

- 1 **SOCIETY, POLITICS AND CULTURE OF THE GILDED AGE**
American History Honors
- 2 **Unit Readings and Sequence**
 - Text, Chapters 15-16
 - Primary Source Documents:
 - 4.3 – Ida B. Wells
 - 4.6 – Supreme Court on Granger Laws
 - 4.9 – Anti-Immigration documents
 - 4.10 – “Story of a Greek Peddler”
 - 5.1 – Jacob Riis
 - Sequence note: This unit is organized differently than the textbook and utilized outside information. Pay attention!
- 3 **The “New” Immigrants**
Text, 15.1 and outside documents
(picture credit: Michael Broach, 3/2008)
- 4 **New wave of European immigration**
 - 1870-1920: 20 million Europeans
 - “Birds of passage”
 - Who came?
 - Why leave Europe?
 - What made America attractive?
 - Difficult journey, some in “steerage”
 - Interactive Chart
- 5 **West Coast Immigration**
 - Chinese immigration
 - Gold rush / mining
 - Japanese immigration
 - First, to Hawaii → 1898 annexation of HI → mainland
 - 200,000 on West Coast by 1920
 - West Indies and Mexico
 - Immigrants from the Caribbean seek industrial jobs
 - Mexican immigration after 1910 political turmoil
- 6 **Immigration Centers**
 - 1 Ellis Island
 - 2 Angel Island
- 7 **Immigration Centers, continued**
 - Ellis Island (chief immigration port, though several others)
 - Physical exams; inspectors check legal documents
 - 1892-1924 – approx. 17 million immigrants
 - Angel Island (mostly Asian immigrants)
 - Harsh interrogation and long detentions
 - Once ashore...
 - Immigrants must find work and homes and learn American ways → look for other immigrants
 - How were these “new” immigrants different from the old?
- 8 **The Return of Nativism**
 - Why nativism returns...
 - Religious issues
 - American Protective Association

- Immigration Restriction League
- Literacy tests?
- Western problems → Chinese Exclusion Act 1882
- Japanese segregation in SF 1906 → Gentlemen's Agreement (1907-1908)
- 9
- 10 **Positive Responses to Immigration**
 - (From Text, 15.2)
 - Social welfare reformers & Social Gospel movement
 - Settlement Houses
 - Educational, cultural, social services
 - Help with job, personal and financial problems
 - Jane Addams & Ellen Gates Starr – Hull House (1889)
 - Political machine influence (i.e. Tammany Hall)
- 11 **Urban Growth and Problems**
 - Text 15.2
- 12 **Cities & Immigrants**
 - Rise of industrialization – pull factor
 - Ethnic neighborhoods and conditions
 - Support and social services
 - Education/Americanization movement
- 13 **Urban Opportunities and Problems**
 - Safety valve? Farm laborers out of work or busted farmers
 - Movement by African-Americans
 - RESULT: Competition for jobs
 - Housing Problems
 - Boarding houses, row houses
 - Tenements
 - Mass Transit
 - Water Problems
- 14 **Safety Valve?**
- 15 **Urban Problems, continued**
 - Sanitation (eventually, sewer lines)
 - Crime
 - Fire – largest threat to cities
 - Chicago: <http://www.chicagohs.org/fire/conflag/pic0576.html>
 - Jacksonville: http://www.floridamemory.com/PhotographicCollection/photo_exhibits/jacksonvillefire_intro.cfm
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- 16 **Politics of the Gilded Age**
 - Text, 15.3
 - Presidents DVD Series
 - Image source: <http://www.mrrena.com/2003/social1.shtml>
- 17 **Major Themes**
 - This segment will be covered by a handout and the Presidents DVD Series (Hayes → Cleveland/24)
 - Pay close attention to these major themes:

- Political machines in the cities
- Political corruption and graft
- Patronage politics (spoils system) → reform
- Surplus issue and the “Billion-Dollar Congress”
- Tariffs and currency debate... leading to Panic
- How to deal with the South and segregation?
- Agrarian problems and the Populist movement

18 **Thoughts to Ponder**

- Why did the politics of the Gilded Age sink so low?
- Why was the political system so slow to respond to the economic grievances of farmers and workers?
- What enabled such a large amount of corruption?

19 **Life at the Turn of the Century**

Text, 16.1, 16.2, 16.4

Outside sources

Picture: Flat Iron Building, New York City (taken 3/2008 MB). Originally constructed in 1902

20 **Technology and City Life**

- Growth of cities and business
- Steel and invention of elevators → skyscrapers
- Electric Transit: streetcars (eventually, elevated trains and subways)
- Suspension bridges
- Urban planning/parks
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21 **New Technologies**

- 1890 – Literacy Rate at 90%
- Growing demand for newspapers, books, magazines (new methods of production lower cost)
- What was being printed? (Yikes!)
- Photography – 1888 George Eastman’s Kodak Camera (creates photojournalism industry)
- December 17, 1903 – Kitty Hawk, North Carolina – Wright Brothers Airplane

- How is this revolutionary?

22 **Educational Opportunities**

- Compulsory education laws
- Growth of kindergartens
 - 1880: 62% white children, 34% black children in elementary schools
- Growth of high schools – WHY?
- What were the main reasons for the expansion and improvement of public education?
- Racial discrimination? Concept of “Americanization”
- Role of Catholic Schools ☺
- Night school for adults; vocational opportunities

23 **Higher Education**

- 1880-1920 – college enrollment quadrupled
- Research universities emerge
- Professional law, medical schools emerge
- Entrance exams
- Higher Education for African-Americans?

- Violence in the South
- Southern social structure after Reconstruction
- Outside the South:
 - Mexican Workers in the Southwest
 - Discrimination against Chinese → Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

32 **Group Activity**

Groups will be divided based on three document sets:

- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) case
- Booker T. Washington
- W.E.B. DuBois