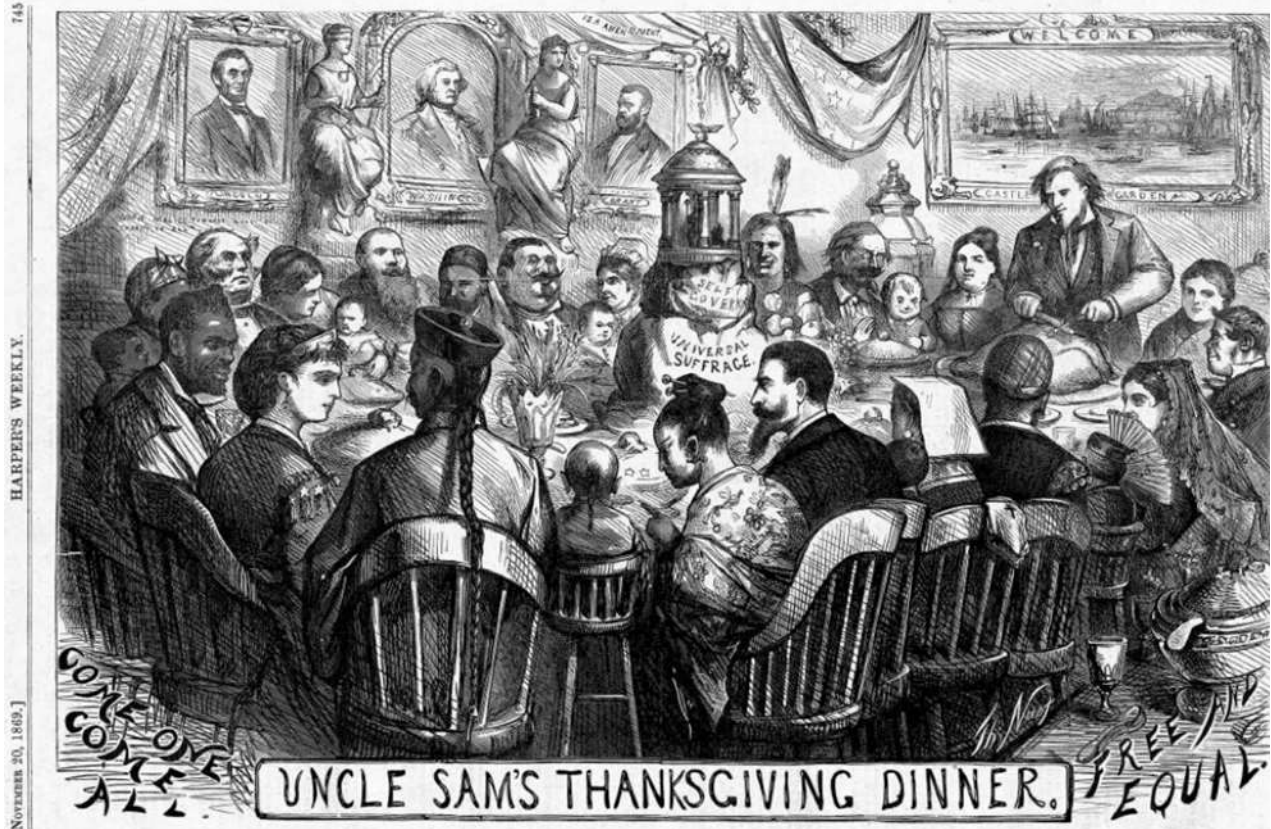


Immigration & Urbanization Packet



1. List the people/ groups that you see in the cartoon.
2. Describe what is happening in the cartoon
3. Do you think this cartoon accurately describes the experience of immigrants, women, African-Americans, Native Americans, etc?

A Nation of Immigrants

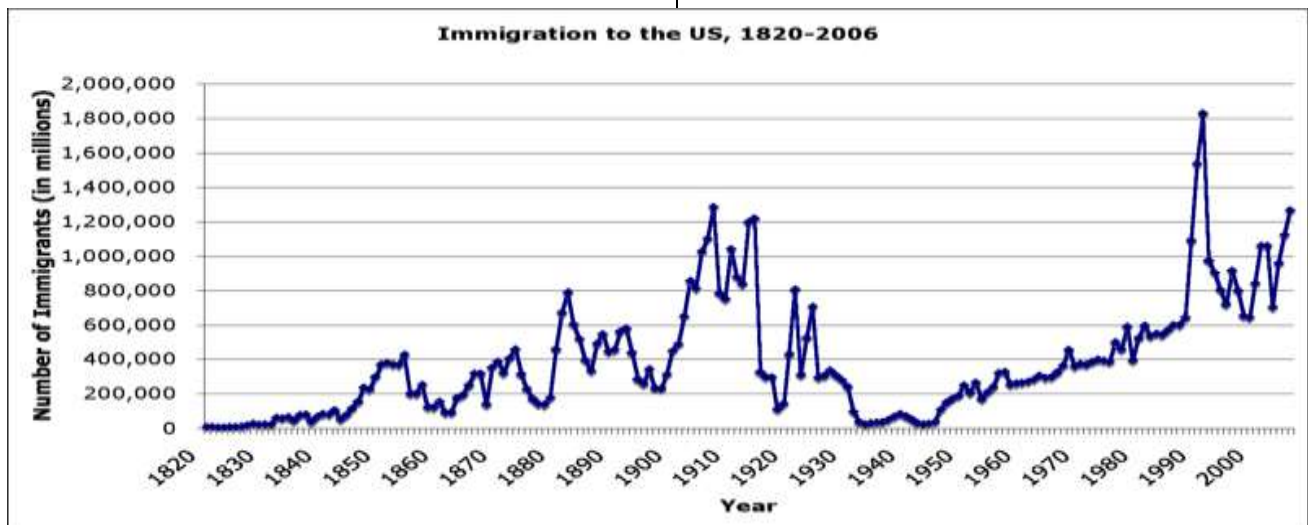
In the second half of the 19th century, immigrants flooded into the United States in increasing numbers and from a greater variety of countries. The attitudes of “native-born” Americans, or Americans whose ancestors immigrated to the country in previous generations, toward these newcomers fluctuated, depending on location, the home country of the immigrants, changing political atmospheres, economic crises, and personal bias. As the century closed and an average of 400,000 immigrants arrived on American shores each year, foreign-born people, the “New Immigrants,” found themselves subject to new restrictions and laws that threatened their ability to settle in the United States. Despite these restrictions and often harsh treatment in person or in the press, immigrants of all nationalities helped to shape the America of the 19th century as it grew from a largely Anglo-Saxon agrarian society to a multicultural industrial nation.

The major groups of early immigrants to the United States were mostly European: British, French, Dutch, Germanic and Spanish. Africans arrived, almost entirely involuntarily, from the western and central parts

of the continent, and some enslaved peoples from the Caribbean islands immigrated north in the 18th and early 19th centuries. In the first decades of the 1800s, the majority of new emigrants to the United States were British, Irish and German, often arriving to escape famine or persecution back home. Although these immigrants faced discrimination and some attempts by native-born Americans to restrict their status as naturalized citizens, their arrival was not generally blocked as the new country attempted to populate its expanding territory.

Chinese immigrants were the first group to feel the sting of anti-immigrant sentiment. As early as 1862, the government discouraged Chinese immigration to California. Over the next several decades, the Chinese were further restricted by outright bias, often in reaction to the absolute differences in culture and the perceived “stealing” of railroad jobs from Americans, and legislation, climaxing with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Other groups began to face opposition as well, based on perceptions of the immigrant’s native land and culture. Irish poverty, Russian anarchy and German socialism were blamed for American problems as populations of poor laborers grew, labor unions gained power, and nondemocratic governments became more visible. Americans distrusted the “new” immigrants, those arriving from Southern and Eastern European countries, and thus began to levy taxes, restrict those considered undesirable, and eventually institute literacy tests.

Early Immigrants	New Immigrants
❖ _____	❖ _____
❖ _____	❖ _____
❖ _____	❖ _____
❖ _____	❖ _____



1. Why do you think there is a massive increase in the number of immigrants entering the United States at the turn of the century?

Why Leave Europe, Asia, & Latin America?

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At the dawn of the 20th century, thousands of immigrants passed through Ellis Island each month, but many would find their new home to be a place with more limits than did the immigrants of a few decades before. Many others were simply turned away. The second 50 years of the 19th century proved to be a great turning point for immigration in America as the nationalities of immigrants shifted, native-born Americans began to perceive threats to their society, and laws were enacted to stem the flow of the foreign-born.

1. What factors led to immigrants leaving their native countries and coming the United States

Analyzing Political Machines: Thomas Nast Cartoons and George Washington Plunkitt quotes

Tammany Hall was a powerful political machine that dominated New York City politics at the end of the 1800’s. While analyzing the cartoons and quotes within this packet you will uncover the story of Tammany Hall while identifying the positives and negatives of the political machines.

Terms and Notes to remember:

- **Political Machines:** An organized group that controls a political party in a city
- **Tammany Hall:** The political machine of New York City.
- Machines were successful because even though they cheated voters, they often provided assistance to newly-arrived immigrants in exchange for their votes.

Thomas Nast Cartoons

Political cartoonist Thomas Nast ridiculed Boss Tweed and his machine in the pages of *Harper’s Weekly*. Nast’s work threatened Tweed, who reportedly said, “I don’t care so much what the papers write about me – my constituents can’t read; but . . . they can see pictures!”

Directions: Analyze the cartoons within the packet and answer the following questions for each. Record your answers below.

Political Cartoon	Describe what you see in the cartoon. Please be detailed.	What is the cartoon trying to say about Boss Tweed /Tammany Hall?	How is the cartoon effective or ineffective at showing Nast's view?
"Under the Thumb"			
"The Tammany Tiger Loose"			
"The Brains"			

Now read three quotes from George Washington Plunkitt and his description of political machines.

"The books are always all right. The money in the city treasury is all right. Everything is all right. All they can show is that the Tammany heads of departments looked after their friends, within the law, and gave them what opportunities they could to make honest graft. Now, let me tell you that's never goin' to hurt Tammany with the people. Every good man looks after his friends, and any man who doesn't isn't likely to be popular. If I have a good thing to hand out in private life, I give it to a friend. Why shouldn't I do the same in public life?"

1. What is Plunkitt's view on the how political machines operate?
2. How does he say they are affecting people?

"What tells in holdin' your grip on your district is to go right down among the poor families and help them in the different ways they need help. I've got a regular system for this. If there's a fire in Ninth, Tenth, or Eleventh Avenue, for example, any hour of the day or night, I'm usually there with some of my election district captains as soon as the fire engines. If a family is burned out I don't ask whether they are Republicans or Democrats, and I don't refer them to the Charity Organization Society, which would investigate their case in a month or two and decide they were worthy of help about the time they are dead from starvation. I just get quarters for them, buy clothes for them if their clothes were burned up, and fix them up till they get things runnin' again. It's philanthropy, but it's politics, too – mighty good politics. Who can tell how many votes one of these fires bring me? The poor are the most grateful people in the world, and, let me tell you, they have more friends in their neighborhoods than the rich have in theirs."

1. What is Plunkitt's view on the how political machines operate?
2. How does he say they are affecting people?

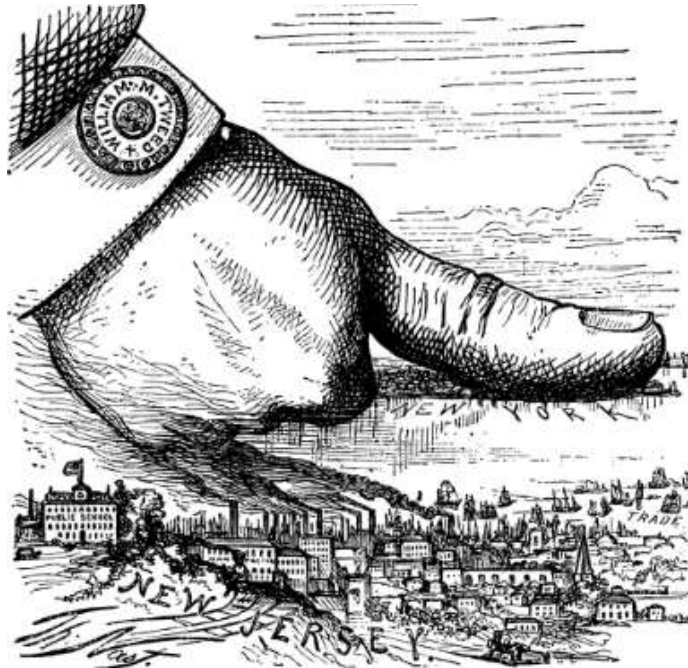
"If there's a family in my district in want I know it before the charitable societies do, and me and my men are first on the ground. I have a special corps to look up such cases. The consequence is that the poor look up to George W. Plunkitt as a father, come to him in trouble –and don't forget him on election day.

"Another thing, I can always get a job for a deservin' man. I make it a point to keep on the track of jobs, and it seldom happens that I don't have a few up my sleeve ready for use. I know every big employer in the district and in the whole city, for that matter, and they ain't in the habit of sayin' no to me when I ask them for a job.

"And the children-the little roses of the district! Do I forget them? Oh, no! They know me, every one of them, and they know that a sight of Uncle George and candy means the same thing. Some of them are the best kind of vote-getters. I'll tell you a case. Last year a little Eleventh Avenue rosebud whose father is a Republican, caught hold of his whiskers on election day and said she wouldn't let go till he'd promise to vote for me. And she didn't"

1. What is Plunkitt's view on the how political machines operate?
2. How does he say they are affecting people?

Thomas Nast Political Cartoons



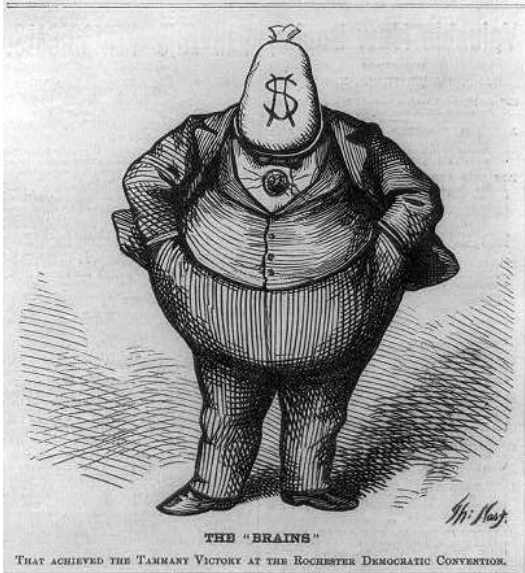
“Under the Thumb”

This cartoon illustrates Boss Tweed’s total control over New York City. The words directly under the thumb read “New York.”



“The Tammany Tiger Loose”

Under the Tammany tiger’s victim is a torn paper that reads “LAW.” In the back you can see Boss Tweed and his cronies, portrayed as noblemen, watching from the stands on the left. The cartoon’s caption reads “What are you going to do about it?”



“The Brains”

This is a depiction of Boss Tweed. The statement at the bottom says “That Achieved the Tammany Victory at the Rochester Democratic Convention.”

Document A: Lincoln Steffens Excerpt from a book by muckraker Lincoln Steffens, *The Shame of Cities*, published in 1904.

New advances in printing technology during the 1890s made magazines and other publications inexpensive to print. Magazines became available to a broader middle-class audience. Lincoln Steffens was well known for writing magazine articles about child labor, prisons, religion and political machines

The typical American citizen is a business man. The spirit of business is profit, not patriotism; individual gain, not national prosperity. “My business is sacred,” says the business man in his heart. “Whatever helps my business, is good; it must be. Whatever hurts it, is wrong; it must be. A bribe is bad, that is, it is a bad thing to take; but it is not so bad to give one, not if it is necessary to my business.”

And it’s all a moral weakness. Oh, we are good—on Sunday, and we are “fearfully patriotic” on the Fourth of July. But the bribe we pay to the janitor is the little brother of the bribe passed to the councilman to sell a city street, and the father of the deal made by the president of the railroad, who agrees to use air-brakes only if he is given stock in the air-brake company.

We are responsible, not our leaders, since we follow them. We let them divert our loyalty from the United States to some “party”; we let them boss the party and turn our democracies into autocracies. We cheat our government and we let our leaders loot it, and we let them bribe our sovereignty from us. We are content to let them pass bad laws, giving away public property in exchange for money.

Document B: George Plunkitt: Excerpt from a talk by George Plunkitt, a political boss in New York City. The talk was called “Honest Graft and Dishonest Graft,” recorded in 1905. (Graft is another word for corruption and bribes). In this talk, Plunkitt responds to Lincoln Steffens’s book, *The Shame of the Cities*.

I’ve been readin’ a book by Lincoln Steffens on *The Shame of the Cities*. Steffens means well, but like all reformers, he don’t know how to make distinctions. He can’t see no difference between honest graft and dishonest graft and, consequently, he gets things all mixed up. . . . For instance, I ain’t no looter. The

looter hogs it. I never hogged. I made my money in politics, but at the same time, I served the organization and got more big improvements for New York City than any other livin' man.

The Irish was born to rule, and they're the honestest people in the world. Show me the Irishman who would steal a roof off an orphanage! He don't exist. Of course, if an Irishman had the political pull and the roof was in bad shape, he might get the city authorities to put on a new one and get the contract for himself, and buy the old roof at a bargain-but that's honest graft...

One reason why the Irishman is more honest in politics than many Americans is that he is grateful to the country and the city that gave him protection and prosperity when he was driven by oppression from Ireland. His one thought is to serve the city which gave him a home. His friends here often have a good place in one of the city departments picked out for him while he is still in Ireland. Is it any wonder that he has a tender spot in his heart for old New York when he is on its salary list the mornin' after he lands?

Summarize Document A Below	Summarize Document B Below
Were political bosses corrupt? Provide evidence below to support your position.	