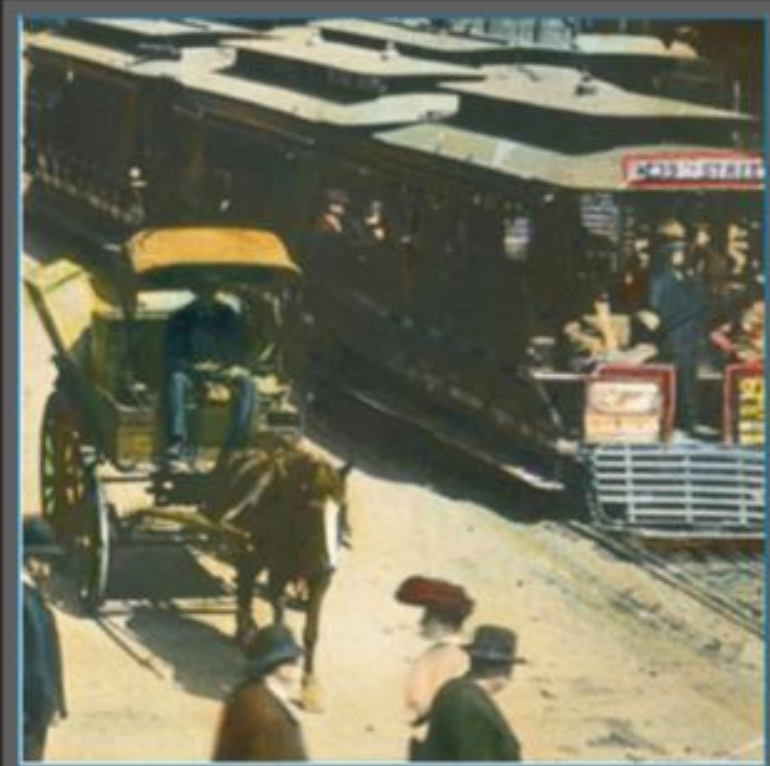


Immigrants and Urbanization, 1877–1914

Immigration from Europe, Asia, Mexico, and the Caribbean forces cities to confront overcrowding. Local and national political corruption sparks calls for reform.



 City street.

Section 1

The New Immigrants

Immigration from Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and Mexico reach a new high in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Through the “Golden Door”

Millions of Immigrants

- Some immigrants seek better lives; others temporary jobs

Europeans

- 1870–1920, about 20 million Europeans arrive in U.S. *[Visual]*
- Many flee religious persecution: Jews driven from Russia by pogroms
- Population growth results in lack of farmland, industrial jobs
- Reform movements, revolts influence young who seek independent lives

Through the “Golden Door”

Chinese and Japanese

- About 300,000 Chinese arrive; earliest attracted by gold rush
 - work in railroads, farms, mines, domestic service, business
- Japanese work on Hawaiian plantations, then go to West Coast
 - by 1920, more than 200,000 on West Coast

Through the “Golden Door”

The West Indies and Mexico

- About 260,000 immigrants from West Indies; most seek industrial jobs
- Mexicans flee political turmoil; after 1910, 700,000 arrive
- National Reclamation Act creates farmland, draws Mexican farmers

Life in the New Land

A Difficult Journey

- Almost all immigrants travel by steamship, most in steerage

Ellis Island

- **Ellis Island**—chief U.S. immigration station, in New York Harbor *[Visual]*
- Immigrants given physical exam by doctor; seriously ill not admitted
- Inspector checks documents to see if meets legal requirements
- 1892–1924, about 17 million immigrants processed at Ellis Island



Immigrants at Ellis Island (about 1900).



Life in the New Land

Angel Island

- **Angel Island**—immigrant processing station in San Francisco Bay
- Immigrants endure harsh questioning, long detention for admission

Cooperation for Survival

- Immigrants must create new life: find work, home, learn new ways
- Many seek people who share cultural values, religion, language
 - ethnic communities form
- Friction develops between “hyphenated” Americans, native-born

Immigration Restrictions

The Rise of Nativism

- **Melting pot**—in U.S. people blend by abandoning native culture
 - immigrants don't want to give up cultural identity
- **Nativism**—overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
- Nativists believe Anglo-Saxons superior to other ethnic groups
- Some object to immigrants' religion: many are Catholics, Jews
- 1897, Congress passes literacy bill for immigrants; Cleveland vetoes
 - 1917, similar bill passes over Wilson's veto

Immigration Restrictions

Anti-Asian Sentiment

- Nativism finds foothold in labor movement, especially in West
 - fear Chinese immigrants who work for less *[Visual]*
- Labor groups exert political pressure to restrict Asian immigration
- 1882, **Chinese Exclusion Act** bans entry to most Chinese



Political cartoon about the Chinese Exclusion Act (1893).

Immigration Restrictions

The Gentlemen's Agreement

- Nativist fears extend to Japanese, most Asians in early 1900s
 - San Francisco segregates Japanese schoolchildren
- Gentlemen's Agreement—Japan limits emigration
 - in return, U.S. repeals segregation

