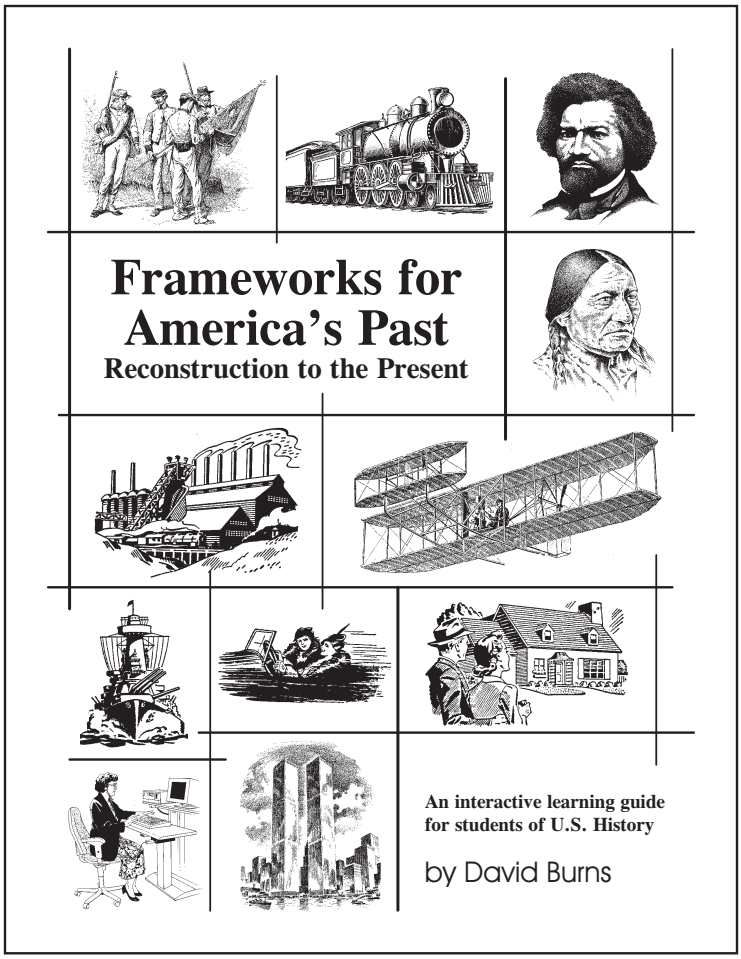
Unit 4: Growing Cities and Immigration



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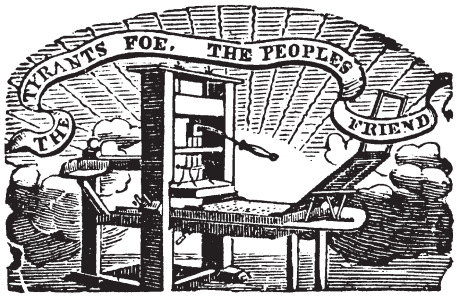

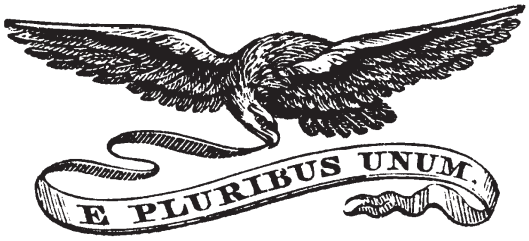

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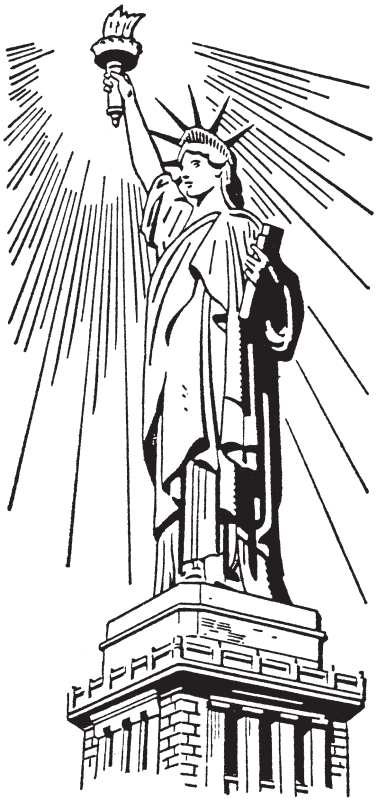
Unit 4
1865 – 1915

Growing Cities and Immigration

America took on a whole new look in the decades after the Civil War ended in 1865. Cities had been growing even before that date, but suddenly they began an incredible expansion in size and population. One reason was the growth of business and industry in this era. As factories grew, the jobs they created attracted even more people to the cities.

Immigration from other countries was another big factor in the growth of cities. Millions of people from Europe and Asia poured into America in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They sought opportunity, jobs, and freedom. Immigrants found all of those things, but often it was a hard struggle to succeed.

This unit tells the story of America's growing cities. It also tells the story of the immigrants who came to America to build a better life for themselves and their children.



Internet resources:

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Words and people to know:

urbanization	ethnic group	bribery
urban	assimilation	tenement
rural	discrimination	ghetto
industrialization	Chinese Exclusion Act	slum
immigrant	political machine	settlement house
Ellis Island	Boss Tweed	Jane Addams
oppressive governments	political corruption	Hull House

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Internet Support Site: www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap

Notes:

Outline – Growing Cities and Immigration

1. Urbanization – cities grew rapidly after the Civil War ended (1865).

A. Specialized industries often located near population centers, sometimes concentrating in one city or area.

B. Immigration from other countries.

C. Movement of Americans from rural (farm) to urban (city) areas for job opportunities.

textiles - New England
meat packing - Chicago
steel industry - Pittsburgh
automobiles - Detroit

2. Immigration increased dramatically after 1880.

A. Hope for better opportunities.

B. Religious freedom.

C. Escape from oppressive governments in other countries.

D. Adventure.

3. Ellis Island (at New York City) became the main point of entry for immigrants.

A. Operated from 1892 to 1954.

B. Over 12 million immigrants passed through, most coming from European countries.

4. Challenges developed as cities and immigration grew.

A. Immigrant neighborhoods were often overcrowded and sometimes became ghettoes.

B. Tenements were often unhealthy buildings to live in.

C. Discrimination and cultural conflict were common.

* Examples: Chinese, Irish, Jews, Italians, Poles.
* Chinese Exclusion Act (1882).

D. "Political machines" gained power in many cities, and often stayed in power, with the votes of immigrants.

* Voting fraud, bribery, and other kinds of political corruption were common.
* Example: Boss Tweed in New York City.

5. Efforts to solve immigration and urbanization problems.

A. The settlement house movement began and spread to many cities.

* Settlement houses were started by volunteers eager to improve life in poor immigrant neighborhoods.
* Example: Jane Addams started Hull House in Chicago.

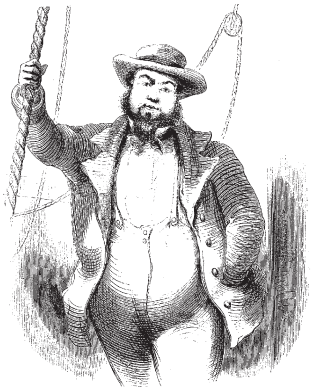
B. Political machines and their supporters -

* often helped immigrants find jobs, housing, etc.
* expected immigrants' votes in return.

Urbanization: Growing Cities

What were the main reasons for <u>urbanization</u> - the rapid growth of cities - in America from 1865 to 1915?

textiles - Many cities in the New England area
meat packing - Chicago
steel industry - Pittsburgh
automobiles - Detroit



rural = farming areas
urban = cities

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Immigrants: Pushed and Pulled

An immigrant is someone who leaves their own country and comes to America with the intention of staying.

In the 1800's and early 1900s, immigrants' decisions were driven by:

<u>Push Factors</u> – caused people to want to leave their own country.

<u>Pull Factors</u> – caused people to want to come to the United States.

One great prize America offered immigrants was a sense of self-respect and equality as citizens, with a vote and a voice in public affairs. We sometimes take all that for granted. To someone from a country where most people had none of those things, however, the American ideas about equality and democracy were life-changing gifts.

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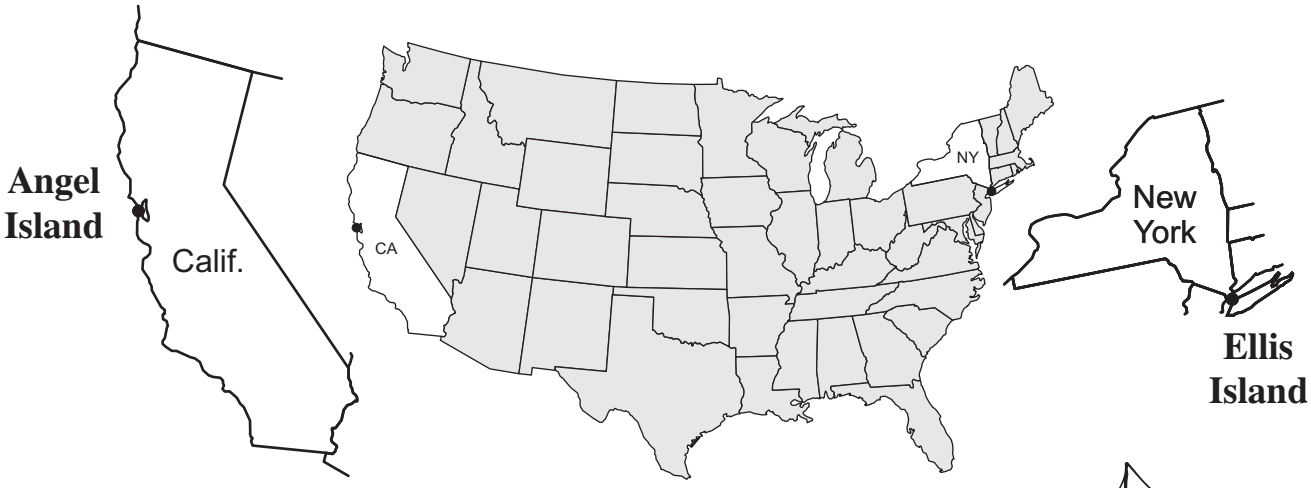
Ellis Island and Angel Island



Ellis Island and Angel Island were once important entry points for millions of immigrants coming to the U.S.

Angel Island

Ellis Island

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Problems and Challenges in Cities

The rapid growth of cities in the period 1865 - 1915 led to some serious problems and challenges.

Urban Problems Checklist

* **Key Point: Growing cities had many good features, but also created some serious challenges.**

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Jane Addams and Settlement Houses

Jane Addams

Settlement Houses

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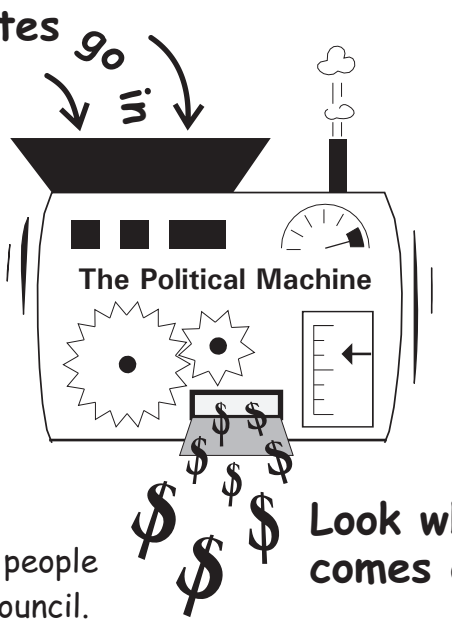
Political Machines and Big City Bosses

Many big cities in the 1800s were run by corrupt (dishonest) elected officials. These officials were often part of well-organized groups called "political machines."



Political machines were organized to elect their own people to all of a city's top jobs, such as mayor and the city council. That way the machine's leaders could control the city government and run it to benefit themselves. They could demand bribes from businesses, take money from the city's own bank accounts, and give city jobs to people who helped the organization win elections.

William M. Tweed

The head of a political machine was called the city "Boss." Boss Tweed was the leader of a political machine that ran the New York City government during the 1860s and 1870s. His "Tammany Hall" organization stole millions of dollars from the city and took a fortune in bribes before he was exposed by newspapers and put in jail.

Political machines stayed in power because they kept winning elections. They won elections by making it a point to give help to the immigrants moving into American cities in those years. It was a simple strategy:

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Addams, Jane - a wealthy woman in Chicago who started one of the first settlement houses in America. During a visit to London, she saw a settlement house that had been created to help poor people in that city. After returning to America, Addams opened a settlement house in an immigrant neighborhood in Chicago (1889). She and other volunteers lived there and organized many programs to help improve life for residents of the neighborhood.

assimilation - to blend in or adopt the language, manners, and culture of the nation to which one immigrates.

Boss Tweed - nickname for William M. Tweed, a political "Boss" in New York City around 1870. Tweed and the "Tammany Hall" political machine controlled politics and elections in the city for many years. He was eventually jailed for taking million of dollars through bribery and outright theft of city money.

bribery - when money is offered to a public official to win favored treatment of some sort.

Chinese Exclusion Act - a law passed in 1882 that banned further immigration of Chinese laborers into the U.S. The ban was a result of concern in California that immigration by Chinese laborers was driving down wages for American workers. The law was repealed in 1943.

discrimination - treating someone differently. Usually the use of the term implies that the different treatment is unfair or unjust.

Ellis Island - the processing center at New York City for millions of immigrants arriving from Europe in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

ethnic group - people from a particular country, region, or race who share a common background of language, ways of life, or other characteristics.

ghetto - an area of a city where one race or ethnic group is concentrated.

Hull House - the name of the settlement house started in Chicago in 1889 by Jane Addams. It became a model for the creation of settlement houses in many other cities across the U.S.

immigrant - a person moving into your country from another land. (An emigrant is a person leaving your country to go to a different country.)

industrialization - the switch from production of goods by hand to large scale production by machine in factories.

oppressive governments - governments that mistreat their own citizens, often by restrictions on their freedoms or jailing them for their political views.

political corruption - a term for bribes and other illegal methods used by political leaders to gain wealth or other advantage for themselves.

political machine - a term for a political group that organizes networks of supporters so well that it is almost impossible to defeat the group's candidates in elections. The head organizer of a political machine is often called its "Boss." Political machines were organized to get control of city governments, in order to collect bribes and give jobs in the city departments to their supporters. Political machines stayed in power in part by giving help to immigrants in poor neighborhoods, such as help finding housing or a job. On election day, these people would almost always vote for the machine's candidates.

rural - farming areas in the countryside, or having to do with farming areas.

settlement house - a kind of community center created in a poor neighborhood to help people improve their lives. Settlement house volunteers organized day care and kindergartens, and offered classes in such topics as cooking and English language.

slum - an area of a city that has become run down, often with many poor people living in bad conditions.

tenement - a type of narrow apartment building found in many cities, often five or six stories tall. The term is sometimes applied to any overcrowded and run down type of rental housing in a big city.

urban - city areas, or having to do with cities.

urbanization - the term for a shift from a mostly rural (farm and open land) area or nation to one with many growing urban (city) areas.

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