



SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE GILDED AGE

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: HOW DID INDUSTRIALIZATION BRING BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHANGES?



TEKS AND OBJECTIVES

We will...

(3C) analyze social issues affecting women, minorities, children, immigrants, and urbanization

(3D) describe optimism of many immigrants who sought a better life in America

(13B) analyze causes/effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from immigration to U.S.

(15C) explain how foreign policies affected economic issues such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

(26B) discuss Americanization movement to assimilate immigrants and American Indians into American culture

I will...

- Analyze primary sources dealing with social issues of the Gilded Age



SOCIAL ISSUES



LIFE IN CITIES

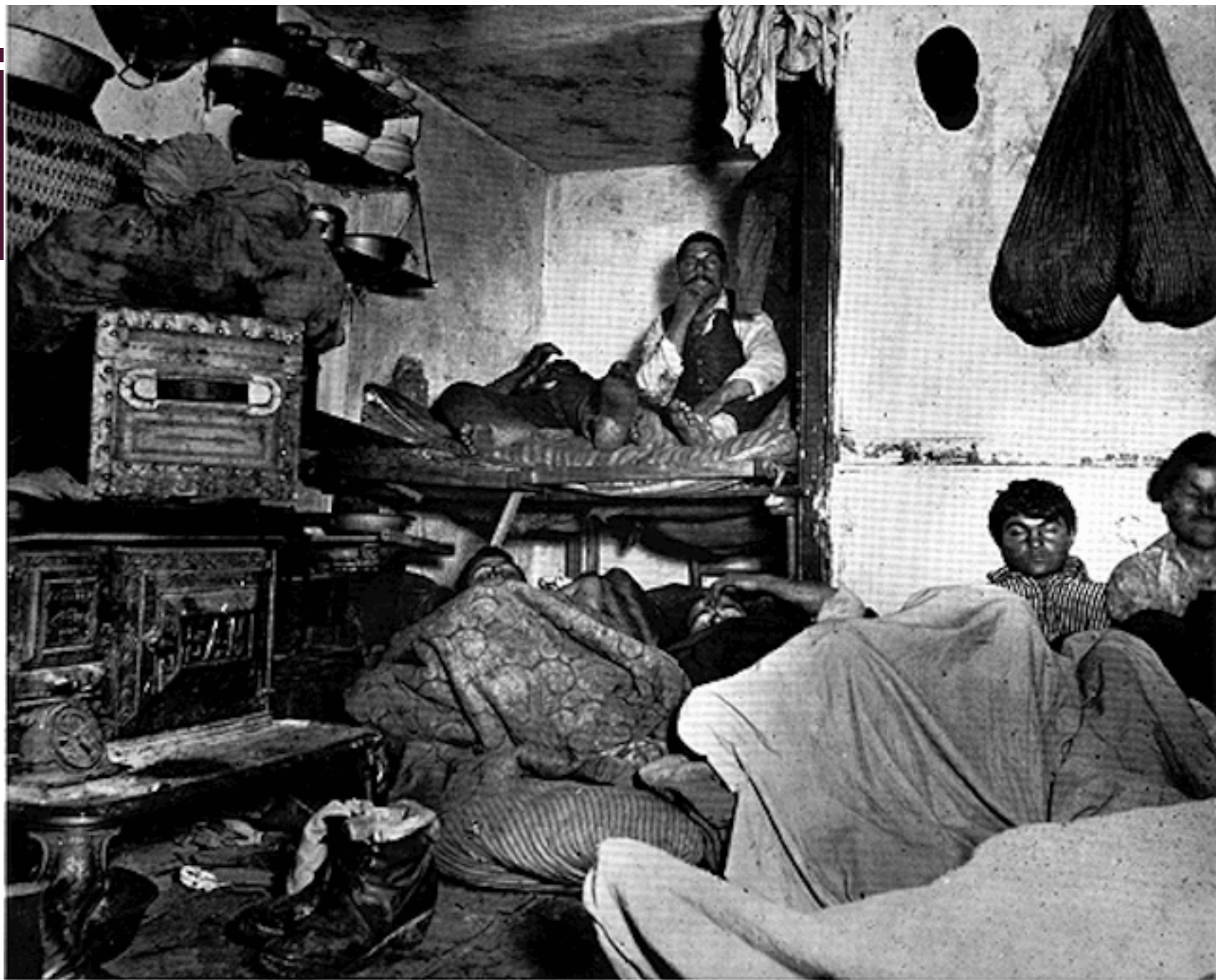
- Innovation
 - New ideas and technologies
- Industrialization
 - From agriculture to manufacturing
- Immigration
 - Moving into a new country
- Urbanization
 - Growth of cities



UNSAFE LIVING CONDITIONS



- Inadequate Public Services
 - Hospitals, police forces, schools, fire departments, street cleaning, garbage collection, etc.
- Poor Transportation
 - Horse-drawn coaches and trolleys caused pollution
 - New York City subway built in 1900
- Overcrowding
 - Families crowded into tenements (small apartment buildings)
 - Lacked daylight, heat, fresh air, and adequate plumbing











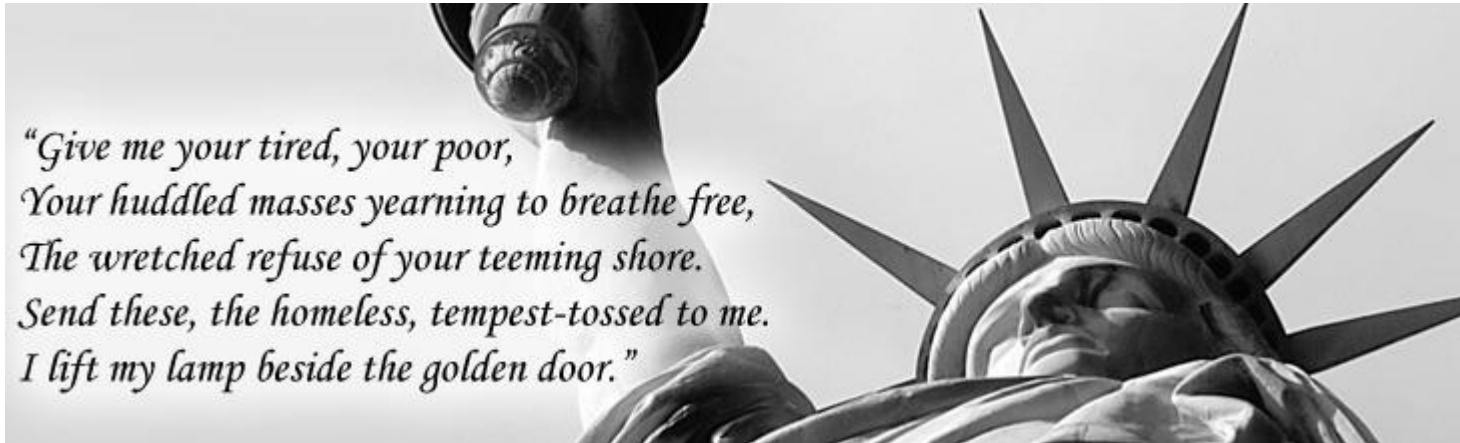
WHY IMMIGRANTS CAME

Pull Factors

- Oppression
- Poverty
- War
- Religions/Ethnic Persecution

Push Factors

- Freedom
- Economic Opportunity
- Cultural Ties



*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."*

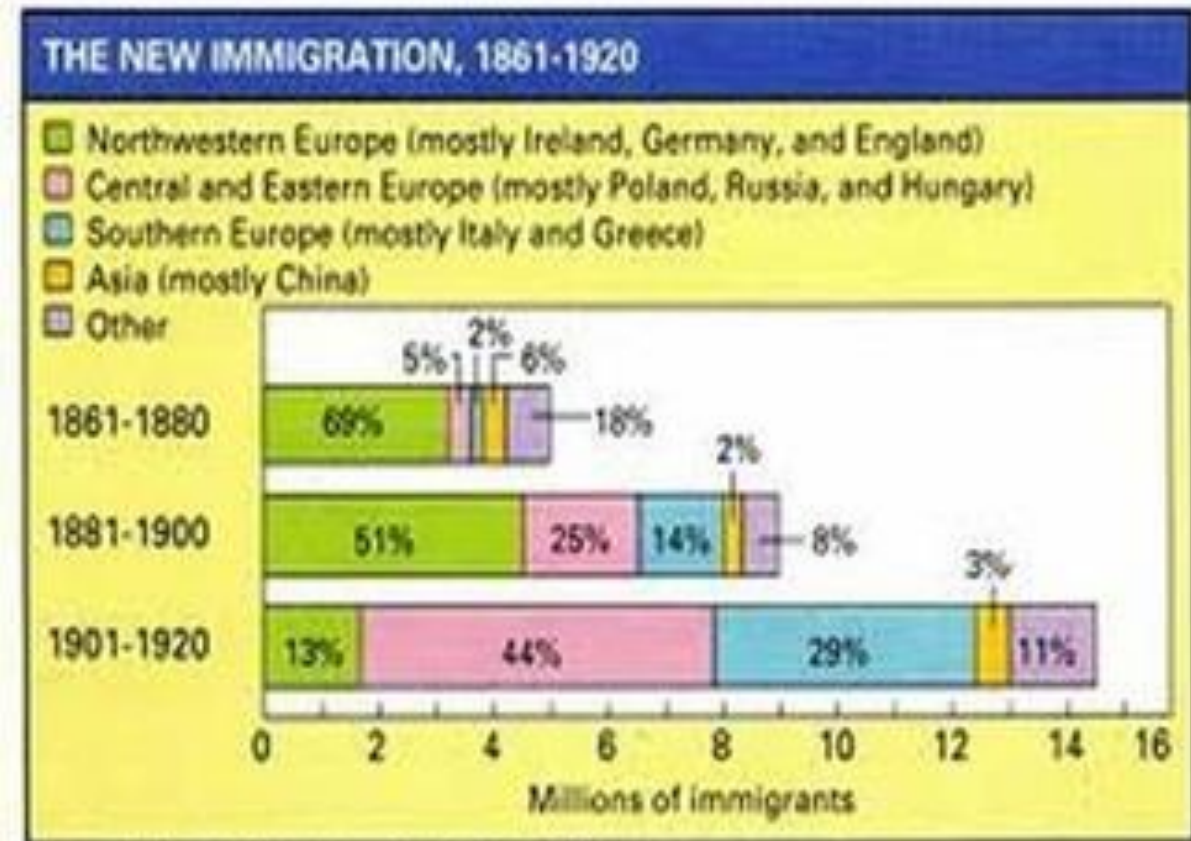
IMMIGRATION STATIONS

- Government centers where immigrants were processed
 - Those with tuberculosis/other diseases were sent back
- Ellis Island
 - New York Harbor
- Angel Island
 - California
- Galveston Island
 - Texas



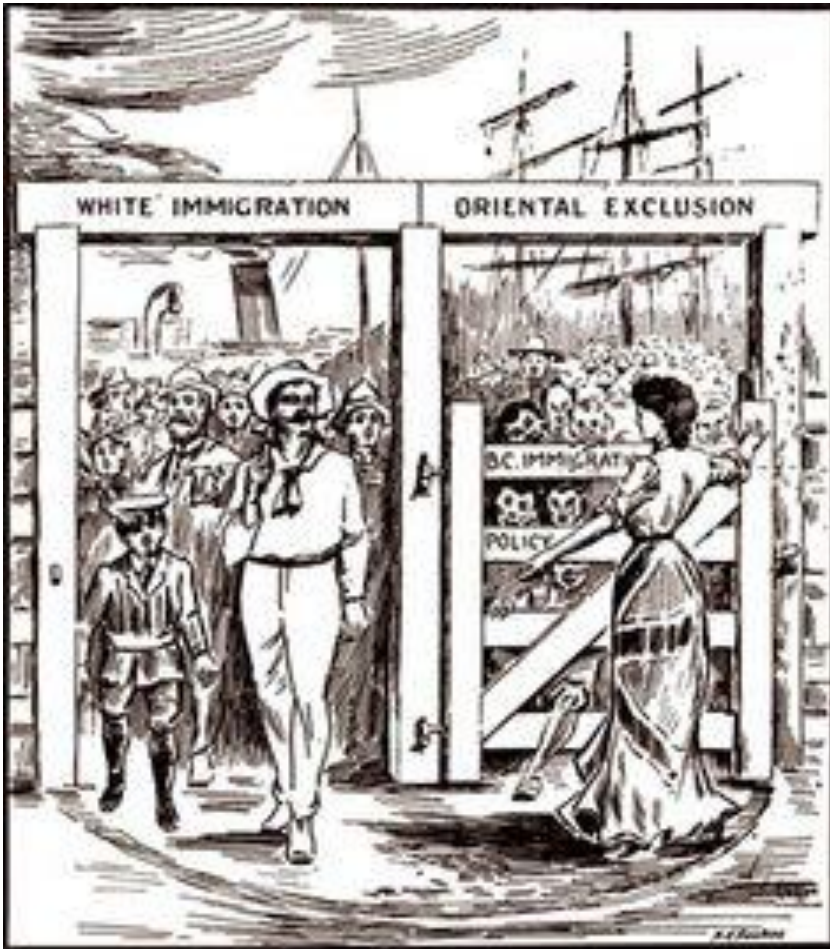
NEW IMMIGRANTS

- Came from Southern and Eastern Europe
 - Poland, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Greece, Russia
 - Often Catholic, Jewish, or Orthodox Christian
 - Spoke no English
- Process of Americanization in Public Schools
 - Americanized = dress, speak, act like other Americans
 - Melting Pot = immigrants melted down and reshaped



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

LIFE OF MINORITIES



- Women
 - Paid less; no political rights
- African Americans
 - Plessy v. Ferguson
 - Supreme Court ruling allowing racial segregation
 - Jim Crow Laws
 - Laws enforcing racial segregation in Southern states
- Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
 - First law to restrict immigration
 - Reflected prejudice against Asians

CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT

The Chinese Exclusion Act provided a 10-year ban on the immigration of Chinese workers. Here are some of its key provisions:

“Preamble. Whereas, in the opinion of the Government of the United States the coming of Chinese laborers to this country endangers the good order of certain localities within the territory:

§1. [T]he coming of Chinese laborers to the United States is suspended; and during such suspension it shall be unlawful for any Chinese laborer to come, or, having so come after the expiration of said ninety day, to remain within the United States.

§9. Before any Chinese passengers are landed from a vessel arriving in the United States, the collector shall examine such passengers, comparing the certificates with the list of passengers; no passenger shall be allowed to land from such a vessel.

§10. That every vessel whose master shall knowingly violate any of the provisions of this act shall be liable to seizure and condemnation in any district of the United States into which such vessel may enter.”

What was the main aim of this law? Why do you think some Americans supported this law?



POLITICAL ISSUES



POLITICAL CORRUPTION OF THE GILDED AGE

- Political Machines
 - Corrupt group of politicians who ran cities
- Political Bosses
 - Leaders of political machines
 - Provided immigrant/poor workers with jobs in exchange for their votes
 - Like the “patron” system



BOSS TWEED AND TAMMANY HALL



- Tammany Hall
 - New York City political machine
- Boss Tweed
 - Leader of Tammany Hall
 - Influence operation of schools, hospitals, and other city-run services
 - Supported by Irish immigrants
 - Controlled/bribed law makers
 - Overpaid himself on construction projects and land sales (stole millions from the city)

PATRONAGE

- the power to control appointments to office or the right to privileges
- Similar to the Patron System

