

Chapter 18: The Lure of the Cities



Objectives:



- We will study the rise of the cities in late nineteenth century America.
- We will examine both the culture and society of the cities of this time.

Luk_19:41 And when he was
come near, he beheld the city,
and wept over it,



The Lure of the City:

- The Post Civil War Era saw a mass migration to the cities.
- 1920 census revealed that for the first time the majority of American people lived in “urban areas” defined as communities 2,500 or more.
- New York grew from 1 million in 1860 to over 3 million in 1900.
- Chicago: 100,000 to more than a million in 1900.
- Population boom based on people moving from rural areas to the cities.



The Lure of the City:

- The great migration of the countryside to the city during the last phase of the nineteenth century.
- People moved from the countryside to the city because it offered conveniences, entertainments and cultural experiences unavailable in rural communities.
- Most were attracted by better paying jobs.



The Lure of the City:

- People were flocking to the East and Midwest and many were women.
- As mass production caused women who were essential for domestic roles no longer as pressing.
- Cities gave women opportunity to act in ways that in smaller communities seen to be not socially proper.



The Lure of the City:

- Transportation made it easier to move.
- Transportation was cheaper and more efficient.
- Transportation such as railroads made it simple and inexpensive to travel to the cities.
- Steam powered ocean liners allowed Europeans and Asians to cross the oceans to America more cheaply and quickly than in the past.



The Lure of the City:

- There was also high rate of infant mortality and declining fertility and high rate of death from disease.
- Without immigration, cities would grow slowly.



The Lure of the City:

- Southern African Americans began to move from the rural South to the cities.
- Most worked in low paying service occupations.
- Many immigrants came from both Latin America, Asia but a vast majority came from Southern and Eastern Europe.



The Lure of the City:

- The most important source of urban growth was immigration.
- 10 million between 1860 and 1890. 18 million three decades after that.
- From the West Coast China and Japanese immigrants arrived.
- But the greatest number came from Europe particularly after 1880.
- Southern and Eastern Europeans. Italians, Greeks, Slavs, Slovaks, Russians, and Jews.



The Ethnic City:

- Cities arose with various ethnicities and not one nationality dominated.
- Ethnic neighborhood began to form consisted of people who had migrated to America from the same province, town, or village.
- This brought cultural solidarity and help immigrants cope in a new land.



Assimilation:

- Many immigrants sought to work hard to assimilate to American cultures and try to rid themselves of their old cultures.
- Second Generation immigrants were even more likely to break with the old ways to try to assimilate completely into what they considered real American culture.



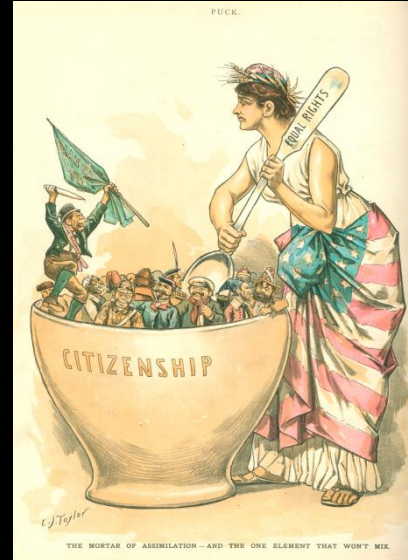
Assimilation:

- Native-Americans encouraged it both deliberately and inadvertently, in countless ways.
- Public schools taught children in English, and employers often insisted that workers speak English on the job.



Assimilation:

- Although there were merchants in immigrant communities who sold ethnically distinctive foods and clothing, most stores sold mainly American products forcing immigrants to adapt their lives.



Assimilation:

- Church leaders were often native-born Americans or assimilated immigrants who encouraged their parishioners to adopt American ways.
- Some even reformed their religion to be more compatible with norms of America such as reform Judaism.



Exclusion:

- A backlash on immigration also came about as activists believed that immigrants were seen as a source of all the disorder and corruption of the urban world.
- Anti-European sentiments were similar to the Native-born Americans on the West Coast had a similar cultural aversion to Mexican, Chinese, and Japanese immigrants.



Exclusion:

- In 1882, Congress responded to stop anti-Asian sentiment in California and elsewhere and restricted Chinese immigration.
- Even though the Chinese made up only 1.2 percent of the population in the West Coast.



Exclusion:

- Immigrants also were willing to work for less, with cheap and plentiful labor supply.
- Immigrants also were found in Tenements that were of poor condition where they were housed.
- Equivalent to a inner city housing project today.



Transportation:

- Initially, mass transit in the cities was slow street cars drawn by horses.
- In 1870, New York opened its first elevated railway, whose noisy filthy steam-powered trains moved rapidly above the city streets on massive iron structures.
- Richmond, introduced the first electric trolley line.



Transportation:

- Boston opened the first American subway when it put some of its trolley lines underground.



The Skyscraper:

- By the 1850s, successful experiments with machine powered passenger elevators and by the 1870s.
- New methods of construction using cast iron and steel beams made it easier to build tall buildings.



Strains on Urban Life:

- Major fires would sweep through the cities such as in Chicago because most of the buildings were still constructed with wood.
- This led to cities to construct fireproof buildings and cities attempted to rebuild.



Strains on Urban Life:

- Environmental Degradation: The Frequency of great fires such as the one in Chicago.
- The dangers of disease and plague, the mass overcrowding of working-class neighborhoods were all examples of environmental costs of industrialization and rapid urbanization.



Strains on Urban Life:

- Improper disposal of human and industrial waste was a common feature of almost all large cities in these years.
- Such practices contributed to the pollution of rivers and lakes and also in many cases compromising the drinking water.
- Air pollution because of coal caused respiratory problems.
- Despite rapid growth, of urban economies, the sheer number of new residents ensured that many people would be unable to earn enough for a decent subsistence.



Strains on Urban Life:

- Public agencies and private organizations offered limited relief.
- Many believed that giving too much help would cause the poor not to work themselves out of poverty but depend on charity.



Strains on Urban Life:

- There was a growing increase of street kids and orphans.
- Salvation Army was founded, that concentrated more on religious revivalism than on the relief of the homeless and hungry.
- Tensions often arose between native Protestant philanthropists and Catholic immigrants over religious doctrine and standards of morality.



Giving Hope Today

Crime and Violence:

- Poverty and crowding naturally bred crime and violence.
- Much were minor, the work of pickpockets and con artists but the murder rate also raised significantly in all areas of the nation.



Crime and Violence:

- American murder rates rose rapidly in the late nineteenth century.
- 25 to every million in 1880 to 100 by the end of the century.
- The “wild west” and the racial lynchings in the South along with crime in the cities contributed to this rate.



Crime and Violence:

- The increasing crime rates encouraged many cities to develop larger and more professional police forces.
- In the early nineteenth century, police were private and informal organizations.
- But the end of the century professionalized public police departments were part of everyday life.



Political Machines:

- Political Machines also developed where political bosses enticed immigrants to win votes for his organization by providing occasional reliefs in the basket of groceries, bags of coal, or provide jobs in government agencies.
- Often machines were vulnerable to corruption.



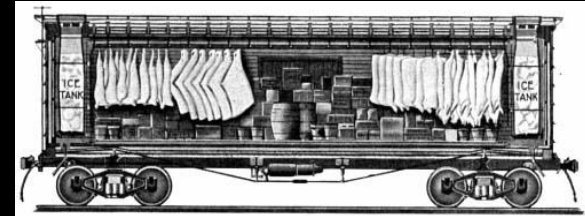
Political Machines:

- The reason for boss role was the power of immigrant voters , who rather than issues wanted to obtain services.
- Another link between the political organizations and wealthy, prominent citizens who profited from their dealings with bosses.
- Still another was the weakness of city governments.



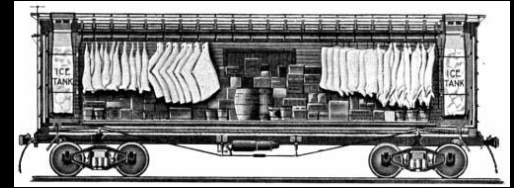
THE RISE OF MASS CONSUMPTION:

- Income rose in the cities with the rise of middle class professionals.
- The rise of mass markets were developed such as ready made clothing rather than home sewed clothing with the sewing machine and textile factories.



THE RISE OF MASS CONSUMPTION:

- Industry now was packaging and selling canned food, condensed milk, refrigerated railcars made possible for perishable products to travel long distances.



THE RISE OF MASS CONSUMPTION:

- Chain stores sold products.
- In larger cities, the Department Stores where a mass array of products sold separately were now together in one roof.
- And it also made shopping a glamorous event.
- Macys in New York, and Marshall Fields the first department store in Chicago came about.



Leisure in Consumer Society:

- With mass consumption and with less work hours, there was larger amounts of free time.
- People flocked to be entertained to places such as Coney island amusement parks, or watch movies.
- All classes congregated in public parks.



Leisure in Consumer Society:

- Spectator sports came into prominence such as baseball.
- The first salaried team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings was formed in 1869, other cities fielded teams.
- In 1876, Albert Spalding helped band together the National League, also a rival league, the American Association later, the American league formed.
- In 1903, the first modern world series was played.



Leisure in Consumer Society:

- Football also came into being as college football was played in college campuses throughout the nation.
- It was a dangerous sport that prompted Teddy Roosevelt to organize a conference after hundreds of injuries and eighteen deaths.
- This conference ultimately formed the NCAA.
- In 1891, Basketball was invented by Dr. James A. Naismith.
- Boxing became more popular.



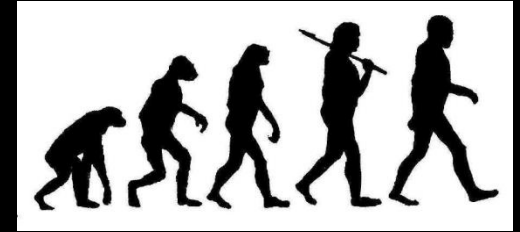
Leisure in Consumer Society:

- Theaters such as the Music Comedy came about.
- Vaudeville became popular that consisted of a variety of acts.
- Movies or motion pictures came on the scene after Thomas Edison's invention of motion picture technology.
- Motion pictures became the first truly mass entertainment medium, reaching all areas of the country and almost all groups in the population.



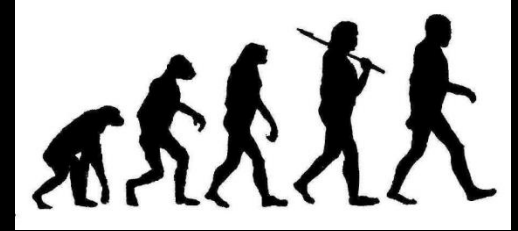
Acceptance of Darwinism:

- Darwinism and the theory of evolution became accepted widely and challenged the Bible and faith.
- The theory of evolution had converted most members of the urban professional and educated classes.
- Even middle-class Protestant religious leaders had accepted the doctrine making the significant changes in their theology.



Acceptance of Darwinism:

- This was applied to society itself where survival of the fittest justified the rich and marginalized the poor.



Education:

- As society that was coming to depend increasingly on specialized skills and scientific knowledge was, of course, a society with a high demand for education.
- The late nineteenth century therefore was a time of rapid expansion and reform of American public schools and universities to fill this need.



Education:

- Education for women also expanded with the growth of women colleges.
- This led to women becoming involved in reform movement causes and pursuing careers even when married.
- Society was now shifting in America from the agrarian ethos that America was founded in to a urban diverse society where traditional and morals were changing.
- The philosophy of Hamilton is winning out over the philosophy of Jefferson.

