The Gilded Age Immigration

United States History 11R
How many of you have parents or grandparents who immigrated here from another country? Which countries?
Immigration

• Ellis Island
  – 1892 -1924 – 17 million Europeans came to U.S.
  – Italy, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico
  – Scarcity of land, few jobs, religious persecution

• Angel Island
  – 1851 – 1940 - 350,000 (50,000)
  – China, Japan
  – Gold rush, Hawaiian planters
Old Immigration vs. New Immigration

- **Old Immigration**
  - English Speaking
  - Belief Anglo-Saxons were superior race.
  - Ancestors from Western Europe
  - Caucasian

- **Religion**
  - Protestant

- **New Immigration**
  - No English
  - From Eastern Europe and Southern Europe and Asia
  - Mostly Asian

- **Religion**
  - Catholics and Jews
Salad Bowl (Pluralism)

- Condition in which numerous distinct ethnic, religious, or cultural groups are present and tolerated within a society.
- Desirable or socially beneficial.

Melting Pot

- People of different cultures abandoning their native languages and customs
  - Many immigrants did not want to give up their native languages and customs.
  - Led to rise in anti-immigrant feelings
Nativism

- Overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
- Rise of Anti-Immigrant groups
- Restrictions on immigration
Chinese Exclusion Act

- Fear of Chinese workers in West, especially following 1873 depression – work for lower wages.
- 1882 – Congress stopped Chinese immigration for 10 years
- All Chinese except students, teachers, merchants, tourists, and government officials.
- 1892 – Extended for another 10 years
- 1902 – Restricted indefinitely
- 1943 – Repealed
Stereotypes of the Chinese Immigrant

Oriental [Chinese] Exclusion Act, 1887
Anti-Asian Feelings in the West

- Chinese workers accepted jobs for less pay than white workers.
Gentlemen’s Agreement

• 1906 – Japanese segregated in San Francisco schools.
• New agreement between President Roosevelt and Japanese government in 1907
• 1907-1908 Japan limits emigration of unskilled workers to United States in exchange for repeal of San Francisco segregation order.
Limiting Immigration

- Emergency Quota Act of 1921
  - Quota system based on national origins.
- Immigration Act of 1924
  - European nations given quota
    - 2% of # of nationals living in United States in 1890
  - Hurt people from Eastern & Southern Europe
    - Japanese immigrants excluded
      - “aliens ineligible to citizenship.”
  - Insult to Japanese - end “gentlemen’s agreement.”
National Origins Act of 1929

- Base year - shifts to 1920.
- Reduced # of people admitted in one year
  - 150,000
- Not applied to those from Western Hemisphere
- 1920’s
  - Million Canadians and 500,000 Mexicans crossed the nation’s borders.
The Gilded Age
Urbanization

United States History 11R
Why Urbanization?

- Steam replaced water power for mills - industries concentrated geographically
  - Iron-makers in Pittsburgh
  - Meat-packing in Chicago
  - Haverhill, Massachusetts - shoes

- Large-scale production instantly created small cities of workers--company towns dominated by one industry.
Why Immigrants in Cities?

• Gateways for immigrants
  – New York, Boston, San Francisco
  – Provided abundant cheap labor.

• Cheapest and most convenient places.

• Unskilled laborers found steady work in factories.
Americanization Movement

• Assimilate people from other cultures into our culture.
  – Social movement sponsored by the government.
  – Schools to teach English literacy and American History
  – Cooking and social etiquette also taught.
Urban Problems

• Housing
  – Tenements – overcrowded, unsanitary
  – Two to three families in apartments built for one family
Urban Problems
Urban Problems

• Transportation-Mass transit
• Until 1890, the horse car (using railroad tracks) accounted for 70% of city traffic. Limitations:
  – Limited pulling power
  – Left piles of manure
  – Slow
Urban Problems

- Cable cars (San Francisco, 1873) and electric trolley cars (Richmond, 1887) with overhead power lines replaced horses in many cities
  - Subways in early 1900’s
Urban Problems

- Water
  - Little indoor plumbing
    - led to cholera and typhoid fever from unsanitary water
  - Filtration in 1870’s
  - Chlorination in 1908
  - Still unsafe
Urban Problems

- Sanitation
  - Sewage in open gutters
  - Horse manure
  - Smoke from factories
  - No reliable trash collection
Urban Problems

• Crime – pickpockets, thieves
• 1844 – New York’s first salaried police
Urban Problems

• Fire – Wooden structures, not enough water, candles and kerosene lamps = Chicago Fire
Battling the City's Problems

• Reformers sought to counter poverty and other urban problems by focusing on moral uplift
  – YMCAs and YWCAs - provide housing and recreation opportunities
  – Salvation Army
    • providing emergency aid
    • housing, street kitchens
  – Comstock laws - close down
    • Gambling
    • Pornography
    • Prostitution
    • Sunday liquor sales
Religion

• Social Gospel - apply teachings of Jesus' to the problems of urban society.

• Problems of poor fault of society.
  – Washington Gladden
    • True Christianity requires churchgoers to fight social injustice
  – Walter Rauschenbusch—_Christianity and the Social Crisis_.
    • Churches should unite to reform the abuses of industry and fight for peace.
Settlement Houses

- Hull House
- Jane Addams in Chicago
- Offer literacy classes, crafts classes, job training, and a sense of dignity to urban dwellers
- Particularly immigrants
Two-Party Stalemate

Elections of 1876–1892

- Voted Republican 4–5 times
- Voted Democratic 4–5 times
- Voted more irregularly
Well-Defined Voting Blocs

Democratic Bloc
- White southerners (preservation of white supremacy)
- Catholics
- Recent immigrants (esp. Jews)
- Urban working poor (pro-labor)
- Most farmers

Republican Bloc
- Northern whites (pro-business)
- African Americans
- Northern Protestants
- Old WASPs (support for anti-immigrant laws)
- Most of the middle class
Very Laissez Faire Federal Govt.

★ Main duties of the federal govt.:
  ➢ Deliver the mail.
  ➢ Maintain a national military.
  ➢ Collect taxes & tariffs.
  ➢ Conduct a foreign policy.

★ Growth of Political Machines
Political Machine

- Organized group that controlled the activities of a political party in a city.
- Offered services to voters and businesses in exchange for political and financial support.
- Pyramid with local precinct workers at bottom and political boss at top.
- Immigrants fueled the machine as voters. Got
  - Naturalization
  - Housing
  - Jobs
Election Fraud and Graft

• Used fake names to cast more than one vote.

• Graft – illegal use of political influence for personal gain.
  – Kickbacks – illegal payments for services.
  – Bribes – allowed illegal activities such as gambling and prostitution.
Tweed Ring

- William M. Tweed, Boss Tweed, became head of Tammany Hall in New York City.
- Unprecedented theft of public funds and corruption from 1869-1871.
- Estimated to have stolen between $25 and $45 million
- New estimate - $200 million
Thomas Nast

- Political cartoonist aroused public outrage over Tammany Hall graft.
- Indicted Tweed on 220 counts of fraud and corruption.
- Tweed fined and sent to prison
- Died in Ludlow Jail
Late 1800’s Presidency

Symbolic Office

Presidents - avoided offending any factions within their own party

Presidents gave out federal jobs

- 1865 → 53,000 people worked for the federal govt.
- 1890 → 166,000 people worked for the federal govt.

Party Bosses Ruled
Government Jobs – Civil Service

• Patronage
  – Giving government jobs to people who got candidates elected.
    • Not always qualified or honest

• Reformers want end to patronage
  – “Mugwumps”
    • Reformers in Republican Party

• Merit system for civil service jobs
  (government administration)
Civil Service Reform Begins

- President Rutherford B. Hayes
  - Appoints Independents to cabinet
  - Lacked support in congress for government reforms
  - Commission to investigate custom houses
    - Fired two NYC custom officials
      - Including Chester A. Arthur
      - Remember that name
    - Makes enemy - Senator Conkling NY
      - Stalwarts – Political Supporters
1880 Presidential Election: Republican Convention

Half Breeds

Sen. James G. Blaine (Maine)

Stalwarts

Sen. Roscoe Conkling (New York)

compromise

Garfield elected president. Arthur is his VP

James A. Garfield

Chester A. Arthur (VP)
1881: Garfield Assassination

Chester A. Arthur becomes President

July 1881, Garfield shot by Charles Guiteau:
I Am a Stalwart, and Arthur is President now!
Chester A. Arthur: The Fox in the Chicken Coop?
Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883)

- Arthur becomes reformer instead
- The "Magna Carta" of civil service reform.
- Bipartisan civil service commission
- Merit system based on candidates performance on exam.

1883 → 14,000 out of 117,000 federal govt. jobs became civil service exam positions.

1900 → 100,000 out of 200,000 civil service federal govt. jobs.
Tariff Issue

- After Civil War
  - Congress raised tariffs to protect new US industries.
  - Big business liked this - Consumers did not.
- 1885 → tariffs created $100 million surplus in budget
- Tariffs - major issue in the 1888 presidential election.
Alliance between Business and Government - Tariffs

- Business wanted higher tariffs to protect domestic businesses from foreign competition.
- Democratic Party opposed tariffs and society disliked them as well.
- Prices higher for goods.
1884 Presidential Election

Grover Cleveland         James Blaine
* (DEM)                              (REP)
Ma, Ma...where's my pa?
He's going to the White House, ha... ha... ha...!
1884 Presidential Election

ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 401

POPULAR VOTE
TOTAL: 10,052,706

Democratic (Cleveland)

Republican (Blaine)
1888 Presidential Election

Grover Cleveland (DEM)

Benjamin Harrison * (REP)
Election of 1888

- Cleveland (low tariffs) vs. Benjamin Harrison (high tariffs)
- Harrison won due to large donations from big business.
- Lower popular vote than Cleveland but higher electoral votes
- Passed McKinley Tariff Act of 1890
  - Highest tariffs ever.
1888 Presidential Election

1888

ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 401

POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 11,381,021

Republican (B. Harrison)

Democratic (Cleveland)

Territories
Coming Out for Harrison

"COMING OUT" FOR HARRISON.

[Image: Cartoon depicting a scene with men in suits and hats, one pointing a whip at another who is holding a sign that says "COERCION." A third man is holding a ballot box with the word "CROOKED."].

"Protected Monopoly.—Check in your votes there, and don't forget that you're "working for—Kane!"
1892 Presidential Election

Rematch

Grover Cleveland  again!  *  (DEM)

Benjamin Harrison  (REP)
Cleveland Returns

• 1892, Grover Cleveland elected again
• Only president to serve two non-consecutive terms.
• Lowered tariffs again
Cleveland Loses Support

- Blamed for 1893 economic Panic
- Defended gold standard
  - Supporters mad
- Used federal troops in 1894 Pullman strike.
- Refused to sign the Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894
- Repealed Sherman Silver Purchase Act
  - No Bi-metalism
Here Comes McKinley

• McKinley elected 1896
• Defeats Populist William Jennings Bryan
  – That’s for another lesson
• Raised tariffs again.
1896 Presidential Election

The map shows the results of the 1896 presidential election. The states are color-coded to indicate the winning political party:

- **Republican (McKinley)** (Blue)
- **Democratic (Bryan)** (Red)

The electoral vote is shown in the pie chart on the right:

- **Electoral Vote Total**: 447 votes
  - **Democratic**: 271 votes
  - **Republican**: 176 votes

The popular vote is also shown:

- **Popular Vote Total**: 13,923,102 votes
  - **Democratic**: 7,104,779 votes
  - **Republican**: 6,502,925 votes

Territories are indicated by a brown color.
THANKSGIVING.

“For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful.”
• 2 Big Issues
  – Reform Civil Service System
  – Tariffs

• Presidential Elections
  – 1876 – Hayes (R) – Reform Custom Houses
  – 1880 – Garfield (R) – Reformer (Arthur too)
    • Pendleton Civil Service Act
  – 1884 – Cleveland (D) – Lower Tariffs
  – 1888 – Harrison (R) – Higher Tariffs
  – 1892 – Cleveland (D) – Lower Tariffs
  – 1896 – McKinley (R) – Higher Tariffs