at all.



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Prohibition and Purity Crusaders

## Prohibition

- The **temperance movement**, an organized campaign to eliminate alcohol consumption saw a revival in the late 1800s.
- Three major groups led the movement and supported **prohibition**, a ban on the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.
- These groups believed that drinking led to personal tragedies, and they also saw a link among saloons, immigrants, and political bosses.

## Purity Crusaders

- As cities grew, drugs, gambling, prostitution, and other forms of **vice** (immoral or corrupt behavior) became big business.
- Many residents fought to rid their communities of these activities.
- “Purity crusaders” led the way. They fought against such things as the sending of obscene materials through the mail, information about birth control, and political machines.



# Ideas for Reform—Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 8, Section 4

**Hull House grew out of which movement?**

- A) The settlement movement**
- B) The purity crusader movement**
- C) The social gospel movement**
- D) The charity organization movement**

**What explains the revivals of nativism and the temperance movement in the late 1800s?**

- A) A rise in the amount of people drinking alcoholic beverages**
- B) Conclusions reached by sociologists**
- C) The organization of Native American rights advocates**
- D) The belief that the problems of the cities were linked to the new immigrants**

Want to link to the Pathways Internet activity for this chapter? [Click Here!](#)



MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION



# Ideas for Reform—Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

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MAIN MENU

1

2

3

4

SECTION

