Chapter 7
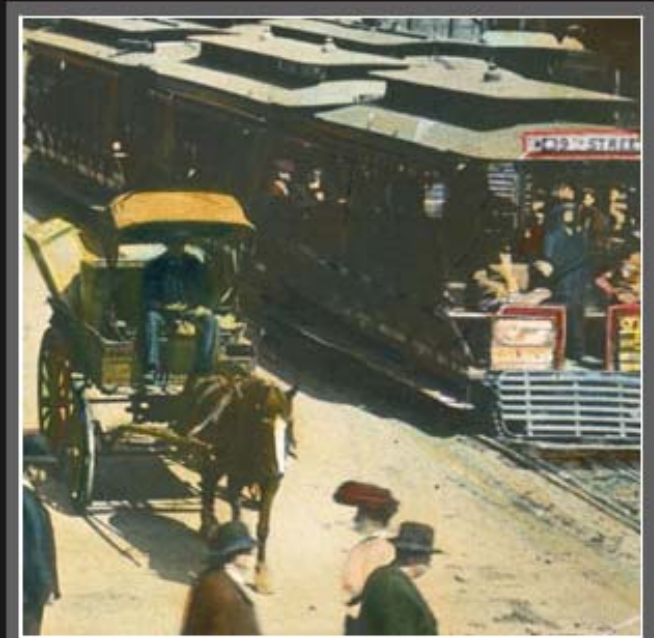# Immigration and Naturalization
1877 – 1914

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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

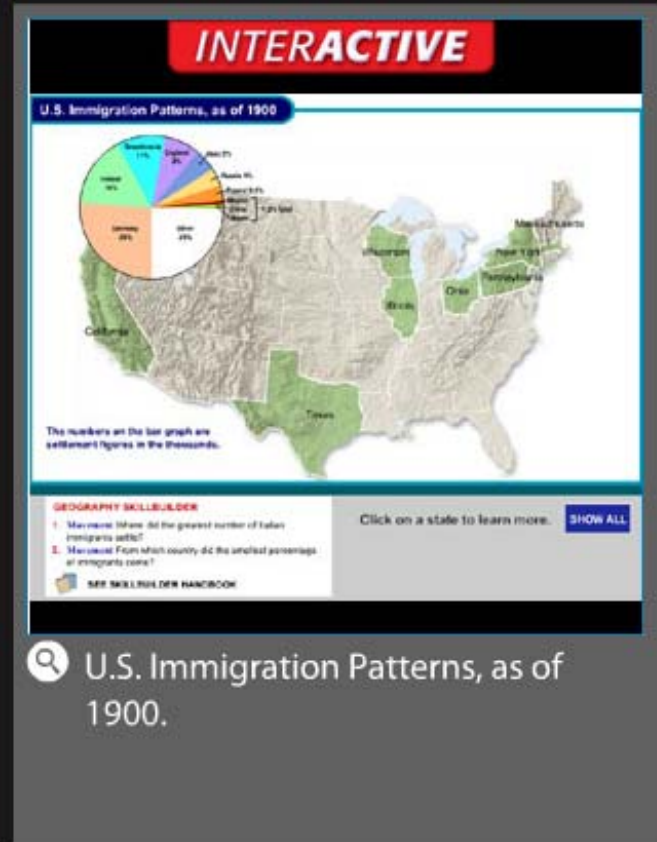Immigration from Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and Mexico reach a new high in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
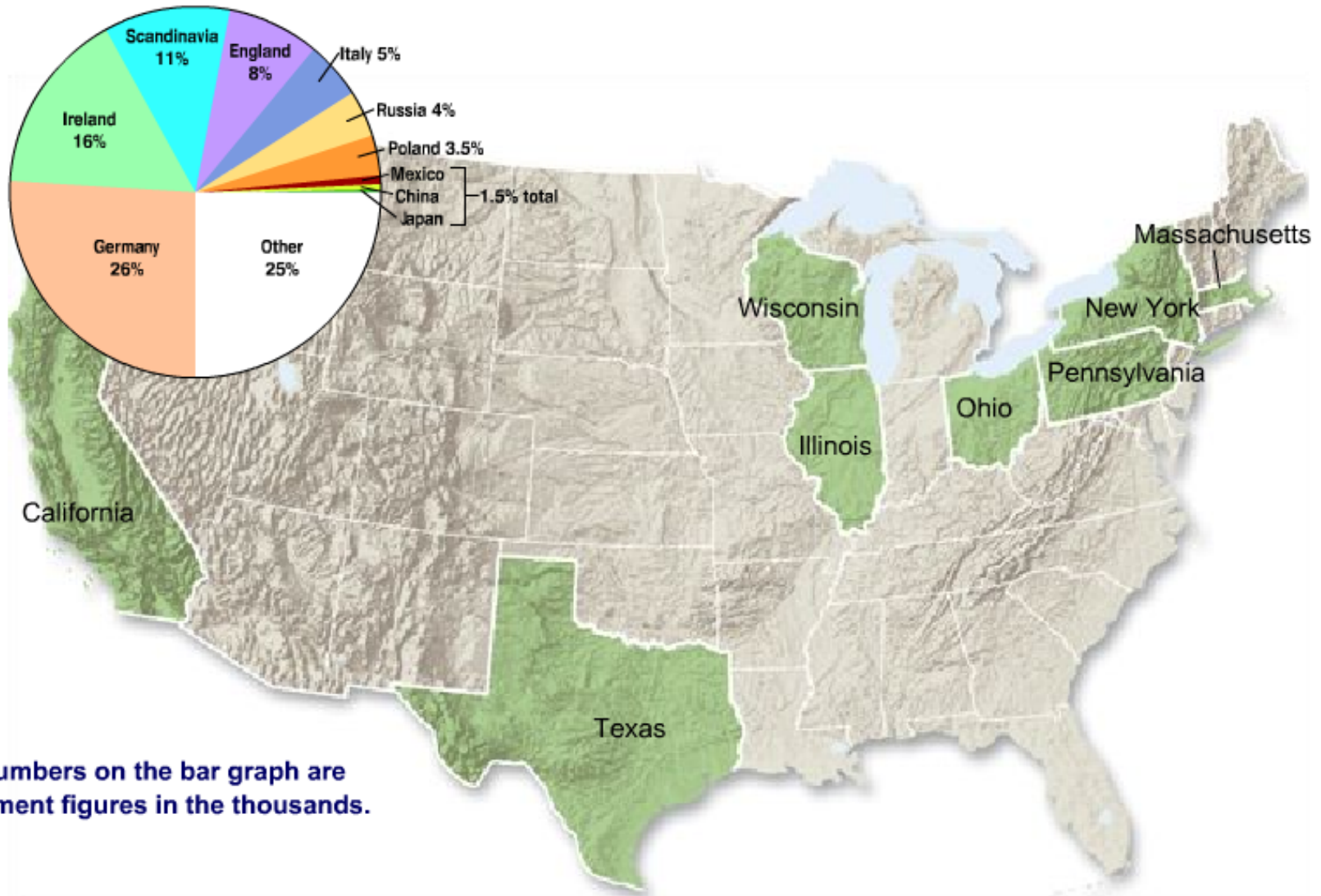
Through the "Golden Door"

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

U.S. Immigration Patterns, as of 1900.

U.S. Immigration Patterns, as of 1900

Pie chart:
- Scandinavia 11%
- England 8%
- Italy 5%
- Russia 4%
- Poland 3.5%
- Mexico, China, Japan — 1.5% total
- Ireland 16%
- Germany 26%
- Other 25%

Map labels: Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, California, Texas

The numbers on the bar graph are settlement figures in the thousands.

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).

NATIVISM means that you favor the people already living in a country (the natives) and distrust immigrants.
EXCLUSION means that you keep out, or exclude.
LABOR GROUPS refers to union members.

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

EMMIGRATION means people going out of your country
IMMIGRATION means people coming into your country

Section 2

The Challenges of Urbanization

The rapid growth of cities force people to contend with problems of housing, transportation, water, and sanitation.

Urban Opportunities

Immigrants Settle in Cities [Visual]

- Industrialization leads to urbanization, or growth of cities
- Most immigrants settle in cities; get cheap housing, factory jobs
- Americanization movement—assimilate people into main culture
- Schools, voluntary groups teach citizenship skills
  - English, American history, cooking, etiquette
- Ethnic communities provide social support

Where the Foreign-Born Lived, 1900.

Urban Opportunities

Migration from Country to City

- Farm technology decreases need for laborers; people move to cities *[Visual]*
- Many African Americans in South lose their livelihood
- 1890–1910, move to cities in North, West to escape racial violence
- Find segregation, discrimination in North too
- Competition for jobs between blacks, white immigrants causes tension
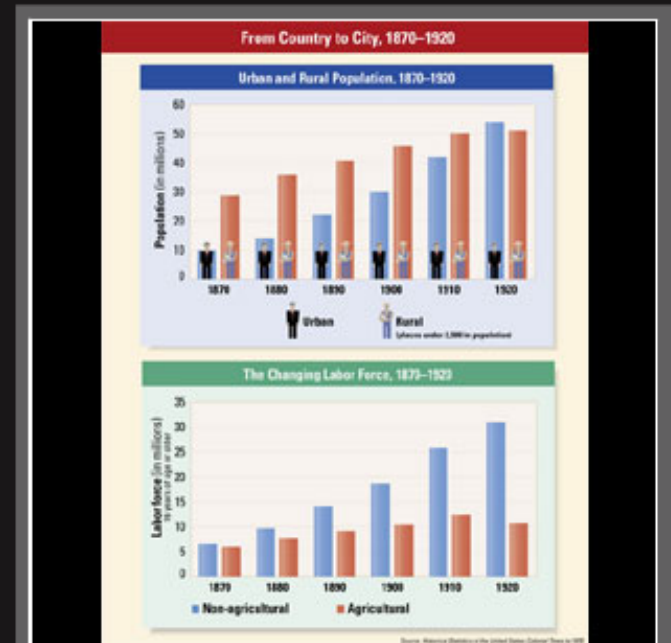
From Country to City, 1870–1920.

Urban Problems

Housing

- Working-class families live in houses on outskirts or boardinghouses
- Later, row houses built for single families
- Immigrants take over row houses, 2–3 families per house
- Tenements—multifamily urban dwellings, are overcrowded, unsanitary

Transportation

- Mass transit—move large numbers of people along fixed routes
- By 20th century, transit systems link city to suburbs

Urban Problems

Water
- 1860s cities have inadequate or no piped water, indoor plumbing rare
- Filtration introduced 1870s, chlorination in 1908

Sanitation
- Streets: manure, open gutters, factory smoke, poor trash collection
- Contractors hired to sweep streets, collect garbage, clean outhouses
  - often do not do job properly
- By 1900, cities develop sewer lines, create sanitation departments

Urban Problems

Crime
- As population grows, thieves flourish
- Early police forces too small to be effective

Fire
- Fire hazards: limited water, wood houses, candles, kerosene heaters
- Most firefighters volunteers, not always available
- 1900, most cities have full-time, professional fire departments [Visual]
- Fire sprinklers, non-flammable building materials make cities safer

Two attendants in front of an early fire engine in New York City (about 1900).

Reformers Mobilize

The Settlement House Movement

- Social welfare reformers work to relieve urban poverty
- Social Gospel movement—preaches salvation through service to poor
- Settlement houses—community centers in slums, help immigrants
- Run by college-educated women, they:
  - provide educational, cultural, social services
  - send visiting nurses to the sick
  - help with personal, job, financial problems
- Jane Addams founds Hull House with Ellen Gates Starr in 1889 *[Visual]*

Jane Addams (1860–1935), social reformer, with children.

Section 3

Politics in the Gilded Age

Local and national political corruption in the 19th century leads to calls for reform.

The Emergence of Political Machines

The Political Machine

- Political machine—organized group that controls city political party
- Give services to voters, businesses for political, financial support
- After Civil War, machines gain control of major cities
- Machine organization: precinct captains, ward bosses, city boss

The Emergence of Political Machines

The Role of the Political Boss

- Whether or not city boss serves as mayor, he:
  - controls access to city jobs, business licenses
  - influences courts, municipal agencies
  - arranges building projects, community services
- Bosses paid by businesses, get voters' loyalty, extend influence

Immigrants and the Machine

- Many captains, bosses 1st- or 2nd-generation Americans
- Machines help immigrants with naturalization, jobs, housing

Municipal Graft and Scandal

Election Fraud and Graft

- Machines use electoral fraud to win elections
- Graft—illegal use of political influence for personal gain
- Machines take kickbacks, bribes to allow legal, illegal activities

Municipal Graft and Scandal

The Tweed Ring Scandal

- 1868 William M. Tweed, or Boss Tweed, heads Tammany Hall in NYC
- Leads Tweed Ring, defrauds city of millions of dollars
- Cartoonist Thomas Nast helps arouse public outrage [Visual]
  - Tweed Ring broken in 1871

Political cartoon depicting William M. 'Boss' Tweed (1870).

THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE.
HE CANNOT CALL HIS SOUL HIS OWN.

Civil Service Replaces Patronage

Patronage Spurs Reform

- Patronage—government jobs to those who help candidate get elected
- Civil service (government administration) are all patronage jobs
- Some appointees not qualified; some use position for personal gain
- Reformers press for merit system of hiring for civil service

Civil Service Replaces Patronage

Reform Under Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur

- Republican Rutherford B. Hayes elected president 1876
  - names independents to cabinet
  - creates commission to investigate corruption
  - fires 2 officials; angers Stalwarts
- 1880, Republican independent James A. Garfield wins election [Visual]

Campaign poster for James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur (1880).

Stalwarts were people who wanted to keep things as they were. They did not want reforms

Civil Service Replaces Patronage

Reform Under Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur

- Stalwart Chester A. Arthur is vice-president
- Garfield gives patronage jobs to reformers; is shot and killed
- As president, Arthur urges Congress to pass civil service law
- Pendleton Civil Service Act—appointments based on exam score

Business Buys Influence

Harrison, Cleveland, and High Tariffs

- Business wants high tariffs; Democrats want low tariffs
- 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland wins; cannot lower tariffs
- 1888, Benjamin Harrison becomes president, supports higher tariffs
  - wins passage of McKinley Tariff Act
- 1892, Cleveland reelected, supports bill that lowers McKinley Tariff
  - rejects bill that also creates income tax
  - Wilson-Gorman Tariff becomes law 1894
- 1897, William McKinley becomes president, raises tariffs again