

## US History

### Turn of Century America

#### Learning Target:

*I can identify why urban populations exploded in the U.S. and the problems that developed. I can identify possible solutions to urbanization and assess their effectiveness.*

### 3. Urbanization & Technology

#### *Urban Population Explodes*

##### Statistics –

- 1870-1920 – Urban population went from 10 million to 54 million in the northeast and Midwest
- By 1910 immigrant families made up more than ½ of the population of 18 major cities
- 1890-1910 – 200,000 black farmers moved north and west to cities looking for work since there was no more farming opportunities in the south

##### Immigration & Urbanization –

- Most immigrants at the turn of the century became city dwellers
- Cities were cheapest place to live and offered the most jobs
- Americanization movement – designed to assimilate immigrants into the dominant culture
  - Government offered classes in English, history, and social etiquette
  - Many immigrants were reluctant to give up their old ways
  - Ethnic neighborhoods developed in many cities

##### Country to City Migration –

- Rapid improvements in farming technology reduced need for labor on farms
  - McCormick Reaper and Steel Plow
- As farms merged many rural people moved to cities looking for work

#### *Urban Problems*

##### Housing –

- City residents originally either lived on the outskirts of town or in the center in boardinghouses
- Row houses later were built to provide more housing in tight areas
- As families left the row houses immigrants often packed multiple families in one row house
- Tenements became unsanitary and overcrowded

##### Transportation –

- Mass transit developed to move city residents from neighborhood to neighborhood
- San Francisco – Street Cars in 1887      Boston – Electric Subways in 1897
- Cities struggled to keep up with transportation as populations continued to grow

##### Water –

- Cities struggled to supply safe water to their residents
- By the 1860s many city residents still did not have indoor plumbing
- 1870s – filtration introduced    1908 – chlorination introduced

#### Sanitation –

- Horse manure in streets, sewage ran into water supply, factories polluted air, trash not collected
- By 1900 many cities began developing sewer lines and created sanitation departments
- Ongoing challenge for cities

#### Crime –

- Common street crime flourished
- New York organized first full-time, salaried police force in 1844
- Most police departments too small to combat crime in cities at turn of century

#### Fire –

- Lack of water supply in cities always made fire a severe threat
- Major fires occurred in most major cities in the 1870s and 1880s
- Wooden dwellings and the use of candles and kerosene made fires easy to happen
- Cincinnati established first paid fire department in 1853
- By 1900 most cities had paid fire departments
- Great Chicago Fire -1871      San Francisco Earthquake – 1906

#### ***Urban Problems Solved by Technology:***

1. Space
2. Transportation
3. Communication

#### ***Space:***

- Skyscrapers
  - One solution for overcrowding was to build up
  - Made possible due to elevators and internal steel skeletons
  - Louis Sullivan designed first one – 10 story Wainwright Building (St. Louis)
  - Frank Lloyd Wright studied under Sullivan
- Urban Planning
  - Developed due to a need for open spaces for recreation in cities
  - Frederick Law Olmsted led the push for urban parks
    - Helped to develop Central Park in NYC in 1857

#### ***Transportation:***

- Electric Transit
  - Before electric most street cars pulled by horses
  - 1888 – Richmond, VA became first city with electric street cars
  - Some street cars were elevated or “el” trains or underground for subways
- Airplanes
  - Orville and Wilbur Wright – 1<sup>st</sup> successful flight on 12/17/1903

***Communication:***

-Telephone

-1876 – Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Watson

-Printing

-1890 – American literacy rate nearly 90%

-Cheap paper produced from wood pulp that could work in fast printing presses

-Printing presses began printing faster and on both sides of paper

-Faster production and cheaper prices made newspapers and magazines more affordable

-Photography

-Photography was purely professional before film – pictures had to be developed on site

-George Eastman invented first film and marketed it to the masses

-1888 – Kodak Camera introduced by Eastman

- \$25 camera with 100 picture film loaded

- When done send camera back to factory for development

- Camera returned with pictures and new film loaded

- Led to amateur photographers and photojournalism