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# Chapter 15

## SSUSH14a

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# Opening

Imagine that you just move to a new country to find better opportunities for you and your family. You try to find a job and have little to no success after days, weeks, months. You do not know when you will finally get a job. Also, you have no clue what others are saying because they speak a different language. You are constantly being confused by this new language and culture. If that isn't bad enough, others are threatening you and saying that you should not be allowed and making laws restricting access to the country. Now, when you finally find a place to live, it's unbelievably cramped. As you walk down your street, you see garbage and trash everywhere, the smell encompasses you. Looking back, is it worth it? Is it worth it to still be looking for a job after what seems like forever? Is it worth it to be living with other families in one small apartment? Is it worth it to be right next to a pile of trash as soon as you step outside? Is that all worth it for the chance to have a better life?

# Section 1- The New Immigrants

## Through the “Golden Door”

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries many European, Chinese, Japanese, West Indies, and Mexico immigrated to the United States.

These people left due to famine, land shortages, or religious or political persecution.

People who immigrated to make money and returned back to their homeland were called “birds of passage.”

## Life in the New Land

On their journey to America many people died from diseases, due to poor conditions and many died before arriving.

After the people were admitted, they found challenges in finding jobs, place to live, and getting along daily life while trying to understand the unfamiliar languages and culture.

People sought out people with similar beliefs.

Native-born often disliked the immigrants and they viewed them as a threat.

## Immigration Restriction

Due to the different cultures, many native-born disliked the immigrants. Native-born Americans with the response this response to the growth of immigration or favoritism toward native-born were call Nativist.

The native-born refused the entry of people.

The asian culture was restricted entry unless they were students, teachers, merchants, tourists, or government officials.

# Section 2- The Challenges of Urbanization

## Urban opportunities:

the technological boom in the 19th century resulted in urbanization/ growth of cities

A lot of people moved to the cities for job opportunities

Because the cities were most convenient and cheapest to live in many immigrants settled there. this resulted in the "American Movement" where people from other cultures assimilated into the dominant culture.

## Urban problems:

Housing- people lived in cramped apartments called Tenements

transportation- people used Mass transits which could get a large amount of people places they needed to go

water- cities faced a problem obtaining safe drinking water many people didn't even have plumbing

sanitation- cities had a hard time keeping the streets clean there weren't any trash collectors so people just dumped their trash on the streets and sewage would flood through the open gutters

crime was high and people were at risk of fires, because buildings were so close together a risk of a fire spreading was great

## Reformers mobilize:

Social Gospel Movement was when people preached about helping the poor

Settlement Houses were centers in slum neighborhoods that gave aid to people especially immigrants

# Section 3- Politics in the Gilded Age

- The political machine offered services to voters and businesses in exchange for political or financial support.
- Money, loyalty, and support motivated city bosses.
- The machines helped immigrants with naturalization, housing, and jobs.
  - In return, the immigrants provided political bosses with votes.
- A graft is the illegal use of political influence for personal gain.
- “Boss Tweed,” or William M. Tweed, led a group of corrupt politicians in defrauding the city.
- Patronage is giving of government jobs to people who had helped a candidate get

# Questions

- 1) If you knew that the journey to the United States was difficult, would you still go?
- 2) What is Nativism?
- 3) Would you move to the city to find work?
- 4) Could you survive in the city even with little to no plumbing, crowded space, and crime everywhere?
- 5) If you were a politician, to what extent or extremes would you go to to help your campaign?
- 6) Would you take part in patronage if you became president?

# Closing

Immigration had a great affect on America and its new citizens. Even though some native born Americans did not like the new immigrants, many wanted to help them in their new lives here. Others wanted to use the immigrants for their votes in government elections. In the end immigrants and native born citizens came together to create the America we know today.