Gilded Age: Immigration

“New Immigration” (1860-1900)

- 15 million immigrants came to U.S.
- 75% moved to Northeast
- Growing number from Southern and Eastern Europe (Italy, Poland, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Syria) etc.
- Made up 40% of immigrants during this era
  – 60% were still “Old Immigrants” (Western European countries such as Britain, Germany, Ireland)

Asians and Latin Americans

- Many worked on railroads
- Performed hardest and dirtiest work
- By 1880, 15,000 Asian immigrants in U.S.
- 9% of California’s population
- Asians: usually stayed West
- Latin Americans: moved to Southwest
Nativism

• “New Immigrant”, Asian and Latin American immigrants faced nativism
  – Job Competition
  – Seen as more “un-American”
  – Would work for lower wages
  – Unions were usually anti-immigration
  – Bosses preyed upon them

Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

• Gov’t laws restricting immigration
• Forbade the immigration of Chinese for a number of years
• 1898: U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark: Supreme Court ruled 14th Amendment guaranteed citizenship to all persons born in U.S. giving protection to Chinese Americans.

Impact on City Government

• Rapid urban growth taxed ability of local governments to provide services
• Bossism fueled
  – Filled void left by fleeing native born groups
  – Gave jobs, favors to poor and immigrants for votes
  – Positive: Did help poor and cities
  – Negative: corruption and offended middle class
City Pattern

- Center: Poorest areas (ghetto, slums)
  - Was previously middle class
  - Usually near industry
  - Unsanitary
  - High crime rates
- Working class, middle class and rich made rings around center of cities
  - Transportation innovations (streetcars, trolleys, subways) allowed wealthier to move out of city
- Neighborhoods usually segregated by race, ethnicity

"Dumbell" Tenement

Urban Reform

- Inspired by:
  - Poverty
  - Immigration
  - Corruption in Government (Party Bosses)
  - Corruption in Big Business
Jacob Riis: How the Other Half Lived (1890)

Tenement Slum Living

Lodgers Huddled
Social Gospel Movement

- Church membership increased dramatically
- Social betterment tied to salvation
- Charles Sheldon (1897) - "What Would Jesus Do"

Jane Addams

- Settlement house movement
- Hull House (1889)
- Use religious ideas to deal with poverty, social ills
- Primary focus: immigrant families and women

Increased Stress on Education

- Tax-supported public schools gaining in popularity
- Compulsory grade-school education in most states
- Teach "American values" to immigrants
- Teach discipline to factory workers
- Illiteracy rate drops from 20% in 1870 to 10% in 1900
- Increased number of colleges and universities