

# 25

- Characteristics of Urbanization During the Gilded Age**
1. Megalopolis (skyscrapers, suspension bridges, elevators, indoor plumbing, AC electricity).
  2. Mass Transit (Frank Sprague).
  3. Magnet for economic and social opportunities.
  4. Pronounced class distinctions.
    - Inner & Outer core
  5. New frontier of opportunity for women.
  6. Squalid living conditions for many (tenements).
  7. Political machines.
  8. Ethnic neighborhoods.

- INVENTIONS**
- **Steam Powered Elevated Trains:** finally, those that could afford to, could move out of the decaying downtown and turn what had been farm communities into suburbs. The growing "Middle Class" flocked to the outskirts of cities.

- Urban Planning:**
- Some people saw that although cities could now grow unimpeded, they shouldn't. One man, **Frederick Olmstead**, argued for the construction of city parks, and greenbelts to ensure that every American had access to his natural heritage. Americans have always believed that there is something magical and healing about nature. He built Central Park in NYC, the Chicago World Fairgrounds as well as many smaller parks.

- THEME:** too much change, too fast???
- (Civil War, Political Corruption, Industrialism, Urbanization, New inventions, Immigration of "new" groups, Scientific Ideas, etc.)
- Urban problems should be fixed by??
    - Government?
    - **Local?**
    - State?
    - Federal?

- **CHURCH?**
  - Lack the resources.
  - Controlled by the Rockefellers and Morgans.
  - Christianity split between "New Immigrant" churches and "Old Immigrant" churches.
  - Too busy fighting Darwinism (*Origin of Species* in 1859) and other new ideas like Modernism, and Christian Science

- Reformers
  - YMCA
  - Hull House, etc. al.
  - Booker T. Washington (Tuskegee institute)
  - W.E. B. Dubois (NAACP and his talented 10th)
  - Comstock laws (anti-pornography)
  - Feminist movement grows beyond suffrage with Charlotte Perkins Gilman
    - » NAWWSA: Stanton, Anthony, etc. start it as women's rights and reject the idea of "biological differences", but
    - » Carrie Chapman Catt gets more done by appealing to WASP politicians saying it would increase their votes and keep "family values" alive. See p. 590 for map.
    - » National assoc. of Colored Women formed by Ida B. Wells when white suffragists refuse to admit black women.
  - Prohibition (WCTU)

- Education:
  - Lyceums
  - Chautauqua
  - Public schools paid for by taxpayers
  - Co-ed universities
  - Most religious universities became secularized (Notre Dame 1842, Holy Cross 1843, Harvard 1844)
  - Morrill act and the Hatch Act 1887 (A&M and Tech schools)
  - African American Universities
  - Education changes:
    - Electives
    - Majors (rather than "Liberal Arts")
    - PhD's
- Libraries (Carnegie)

- Popular culture becomes "nationalized"
  - Newspapers
    - Hearst—Examiner
    - Pulitzer—The World (Yellow Journalism)
  - Magazines of all types
  - LINO TYPE MACHINE
    - Liberal
    - Conservative
    - Socialist
    - Ladies Home Journal
    - Etc
  - Most books were published as "serial cliffhangers":
    - Dime Novels
    - Westerns
    - Moral tales and Success Gospel (Horatio Alger)

- Kate Chopin: feminist topics
- William dean Howells: both a magazine editor (Atlantic), and a novelist. Wrote about modern problems like divorce and socialism
- Stephen Crane: Prostitution and the horrors of war
- Henry James: psychological realism
- Jack London: nature as a primary force
- Frank Norris: wrote against monopolies and industrialism
- Dunbar & Chestnut: Black dialect and Folktales
- Theodore Dreiser: Heroes w/ questionable morals

- Poets
  - Whitman: Leaves of Grass
  - Emily Dickinson (romantic drive)
  - "Intellectuals" or at least they tried
  - W.E.B DuBois: Historian and sociologist
  - Henry George : *Progress and Poverty*. A single 100% tax on "parasites" to economic growth
  - Edward Bellamy: *Looking Backward*. American Socialism?? Problems would be solved by technology.
  - Lewis Wallace; *Ben Hur*. Anti-Darwinian
  - Horatio Alger: Rags to Riches books. (Success Gospel)

- Popular Entertainment
  - Wild West shows
  - Barnum and Bailey
  - 4th of July "takes off"
  - Minstrels
  - Operas
  - Baseball 1891
  - Football 1889
  - Boxing
  - Bicycle clubs: (gives girls new freedoms)
  - Basketball 1891
  - Shopping
  - Reading
  - Amusement parks like Coney Island (paid for by trolley companies to increase ridership on weekends, but soon the workingman's resort).

- Painters, Musicians, Architects
  - Whistler: Portraits
  - Mary Cassat: Impressionism
  - Winslow Homer: Realism
  - Jazz greats
  - Blues ♪♪ ♪♪
  - Ragtime ♪♪ ♪♪
  - Frederick Olmstead and Urban Planning (Central Perk)
  - Louis Sullivan ("form follows function")

## NYC

- 400,000 rooms w/o windows
- 20,000 cellar rooms that are 2' underwater for 3 hrs per day
- 333,000 people per sq. mile
- Disease
- Crime
- Gangs: Hell's Kitchen, Poverty Gap, etc
- 14,000 homeless
- Prostitution
- Pollution (A. T. Stewart)
- No underground sewers

## Why so rapid?

- Immigration goes over 1,000,000 per year. 2/3 of immigrants stayed trapped in cities
  - Moving off farms for
    - City life
    - Jobs
    - Failed farms (city is the real "safety valve")
  - Children still seen as assets to the family
- 1840 pop = 40,000,000  
1870 pop = 80,000,000

- By 1877 17% of California was Chinese

- Came for "Mountain of Gold"
- Stayed to build RR
- Alternative was return to
  - Famine
  - Overpopulation
  - Civil warfare (warlord period)
- Chinatowns
  - Pooled resources
  - Opened laundry shops and restierants
  - Began to prosper

## Legal Action

- American Protective Association 1887
  - Anti-Catholic
  - NINA
- Kearnyites
- Chinese Exclusion Act 1882



OLD IMMIGRANTS	NEW IMMIGRANTS
Irish	Poles
Scots	Lithuanians
Welsh	Ukrainians
English	Russians (Jews)
Scandinavians	Serbs, Croats
Germans	Slovenes, Greeks
	Chinese
	Filipinos