



# Chapter 6

## Sections 1 & 2

Coming to America

# The Gilded Age

- Underneath a thin layer of prosperity was much poverty and corruption in the late 1800's. (Gilded means covered with a thin layer of gold)
- “Get rich dishonestly if we can, honestly if we must”



# Laissez-Faire

- A policy in which businesses operate without government regulation. (No rules or restrictions)
- Benefits the rich company owners not the workers.

**LAISSSEZ  
FAIRE**

# Bribes

- Big businesses got what they wanted by bribing politicians. (Central Pacific RR budgeted \$500,000 per year)



# Spoils System

- Elected officials appointed their friends and supporters to positions even when they were unqualified. (end up with dishonest people in government)



# Why People Were on the Move

- Crop failures and famine.
- Shortage of land and jobs.
- Rising taxes.
- Religious and political persecution.



# Population Explosion

- Between 1865 and 1920 the population in America doubled. (from 31.5 million to over 60 million)



# Stories About America

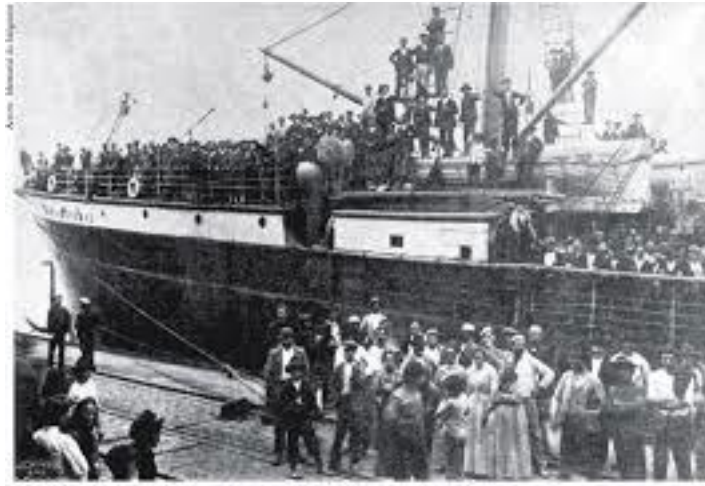
- Immigrants heard that everyone could go to school.
- Young men weren't forced to serve long years in the military.
- Citizens could freely take part in a democratic government.





# Journey Across the Atlantic

- Steam-powered ships took 2 to 3 weeks.  
(by 1900 only took 1 week)



*Descembarque de imigrantes no Porto de Santos (SP), 1907.*

# Steerage

- Large open area beneath the ship's deck where most immigrants traveled.  
(couldn't afford cabins)
- Limited toilet facilities, no privacy, and poor food, but the fare was cheap.



# Birds of Passage

- Young men who worked for several months or years and then returned home.



## Where did most immigrants come from?

- Between 1865 and 1890 most came from northern Europe. (Germany, England, and Ireland)
- In the 1890's most came from *Southern* (Italy and Greece) and *Eastern* (Russia and Poland) Europe



# Busy Ports

- Most immigrants came through Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore in the East.
- Most Asians came through San Francisco and Seattle in the West.



# Ellis Island “The Golden Door”

- A huge reception center for steerage passengers opened here in 1892.
- 70% of all immigrants came through New York City.



# Statue of Liberty

- Given to the United States as a gift from France (in 1886) and represented the U.S. as a place of refuge and hope.



# Requirements for Entry

- Had to pass a physical exam (beginning in 1892) to make sure immigrants were not bringing any contagious diseases in.





# Quarantine

- Had to be placed in isolation for a time period to prevent the spread of diseases like Tuberculosis.



# Trachoma

- A contagious eye disease that causes blindness. ( Hardening of the lid )
- You would be deported ( Sent back to your country ) if you had it.
- ( Read Quote on Page 213 )



# Irish

- Half of all immigrants to NYC ( between 1847 and 1860 ) were from Ireland.
- A great potato famine caused many to leave. (One million died from starvation)



# Newly Arrived Immigrants

- Many tried to find relatives or friends who were already here.
- Others were on their own.



# Dangerous

- Ports were often dangerous places because criminals hung out with fake offers of housing and jobs to new immigrants, but then stole money and baggage from the unwary.
- ( Pg. 215 Polish Immigrant story )



# Where Did Immigrants Settle?

- In communities already established by previous settlers from their country.  
( Italians in NY, Irish in Boston, )
- Only 2% went to the South.



# Taken Advantage Of

- There were very few jobs available so employers paid immigrants less. (women received only half of men's pay)



# West Coast

- Most immigrants who came through West Coast ports were from China and Japan.





## Didn't fit in

- Asian immigrants were often not accepted because they were culturally very different (appearance, food, and dress seemed very strange) from Americans and Europeans. (others were suspicious of and even hostile towards them)



# Inferior

- Racists groups claimed that Asians were physically and mentally inferior.
- Asians accepted lower wages which unions didn't like.



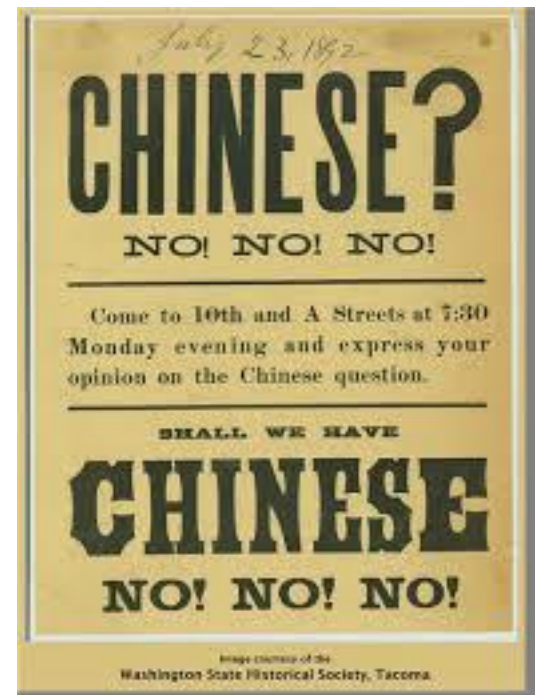
# Chinatown

- Chinese avoided this hostility by moving into Chinatown sections of cities. (like San Francisco)



# Chinese Exclusion Act

- Prevented Chinese from entering the country. (in effect until 1943!)



# Hawaii

- Many Japanese immigrants entered the country here to work on sugar plantations. (U.S. Obtained it in 1898)
- Many Japanese settled in LA area.



# Japanese

- Many produced foods and vegetables in Southern CA for work.



# Picture Brides

- Japanese women whose marriages had been arranged through the exchange of photographs across the Pacific Ocean.



# Segregation

- Japanese, Chinese, and Korean school children were forced to attend separate schools in San Francisco. (in 1906)
- (Take Eto story Pg. 215)





# Webb Alien Land Law

- Banned Asians from owning farm land.



# Mexicans

- 10% of Mexico's population emigrated to the U.S. around WWI to work in mines and farms. (to produce materials for the war effort)



# American Dream

- Millions of immigrants just wanted simple comforts, to make a little money, and the chance for a better life.



# Homework Essay

- Imagine you are an Asian or European immigrant coming to America. In 1 page explain why you left and what you hope to gain by leaving your homeland. Also, discuss the journey over here and what you encountered immediately upon arrival in this country. **Use at least 5 facts from your notes and underline them.**

