

The Gilded Age



The Main Idea

- The late 19th century was a period of growth in America. The rapid growth created new challenges around the issues of immigration, race relations, politics, and business.

What is the Gilded Age?

- A term used to describe the United States from 1870-1890 where people flaunted (showed off) their wealth.
- The appearance was that everything was growing and America was great.
- However, if you examined underneath the surface, you could see suffering, corruption, and despair.

Year	US Population
1850	23.2 Million
1900	76.2 Million

Growth of Immigration

1. Poverty in Europe
2. Economic Opportunities in America
3. Religious Freedom (Jews)
4. Positive Appeal of the United States
 1. Political and Economic Freedom



Old vs. New Immigrants

New Immigrants

- Italians
- Croats
- Slovaks
- Poles
- Russians
- Religious Groups:
 - Catholics, Greek & Russian Orthodox

Old Immigrants

- Germans
- Irish
- British
- Protestants

1881-1890

0 200 400 miles
0 200 400 kilometers



ATLANTIC OCEAN



Number of Immigrants per Decade to the United States

• To 10,000

• 100,000-500,000

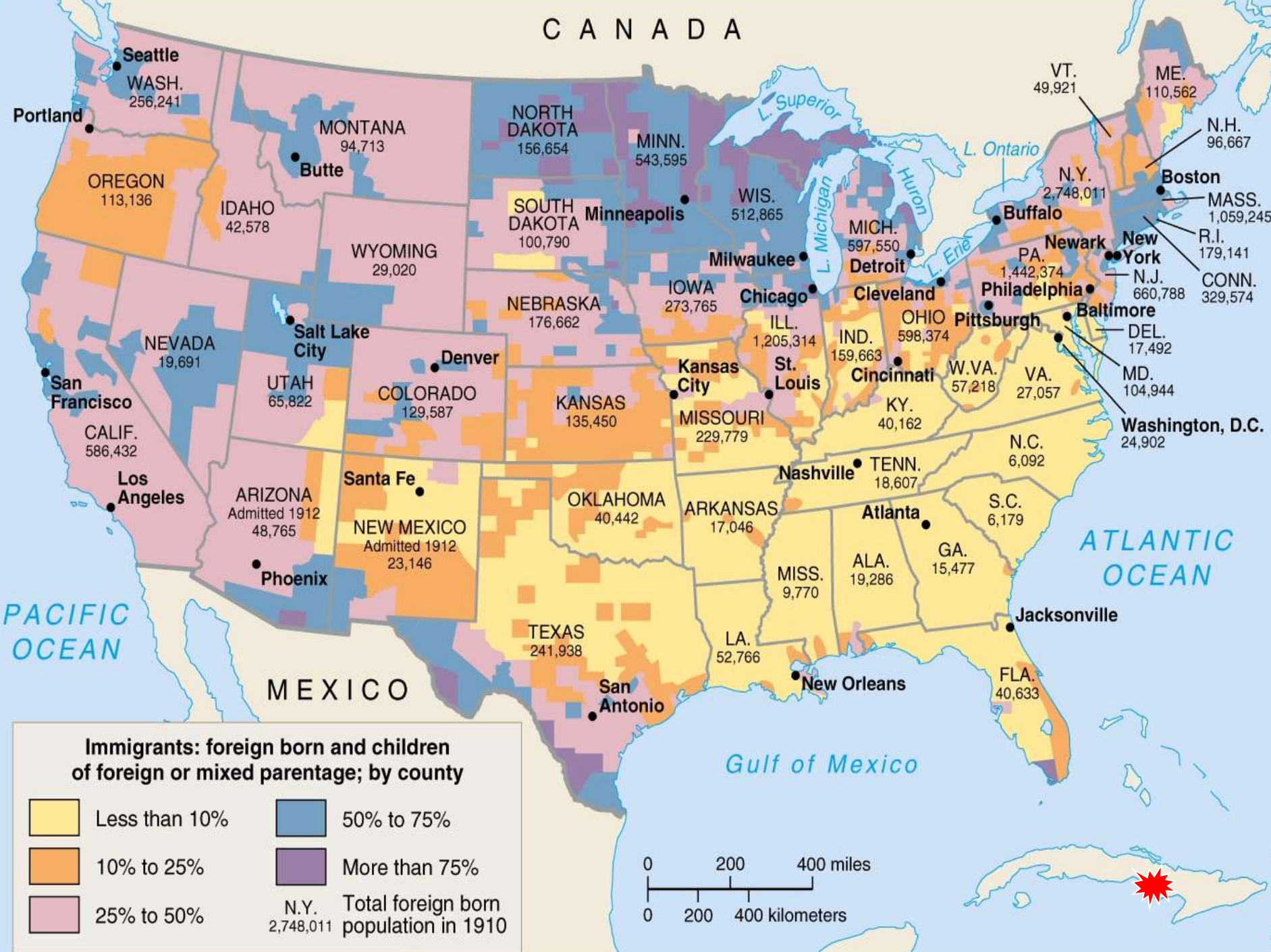
• 500,000-1,000,000

• 1,000,000-2,000,000

• Over 2,000,000

----- Approximate area of immigrants to the United States claiming Polish ancestry. Poland was not an independent country at this time.

CANADA



Seattle

WASH. 256,241

Portland

OREGON 113,136

MONTANA 94,713

Butte

NORTH DAKOTA 156,654

MINN. 543,595

SOUTH DAKOTA 100,790

Minneapolis

WIS. 512,865

IDAHO 42,578

WYOMING 29,020

NEBRASKA 176,662

IOWA 273,765

Milwaukee

MICH. 597,550

Detroit

Chicago

Cleveland

N.Y. 2,748,011

Buffalo

VT. 49,921

ME. 110,562

N.H. 96,667

Boston

MASS. 1,059,245

Newark

PA. 1,442,374

New York

R.I. 179,141

N.J. 660,788

CONN. 329,574

Baltimore

DEL. 17,492

MD. 104,944

Washington, D.C. 24,902

NEVADA 19,691

Salt Lake City

UTAH 65,822

COLORADO 129,587

Denver

KANSAS 135,450

Kansas City

St. Louis

ILL. 1,205,314

IND. 159,663

Cincinnati

OHIO 598,374

Pittsburgh

W.VA. 57,218

VA. 27,057

San Francisco

CALIF. 586,432

Los Angeles

ARIZONA Admitted 1912 48,765

Phoenix

Santa Fe

NEW MEXICO Admitted 1912 23,146

OKLAHOMA 40,442

ARKANSAS 17,046

MISSOURI 229,779

Nashville

TENN. 18,607

N.C. 6,092

S.C. 6,179

Atlanta

ALA. 19,286

GA. 15,477

TEXAS 241,938

San Antonio

LA. 52,766

New Orleans

Jacksonville

FLA. 40,633

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

Gulf of Mexico



Why did few migrate to the South?



Journey to America

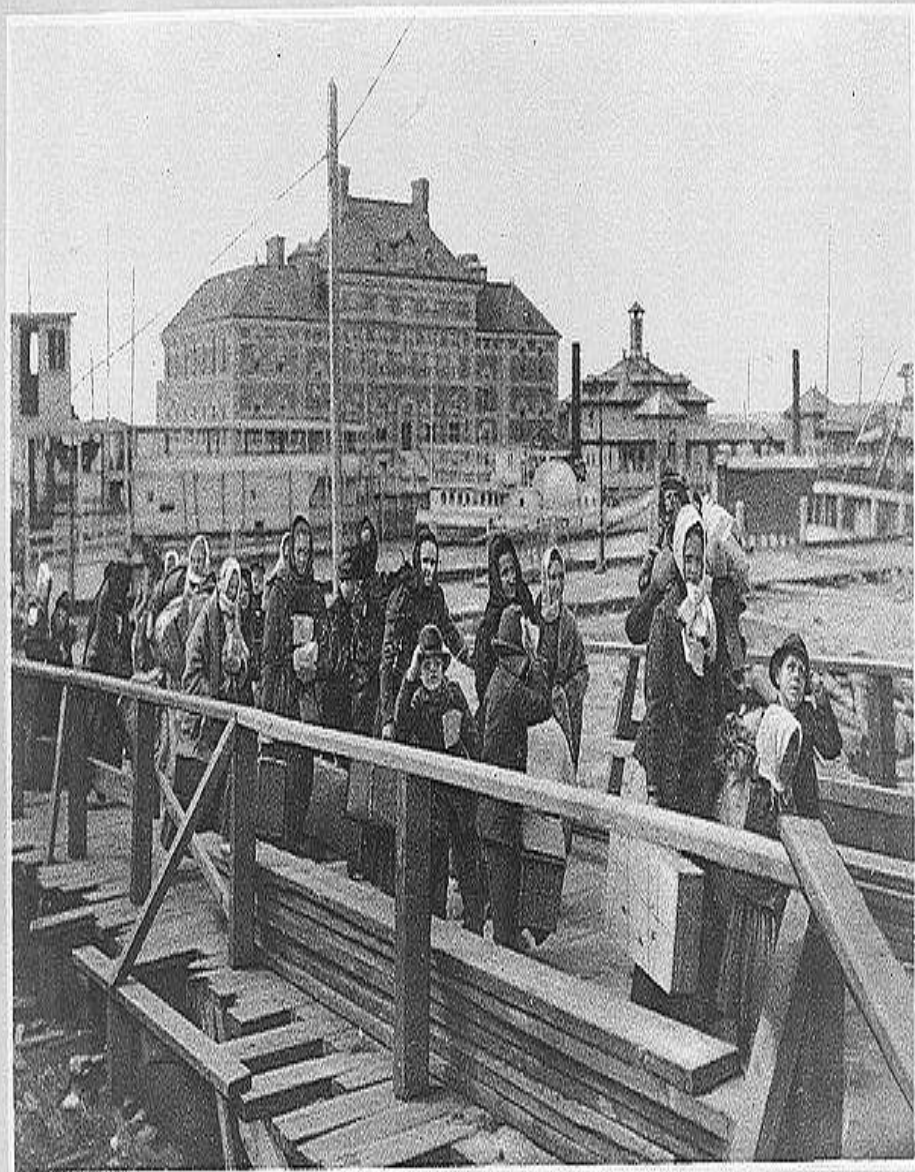
- Many immigrants could barely afford a ticket to come to the U.S.
- They could only pack what they could carry. (Clothes, photograph, tools for their trade)
- Many would wait in line for hours to try to get on a ship and in many cases it was very dangerous to do this.

Journey to America

- Steerage= Where most immigrants traveled on the ship.
- Steerage was located on the lowest decks of the ship with no private cabins, and was dirty and crowded.
- Seasickness was an issue in rough weather and illnesses spread quickly in the lower decks.



Immigrants on an Atlantic Liner.



Immigrants Arrive in America

- 2 ports of entry into the U.S.
 - Ellis Island- New York City
 - Angel Island- San Francisco Bay
- To enter the ports immigrants had to be healthy and show they had money, a skill, or a sponsor to provide for them.



Ellis Island
was built in
1892 as the
1st
“Immigration
Center”

Later, closed
in the 1940s

Today it is a
museum.

- The goal was to “screen” immigrants coming from Europe.

- Immigrants took physical examinations and were held at Ellis Island before they were released to the US mainland.







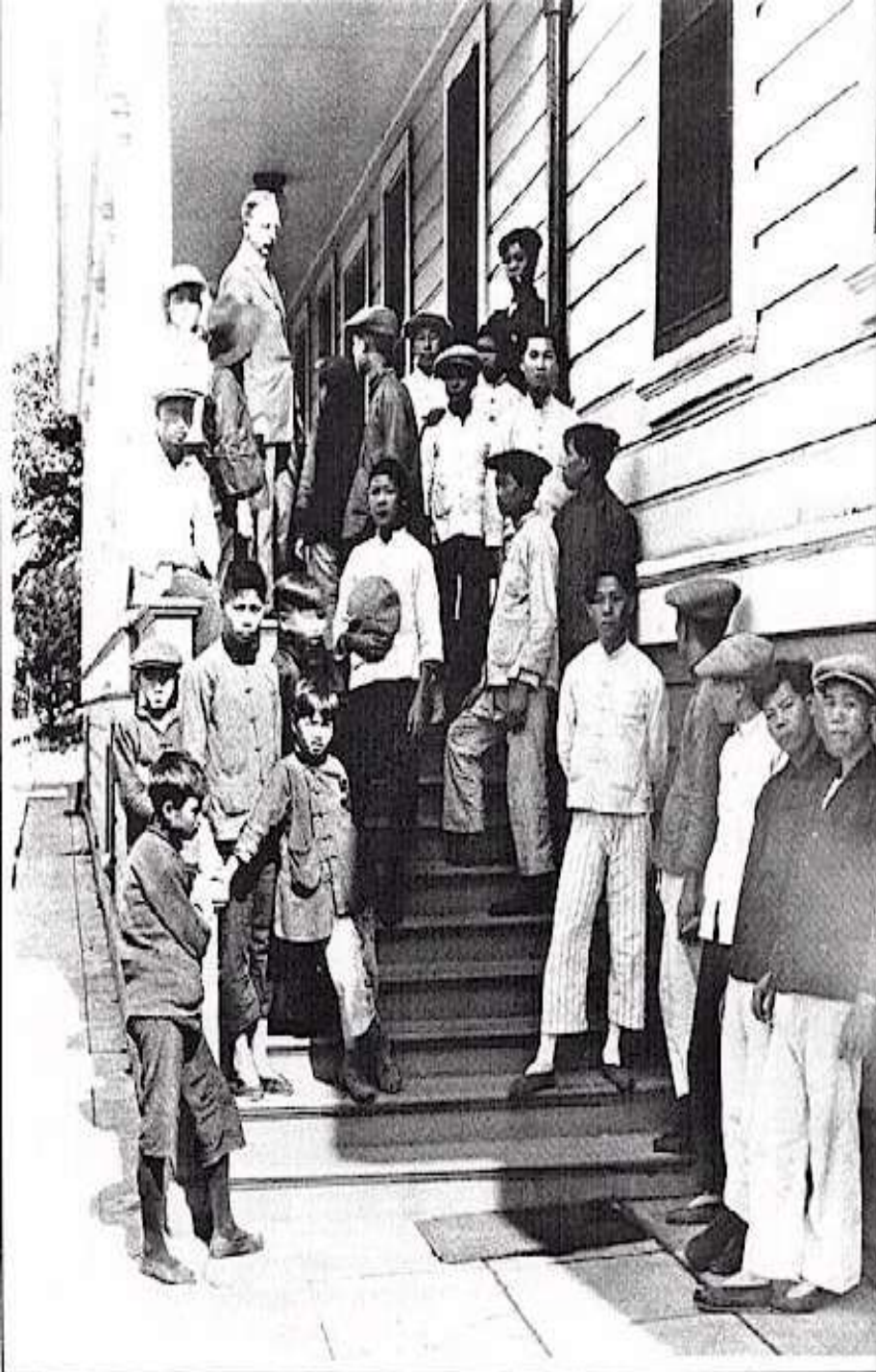


Angel Island

- Most Chinese and Asian immigrants came through here (San Francisco Bay)
- Opened in 1910.
- Made it very hard for Chinese immigrants to come into the U.S.



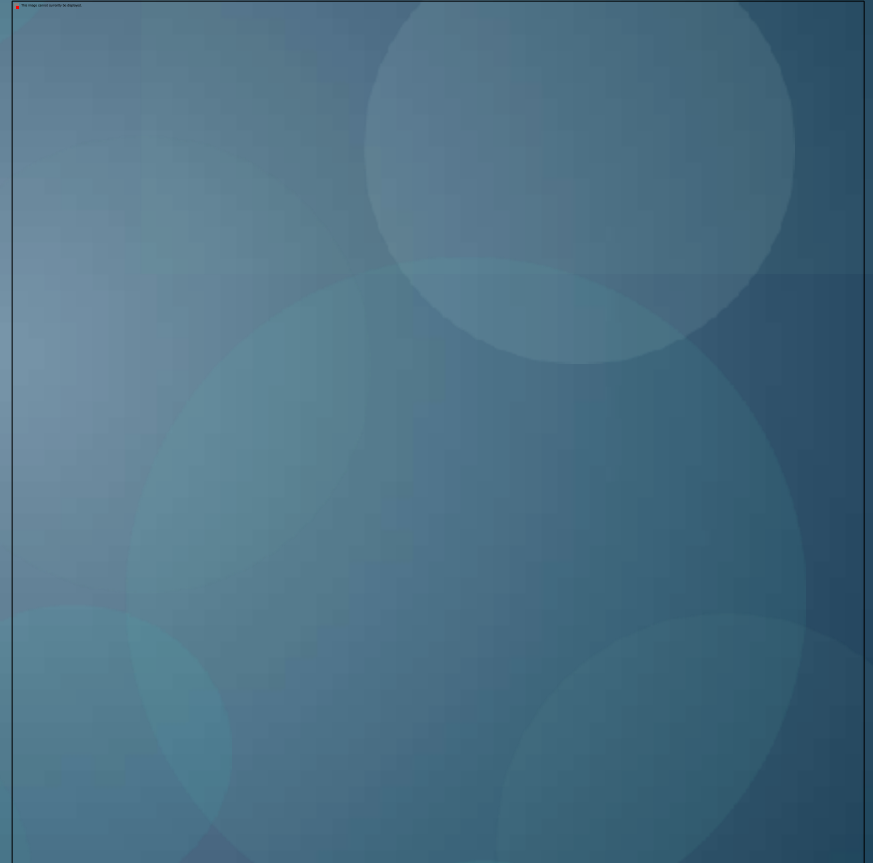




Rise of Cities Video

The Rise of Cities

- Immigrants
migrated to the
United States
cities in search
of economic
opportunities
(Jobs).



The Rise of Cities



- The rise in the number of jobs in cities led to the increasing number of people that live in urban areas.



Steel beams provide strength and support for taller buildings.

Windows could be larger because steel beams, not exterior walls, supported the structure.

Mechanical elevators allow people to reach upper floors easily.

Skills Focus

INTERPRETING INFOGRAPHICS

Using an internal steel structure to support the building, the Reliance Building could be taller and more decorative. Larger windows let in more light and air. Exterior details, such as the bands of terra-cotta ornamentation, became more delicate.

Making Inferences How did new steel construction techniques make urban buildings different?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H18

Immigrants & Cities

This is a break down of New York City in 2012 (Ethnic Group)
(Ethnic Enclaves)



Source: 2012 American Community Survey PUMS, tabulations by Andy Kiersz/Business Insider

BUSINESS INSIDER

Immigrants Face Hostility

- American natives felt threatened by the new immigrants.
- Nativism → belief that native born white Americans were superior to immigrants.
- Competition for jobs and homes often fueled resentment and religious and cultural differences caused tensions as well.

Immigrants Assimilate Into Society

- Assimilate = to fit in.
- Most immigrants stayed in cities and lived in ethnic neighborhoods called ghettos.
- These neighborhoods would share the same language, religion, and culture.
- By 1890 many cities had a huge immigrant population. 4/5 people in NYC were immigrants.

Assimilation

- Americanization = helping newcomers learn American ways. (Language, customs, dress, and diet)
- America became known as the “Melting Pot”.
- Immigrants usually stuck with their native cultures but children of immigrants were more likely to adopt American ways.

American's Issues With Immigrants (1880)

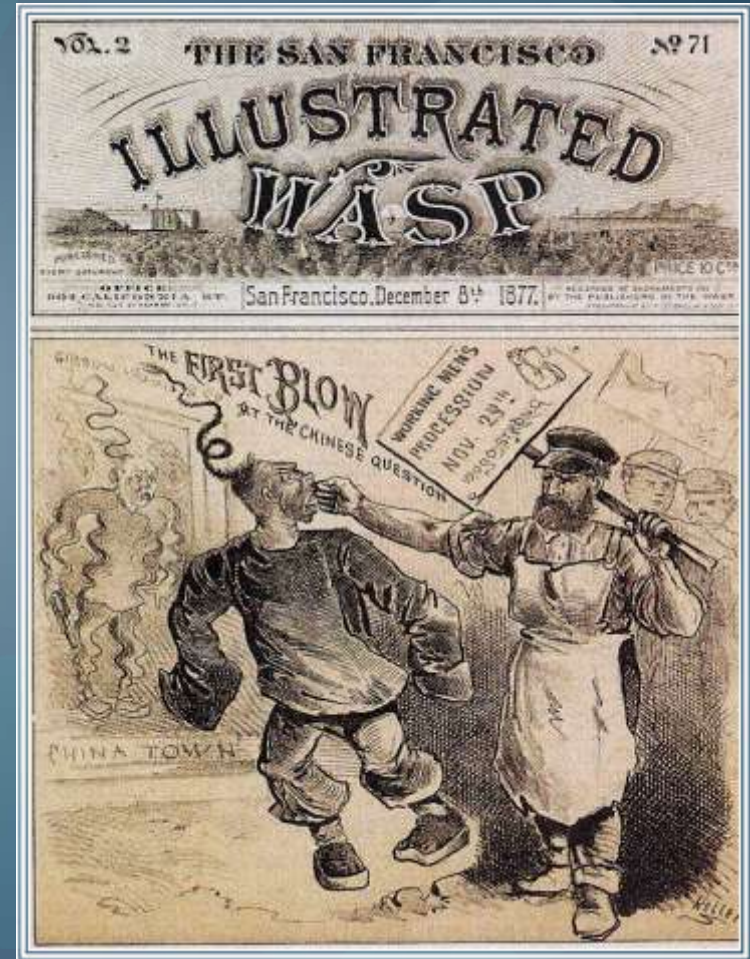
- Didn't Speak English
- Took Jobs Away From Americans
- Different Religion
- Viewed As Criminals

Sound Familiar?



Government Legislation

- Chinese Exclusion Act = 1882 → Banned immigration of Chinese people from China.
- A later ruling said the Chinese who were already in America were considered U.S. citizens.
- The Chinese were willing to work for lower wages and took jobs from Nativist.



How the Other Half Lives

- Jacob Riis
 - Documents tenement living in New York City slums in the 1880s
 - Documented his reporting using flash photography.



















Settlement Houses

- Designed to help immigrants assimilate to life in America.
- Taught English, and other skills necessary to be successful in America.
- Hull House → Jane Adams → Most famous.



The Social Gospel

- Religious clergy
began
preaching for
social justice for
the poor.
- Salvation Army emerged.



Immigrants Change America

- Immigrants changed America in many ways.
 - Fueled industrial growth
 - Acquired citizenship
 - Elected politicians
 - Made their traditions a part of American culture

Order of Operations

- Read Fear of Foreigners and answer the following 2 questions in 7-10 sentences total. (Provide Evidence)
 - Has America's treatment/feelings toward immigrants stayed the same or changed over time? Why?
 - Which group do you feel has been most mistreated and why?
- Read the Angel & Ellis Island Assignment
 - Answer the Questions on the same document.