The Age of the City Chapter 18
• To succeed in life you need two things: ignorance and confidence.
• Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company.
• The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.
• Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.
• Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.
• The lack of money is the root of all evil.

All that glisters is not gold; Often have you heard that told: Many a man his life hath sold But my outside to behold: Gilded tombs do worms enfold. Had you been as wise as bold, Young in limbs, in judgement old Your answer had not been inscroll'd Fare you well, your suit is cold.

William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice

• Mark Twain-isms
CTQs for Ch. 18

1. Identify and analyze the factors that changed the American city in the second half of the nineteenth century.
2. What key changes did urbanization bring to America? In what ways was America becoming a consumer and leisure society?
3. Analyze the primary causes of the population shift from the rural to an urban environment in the United States between 1875 and 1925.
New Urban Growth

Rapid changes post Civil War

Urban population increased 7x in 50 years

ex. Seattle grew over 21000%

By 1920 majority of pop. was urban

Immigration (10+ mill) and migration due to urban job growth and transportation advances (RR’s in North and West)

American’s in the 19c. were the most mobile pop. in history.

Great Migration (A. Amer moved to northern cities)

Most work for black americans was service based (women’s work)

Immigrant population shifts to poorer eastern Europeans.
1870 and 1910 Labor Changes
Number of Immigrants to the U.S. Per Decade: 1820-1990
(thousands)

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The graph shows the number of immigrants to the United States from different regions over the years from 1860 to 1930. The x-axis represents the years, while the y-axis represents the number of immigrants.

- **Immigration from northern and western Europe** is depicted by a yellow line.
- **Immigration from southern and eastern Europe** is shown by a blue line.
- **Immigration from Asia** is represented by a purple line.
- **Immigration from Canada** is indicated by a red line.
- **Immigration from Latin America and the Caribbean** is marked by a teal line.

The graph highlights significant peaks in immigration, particularly during the early 1900s.
Immigration from Europe

1st Wave “Old” 1840s-1880s: Western and Northern Europeans (German, English and Irish Immigrants)

2nd Wave “New” 1890s-1920s: Southern and Eastern Europeans (Italian, Jewish, Catholic, and Polish immigrants)

From 1820-1924 approximately 35 million people immigrated to America
Ellis Island Immigration Station: New York

1892-1954 Major Immigration Entry Point
Ellis Island Immigration Station: New York

1892-1954 Major Immigration Entry Point
Ellis Island

- Medical Inspections:
  - “Six-second exam”

- Legal Interviews
  - 29 Questions: What is your name? Age? Prior occupation?

- 20% failed one of these
  - Hospital
  - Further interviews

- 2% Deported (about 250,000 total)

- It is estimated that over 40% of all citizens can trace their ancestry to those who came through Ellis Island.
Mental Testing

- According to a 1917 U.S. Public Health Service manual, 9 out of 100 immigrants were marked with an "X" during the line inspection.
  - Immigrants had to work out simple arithmetic problems, or count backward from 20 to 1, or complete a puzzle.
  - Out of the 9 immigrants held for this "weeding out" session, perhaps 1 or 2 would be detained for a secondary session of more extensive testing.
- **Can you draw a diamond?** Immigrants were asked to replicate a shape to test dexterity and spatial analysis.
- **What is Your Name?** Andruljawierjus, Grzyszczyszn, Koutsoghanopoulos, and Zemiszkicivicz are a few of the names that Ellis Island inspectors had to decipher from handwritten manifests.
- **Literacy Test:** Anti-immigration forces succeeded with the Immigration Act of 1917. This law required all immigrants, 16 years or older, to read a 40-word passage in their native language.
Beyond Ellis Island:

- Many immigrants settle in cities: New York, Chicago, Boston
- 1870—25% of Americans live in cities
- 1920—50% of Americans live in cities
- Immigrants settle near others from their home country
  - Development of ethnic ghettos
- Tenements: were fast, cheap housing built for urban poor. Viewed initially as a positive solution
- Settlement Houses: provided services, such as child care and classes
Impact of Immigrant population

The Ethnic City

Rapid growth of cities was largely attributed to immigration

By 1890 over 80% of NY, Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee’s populations were due to recent immigration

Most immigrants were from rural areas - so to adapt, they formed ethnic communities or “ghettoes”

Assimilation

Ethnic ghettos while supporting the newly arrived immigrant could also be made to hurt their economic progress

Assimilation encouraged through public schools. Schools were used to “Americanize” immigrant youth
Illiteracy in the United States, 1870–1920

SOURCE: Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970
Native population grew concerned over rapid changes brought on by immigrants

- Rise in xenophobia and nativism in North/KKK in South
- Resented immigrant willingness to accept lower wages
  
  However, older immigrants were also more than likely to own the businesses that profited from lower wage labor.

**American Protective Association** founded in 1887 by Henry Bowers

**Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882** - first Congressional restriction of specific ethnic group

**Immigration Restriction League, 1894**

  “Desirable” vs. “Undesirable” ; 50 cent taxes; banned criminals and mentally incompetent
• Angel Island in San Francisco, CA
• Arrived very different from European customs
  • Language, dress, religion, culture.
• Settled in Chinatowns in order to survive transition
• Highly prejudiced against
• Chinese Exclusion Act 1882
THE HIGH TIDE OF IMMIGRATION—A NATIONAL MENACE.
Spoiling the Broth

H.C.L.
BUSINESS OUTLOOK

FLOOD OF IMMIGRATION

EUROPE AND ASIA'S MILLIONS

THE MELTING POT

UNASSIMILATED ALIENS

Gale in Los Angeles Times
Urban Problems

1. **Housing - tenement houses** - were multifamily dwellings often in unsanitary conditions

   “Five-Cent-A-Spot” housing which was a cheap rent a room. Usually no bigger than a 5x5 or 6x6 square foot room for four to six people.

2. **Transportation** - mass transit systems were developed to help cope with population growth

3. **Water** - safe and clean water was an issue in most cities
Estate of Charles M. Schwab
Estate of John Jacob Astor
Jacob Riis - How the Other Half Lives, 1890
Jacob Riis - How the Other Half Lives, 1890
Jacob Riis - *How the Other Half Lives*, 1890

*Children sleeping on Mulberry Street*
Urban Problems

4. Sanitation - problems with horse manure and human waste flowing onto the streets. Factories burned toxic chemicals and trash was often dumped onto streets.

5. Crime - lack of police presence in most cities. Murder rates increased 4x in 20 years.

   *Sister Carrie (Theodore Dreiser)*

6. Fire - lack of water meant fires were impossible to put out. Poor building codes and unorganized fire departments

   The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, March 25, 1911

146 Die in the fire
March 1911 in NYC
- Fire broke out 5 minutes before end of day
- About 600 girls 100 men in building, about 146 dead
- Only 1 fire escape, cut off by fire
- Most victims suffocated/burned
- Hopeless girls jumped to death onto sidewalk
- Public outrage over locked doors, lack of fire escapes led to reforms in fire codes
Political Machines

What do the new immigrants need?
  jobs, $, housing, protection, etc.

Who controls local politics?

Political Machines & Political Bosses:
  They want: votes on election day, power, & influence

Corruption

Relationship:

Political Machines and Bosses would provide money, protection, a pathway to citizenship, food, housing, entertainment (legal and illegal) in return for votes
Tweed Ring Scandal

Political machines used **graft** - which was using political influence for personal gain

William “Boss” Tweed - head of **Tammany Hall** (NY’s political machine) - used his influence to charge 13 mil for a construction project that only cost 3 million to build

Tweed was also a major figure in the Civil War draft riots, encouraging race tensions to build
Politics in the Gilded Age

At the peak of its power, Tammany Hall in NY sponsored (controlled) the mayor from 1871 to 1954 in NY

Political machines became associated with labor unions, the mob, and socialist leanings.

A cartoon commenting on the power of Tammany Hall over New York City
Attempts to Create Order and Tranquility

Cities grow in mixed use patterns to allow for neighborhood amenities to limit the strain on public transit.

Louis Sullivan - father of skyscrapers

“Form follows function”

High quality and low cost steel, plus a need for more office and living space caused a construction boom.
Bethesda Terrace, 1902

THE TERRACE AND FOUNTAIN, CENTRAL PARK.
ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PIECES OF PARK ARCHITECTURE IN THE WORLD.
72nd st.
Central Park, c. 1900
Attempts to Create Order and Tranquility

City Beautiful Movement - a result largely because of the success of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago (World’s Fair)

It involved the consideration of adding beauty and recreation (open space) to American cities. Previously - ‘gardens’ were reserved only for the wealthy but these were designed as public spaces.
Attempts to Create Order and Tranquility

Jane Addams - based in Chicago, she is the first to develop settlement houses. These were residences for single women who needed a safe place to live and learn basic employment skills.

Growth of soup kitchens and non-profits.

YMCA and YWCA formed

Salvation Army
Growth of Leisure Time and Mass Consumption

The Growth of the “white-collar” class led to changes in consumption.

- Off the rack clothing
- Mail order catalogs
- Department stores
- “Shopping” as an activity rather than a chore

Growth of consumption leads to marketing and advertising competition.
Growth of Leisure Time and Mass Consumption

Baseball - dates as far back as “four-cat” in the 1700s, it official started a professional league in 1876. Both American and National Leagues formed/competed in a World Series in 1903.

Baseball was among the first spectator events that welcomed mass crowds.

Other events included: Coney Island, central park, movies
Coney Island, c. 1900