

# *Unit #6*

## Topic 21

### *The Emergence of Urban America*

**APUSH**  
**PowerPoint #6.3**  
**(Part 1 of 1)**

**Unit #6**

**Chapters 17-18**

**BFW Textbook (eBook)**

**TOPIC – The Emergence of Urban America**

**[1880-1917]**

# I. Urbanization

# A. In Westward Movement

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## Urbanization & Westward Movement

- Cheap lands in the west motivated people to migrate.
- New towns popped-up near mines and railroad hubs (e.g. San Francisco, Denver, Santa Fe, Omaha, Kansas City, Houston, Durham, Birmingham, etc.).
- The Northeast had larger numbers of people despite the growth in western regions.

## **B. Vertical Growth & Technology**

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### **Elevators**

- The Otis Elevator Company installed the first electric elevator in 1889.

### **Use of Iron & Steel**

- Cast iron and steel-frame construction techniques allowed developers to erect the first skyscrapers.

# C. Horizontal Growth

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## Mass Transit

- Streetcars became electric in the 1890s and led to a boost in subways.

## Suburban Segregation

- Mass transit allowed people to become commuters as a growing middle class retreated to quieter tree-lined “streetcar suburbs” outside of the central business district.
- Sprawl took place and was often unplanned causing poorer areas of the city to remain congested with continued overcrowding.

# D. City Life

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## Attraction to the City

- Streetcars, telephones, department stores, vaudeville shows, etc. led to an exodus from rural areas to urban centers.
- Urbanization led to new problems for those moving to cities.

## Tenements

- By 1900, new structures were built to accommodate the growing number of people resulting in health and morale issues.
- “Dumbbell” tenement houses (six to eight floors) were built.

# E. Urban Politics

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## Political Machines

- Local political structure (headed by a “political boss”) and consisted of local councilmen and district captains which dominated city politics.

## Services

- Political machines provided needed help to those in city “wards.”

## Graft

- The buying and selling of votes.



# F. Environmental Effects

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## Filth & Disease

### “Sanitary” Reformers

- Public health officials and municipal engineers attempted to remove the cause of disease and improve the appearance in cities.
- By 1900, 94 percent of American cities had developed regular trash collection.

## F. Environmental Effects (Cont'd ...)

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### Water Pollution

- Manure and human waste that was once put in land began to be dumped in local rivers and water-resource centers.
- Advances were made to separate public water and sewer systems.
- Despite attempts to combat health issues, environmental issues continued.

## II. Immigration

# A. Source of Immigration

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## Rural America

### Issues Abroad

- Push and pull factors overseas led to a mass migration of peoples (primarily Europeans) to the shores of America (primarily Northeastern urban centers).

## **B. Reasons for Immigration to the United States**

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**“Pull” Factors**

**“Push” Factors**

## C. Immigration: Change in the 1880s

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### Changes in the 1880s

- Many immigrants following 1880 were increasingly arriving from Eastern and Southern Europe (Slovaks, Hungarians, Romanians, Croats, Serbs, Poles, Russians, Greeks, Italians, Czechs, etc.).
- Most were Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians (many Jews also migrated).

# D. Reception of Immigrants

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## Castle Garden

- Immigration center located in NYC ran by the State of New York.
- Closed in 1890 due to corruption and overflow of immigrants.

## Ellis Island

- Opened in 1892 as a federal immigration center to handle the “huddled masses” of the world.
- Many traveled in second- and third-class in the hulls of ships.

# E. Immigrant Life

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## Jobs

- Many immigrants found jobs in urban centers and worked mostly mines, mills, and sweatshops in many Northeastern and Midwestern cities.

## Ethnic Neighborhoods

- The majority of “new immigrants” moved to neighborhoods that reflected their birth nations.
- As more immigrants arrived, the quality of life declined.



## F. Nativist Responses

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### Objections to “New Immigrants”

- Many Americans saw new immigration as a threat to their way of life (economics was usually the primary issue).
- The threat of new immigrants increased religious prejudice (primarily anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic).

### American Protective Association

- Nativist group which began in the Midwest and promoted restrictions on immigrants.

# G. Efforts at Immigration Restriction

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## Restricting Immigrants

- Restrictions were placed on several groups at local and state levels.
- In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act (despite a veto by Chester A. Arthur).
- Angel Island in San Francisco Bay was an immigration center for Asians and allowed for some Chinese to immigrate into the United States (nearly 30 percent were denied entry on average, annually).

### III. Popular Culture

# A. Distinctive Urban Culture

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## Urban Culture

- New leisure and recreation were created as a new middle class grew steadily from 1880 to 1900.
- Politics, as well as Wild West shows, vaudeville shows, and spectator sports.

## B. Vaudeville

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### Vaudeville

- A theatrical form of entertainment that featured comedians, singers, musicians, plays, animal acts, etc.
- The vaudeville houses attracted all classes and types of patrons (men, women, and children).

## C. Outdoor Recreation

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### Parks

- New York's Central Park was designed in 1858 by Frederick Law Olmstead who sought to create an "oasis of culture" that would be used to promote social stability.
- Other uses were to allow people to walk and commune with nature (as well as receive forms of exercise).

### Tennis

### Bicycling

# D. Ethnic & Working-Class Recreation

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## Working-Class Recreation

- Many immigrant groups sponsored “Old World” activities such as singing, gymnastic, and drinking clubs,
- Immigrants also found leisure by gravitated to boxing or baseball, or remained in their neighborhoods playing in parks or streets.
- Some immigrants (if they could afford the day fare) found recreation in Brooklyn’s Coney Island.

# E. Saloons

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## Widespread Popularity

### Hub of Social Life

- Food and drink
- Camaraderie
- Services

### Male Immigrants

### Critics of Saloons



## **F. Women's Work & Leisure**

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### **Married Women**

- Limited time after domestic responsibilities.
- Public spaces for entertainment (e.g. doorstep gossip).

### **Single Women**

- Urban amusements increased as workdays decreased to 10 hours.
- Social restrictions were placed on young women by community standards and family.

# G. Spectator Sports

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## Urban Location

- Cities became the center for amateur and professional teams.
- Spectator sports also unified urban centers by bringing diverse groups together in a common interest.

## Football

- Began as a college sport in 1869 and was merged between soccer and rugby.

# G. Spectator Sports (Cont'd...)

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## Basketball

- Invented in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith (a P.E. instructor at a Springfield, Massachusetts YMCA).

## Baseball

- In 1845, Alexander Cartwright (a New York ban clerk) who formed the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York.
- The first professional team was organized in 1869 (Cincinnati Red Stockings) and became the nation's pastime.

# G. Spectator Sports (Cont'd...)



## IV. Education & Professions

# A. Growth of Public Schools

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## Public Schools

- The spread of public schools began primarily to “Americanize” immigrant children.
- Curricula also changed by 1900 as classical languages and mathematics were added to for those who were not attending formal colleges.

## **B. Vocational Education**

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### **Manual Training in High Schools**

- Bookkeeping, typing, drafted, and use of tools were added to secondary or “high” schools.

### **Morrill Act & Land-Grant Colleges**

- Morrill Act of 1862 granted states 30,000 acres per representative and senator to add agriculture and mechanic arts in what became know as the land-grant colleges (e.g. Clemson).

## **C. Higher Education**

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### **Increase in College Population**

### **Growth of Elective System**

### **More Opportunities for Women**

### **Graduate Education**

- German model called for a more systematic in the search for advanced degrees (e.g. Ph. D).
- Johns Hopkins University (opened in 1876) set a precedent in graduate work.



# V. Theories of Society

# A. Darwinism & Its Impact

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## Charles Darwin

- *On the Origin of Species* (1859)
- Natural Selection

## Social Darwinism

- Herbert Spencer—“survival of the fittest”
- Support from American businessmen and corporations
- William Graham Sumner—authored *Folkways* (1907) which argued for the government to interfere with established laws.

# A. Darwinism & Its Impact

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## Reform Darwinism

- Lester Frank Ward—authored *Dynamic Sociology* (1883) which focused on the human mind was not factored into Darwin’s ideas of natural selection.
- Ward argued that cooperation (not competition) would promote progress . . . “intelligence, far more than necessity is the mother of invention.”

## **B. Effects of Darwinism in Academia**

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### **Pragmatism**

- William James—promoter of the use of pragmatism.
- Pragmatists believed that ideas gain their validity from practical application.

### **Instrumentalism**

- John Dewey—believed that ideas were the instruments for action (e.g. social reform).

## C. Literature

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### Mark Twain

- Born west of the Appalachians and focused on some western themes.

### Literary Naturalism

- Stephen Crane—*The Red Badge of Courage* (1895)
- Jack London—*The Call of the Wild* (1903)
- Theodore Dreiser—*The Titan* (1914)

## D. Social Criticism

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### Henry George

- Authored *Progress & Wealth* (1879)
- Single Tax method of taxing “unearned” land by making land common property.

### Thorstein Veblen

- Authored *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899)
- Introduced the phrase—Conspicuous Consumption

# VI. The Religious Response:

## Social Gospel

# A. Abandonment of the Inner Cities

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## Inner City Emigration

- Many churches began to leave the inner city following many middle and upper-class residents.
- The YMCA and Salvation Army grew rapidly after the 1870s.
- New entities became more social than religious in nature to meet the needs of the community.



# B. Development of the Institutional Church

YMCA

Salvation Army

Institutional Churches



## C. Washington Gladden

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### Washington Gladden

- Concept of the “Social Gospel” which supported labor unions and their right to protest unfair business practices.
- Gladden complained that class distinctions split congregations.

## D. Walter Rauschenbusch

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### Walter Rauschenbusch

- Intellectual leader and advocate of the Social Gospel Movement.
- Authored *Christianity & the Social Crisis* (1907).
- Thought that the family, the Church, the state, and industrial society was part of the “Kingdom of God.”

# VII. Early Efforts at Urban Reform

# A. The Settlement House Movement

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## Nature of Settlement Houses

- By 1900, nearly 100 houses were in existence and led by Jane Addams and Ellen Starr.
- Staffed by young middle-class idealists in an effort to improve lives of those living in the slums (especially immigrants).
- Hull House in Chicago was famous (it sponsored health clinics, men's clubs, and employment bureau).

# A. The Settlement House Movement



## **B. Women's Jobs & Rights**

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### **Women's Suffrage**

- Conflicts in the Movement
- Gains in the States (women given the right to vote).

### **Women's Efforts**

- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the New England Women's Club foremed.

## **C. Efforts to Regulate Business**

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**State Regulatory Commissions**

**Development of Substantive Due Process**



# **Making Connections – Topic 21**

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- **As PPT Topic 22 shows, the presidential election of 1896 was in many ways a contest between new urban values discussed in this chapter and those of a more traditional rural view.**

# **Making Connections – Topic 21**

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- The reform impulse discussed in this chapter finds voice again in the discussion of the Progressive Movement in PPT Topic 24.**

# **Making Connections – Topic 21**

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- The Nativist thinking discussed in this chapter fueled the restrictive immigration laws of the 1920s, discussed in PPT Topic 26.**

# **Making Connections – Topic 21**

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- The socialist approach to reform was a significant influence on the Progressive movement, covered in PPT Topic 24.**