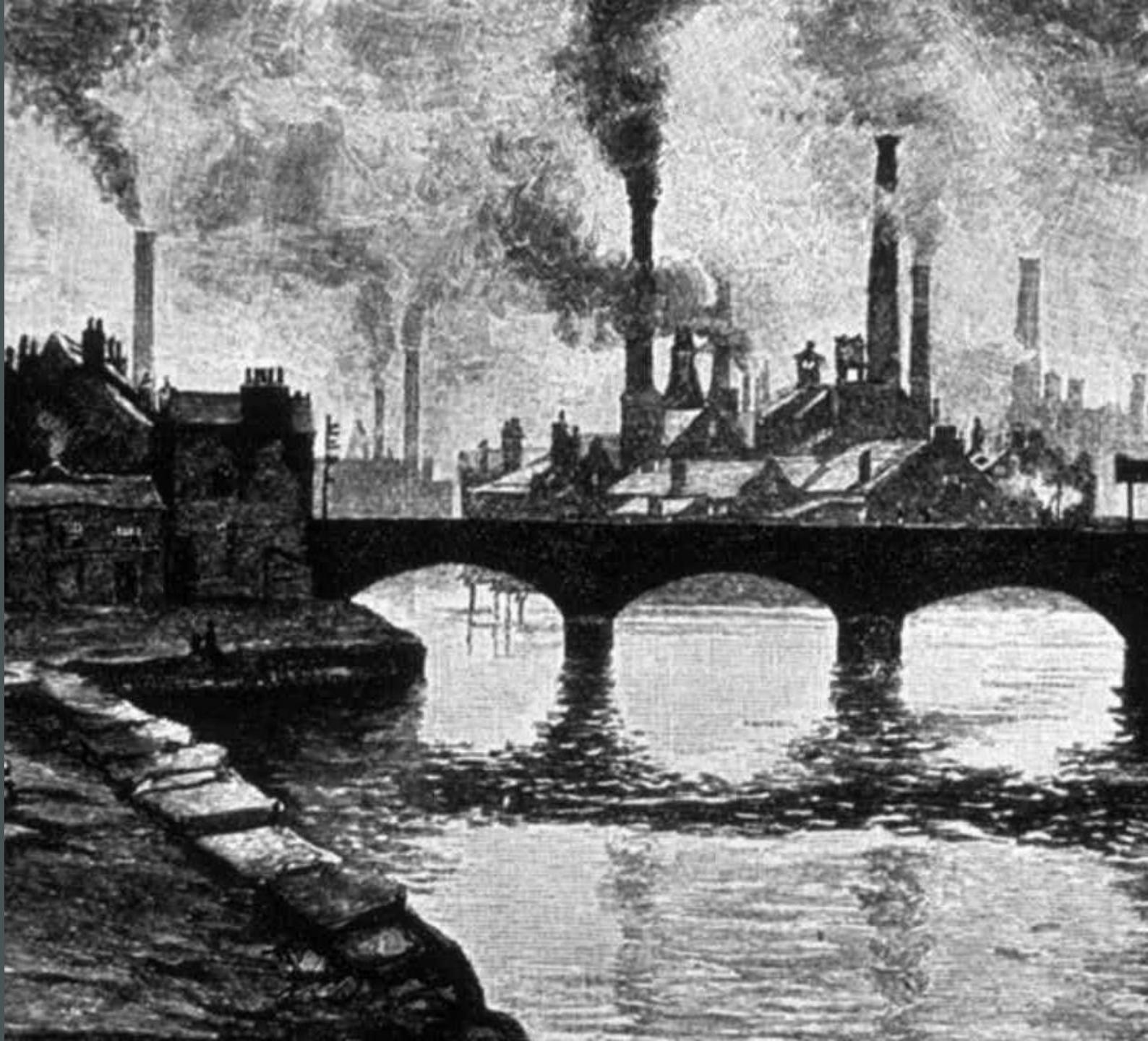


# CH. 19 THE CITY AND ITS WORKERS

1870-1900

# CENTRAL THEMES

- Growth of American Cities in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Labor
- The Rise and Fall of Labor Unions
- Home Life Shaped by Industrialization
- Municipal Governments Response to Expansion
- Who Really Built the Modern City?



# CITY EXPANSION IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY

- “We cannot all live in cities, yet nearly all seem determined to.”
- 1900:
  - Three cities with +1,000,000 people
  - New York, Chicago, Philadelphia

Rural and Urban Populations  
in the United States, 1860–1920

Year	Rural	Urban
1860	25,226,803	6,216,518
1870	28,656,010	9,902,361
1880	36,059,474	14,129,735
1890	40,873,501	22,106,265
1900	45,997,336	30,214,832
1910	50,164,495	42,064,001
1920	51,768,255	54,253,282

Source: Bureau of the Census

(a)

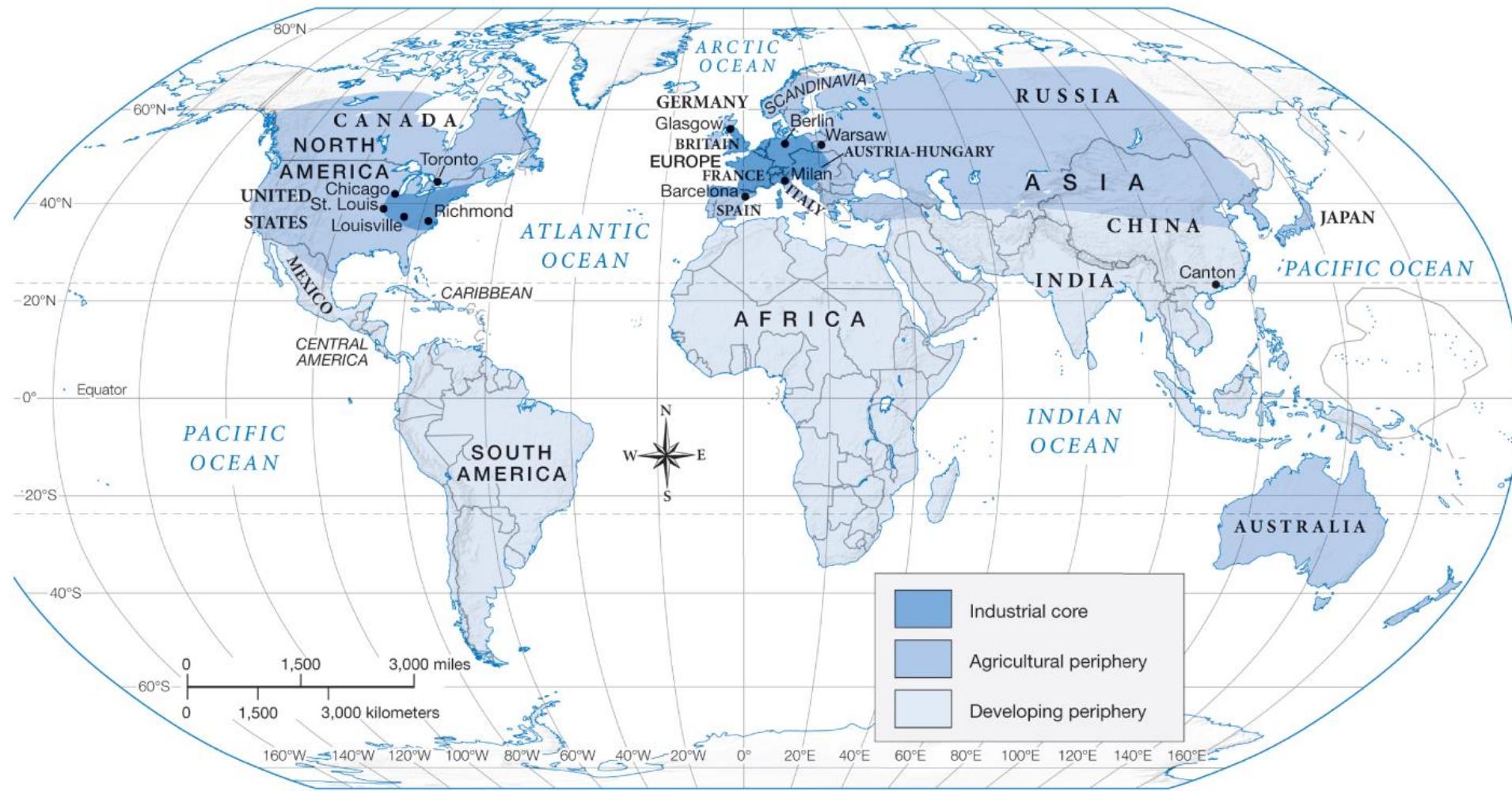
Populations of Major Cities  
in the United States, 1860–1900

City	1860	1880	1900
New York	1,174,800	1,912,000	3,437,000
Philadelphia	565,500	847,000	1,294,000
Boston	177,800	363,000	561,000
Baltimore	212,400	332,000	509,000
Cincinnati	161,000	255,000	326,000
St. Louis	160,800	350,000	575,000
Chicago	109,300	503,000	1,698,000

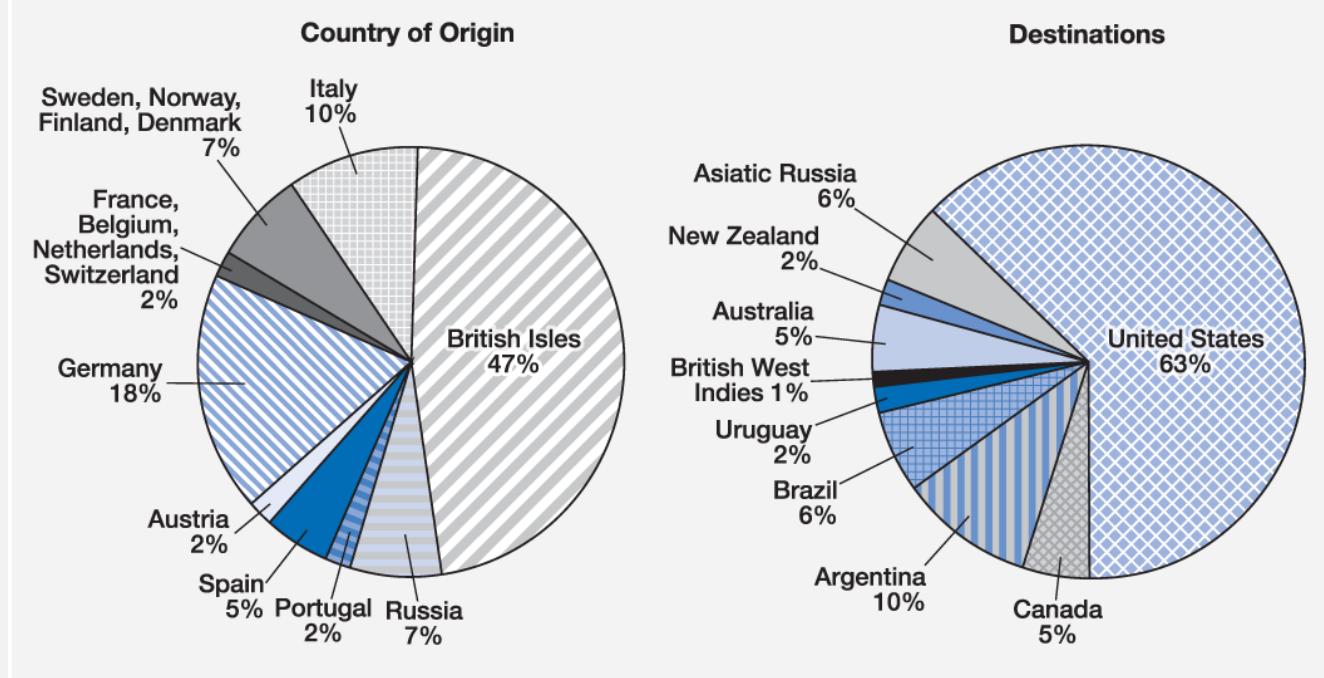
(b)

(g)

(p)



## INDUSTRIALIZATION & RAILROADS



Copyright © Macmillan Learning

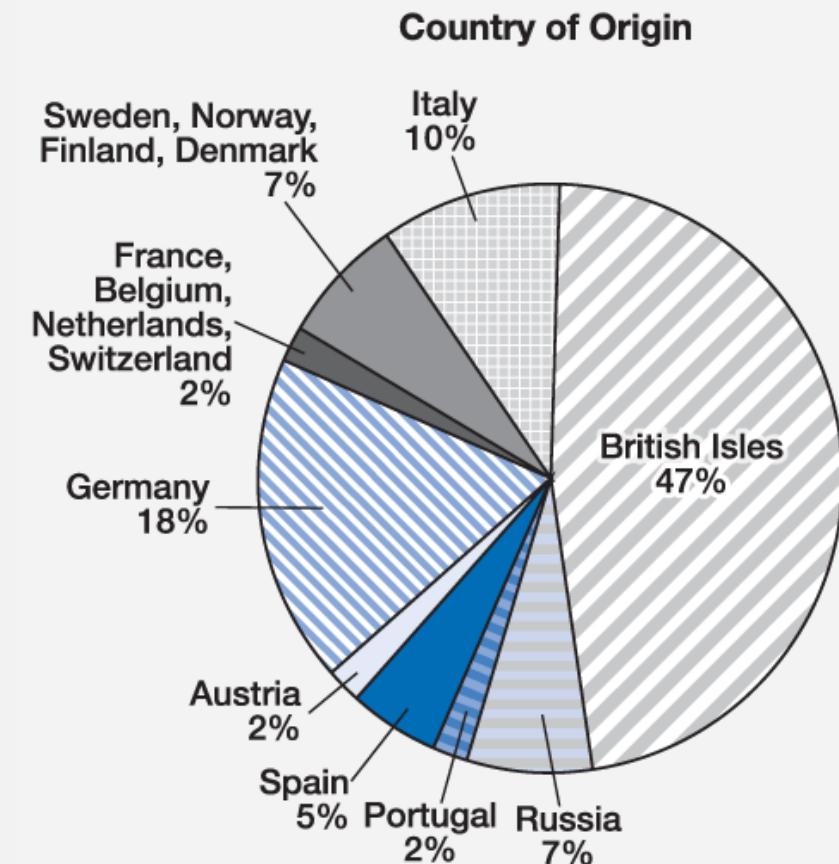


## IMMIGRATION ON THE RISE

- Global Migration = City Population Growth
- East Coast: 14 million people

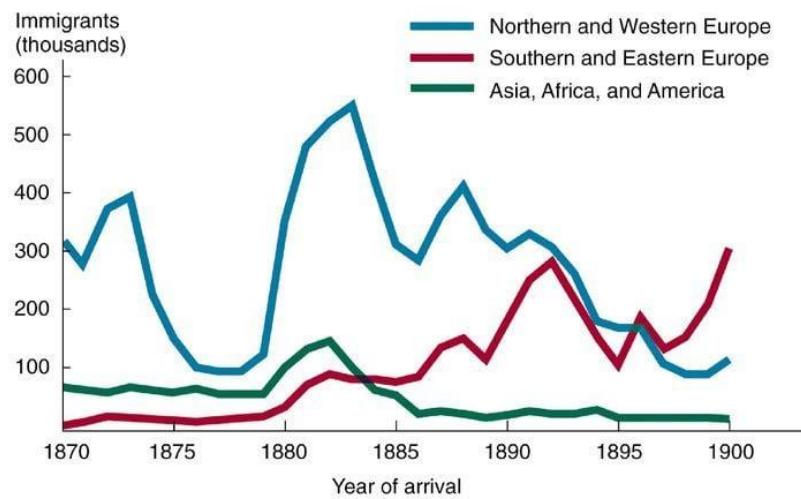
# HISTORICAL TRENDS ON MIGRATION

- Before 1880:
  - Western Europe: Germans, Irish, English, Scandinavians = 85% of newcomers



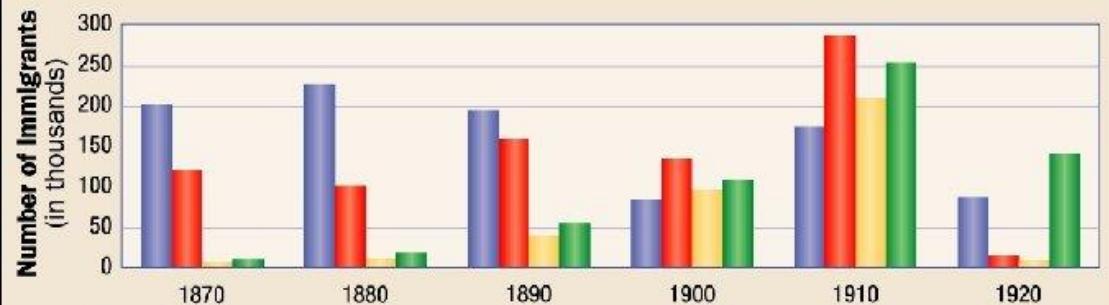
# NEW IMMIGRANTS

## Immigration to the United States, 1870–1900



## *Immigrants from Europe*

### European Immigration, 1870–1920



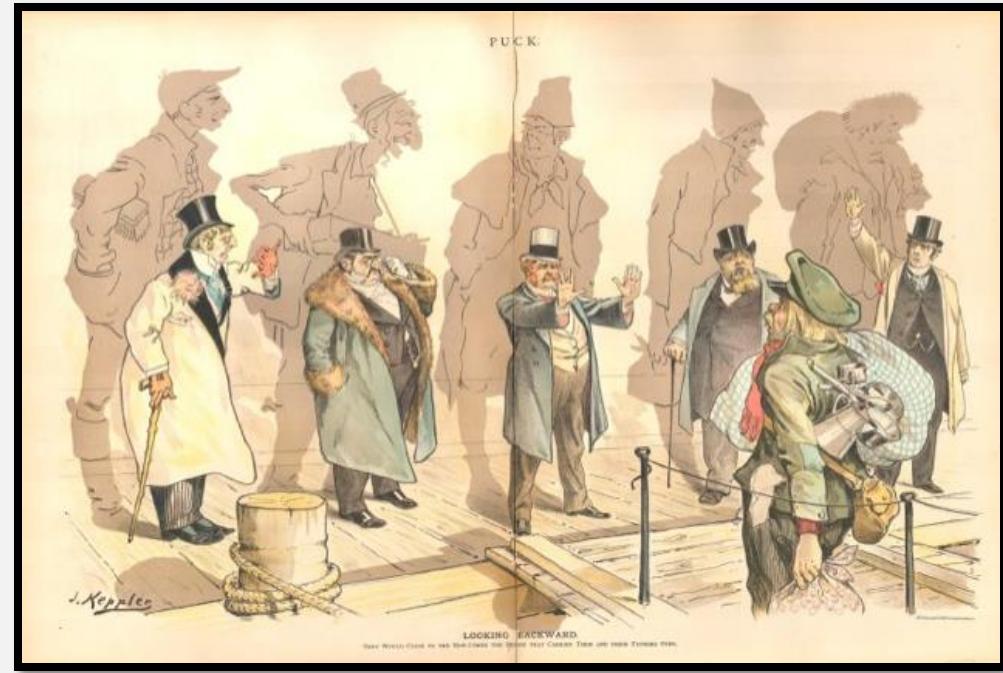
Old	New	New	New
Northwestern Europe	Central Europe	Eastern Europe	Southern Europe
Great Britain	Luxembourg	Germany	Italy
Ireland	Switzerland	Poland	Spain
Scandinavia	Netherlands	Czechoslovakia	Portugal
France		Yugoslavia	Greece
Belgium		Austria-Hungary	
		Russia	
		Baltic States	
		Romania	
		Bulgaria	
		European Turkey	

SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*

# “OLD” VS. “NEW” IMMIGRANTS



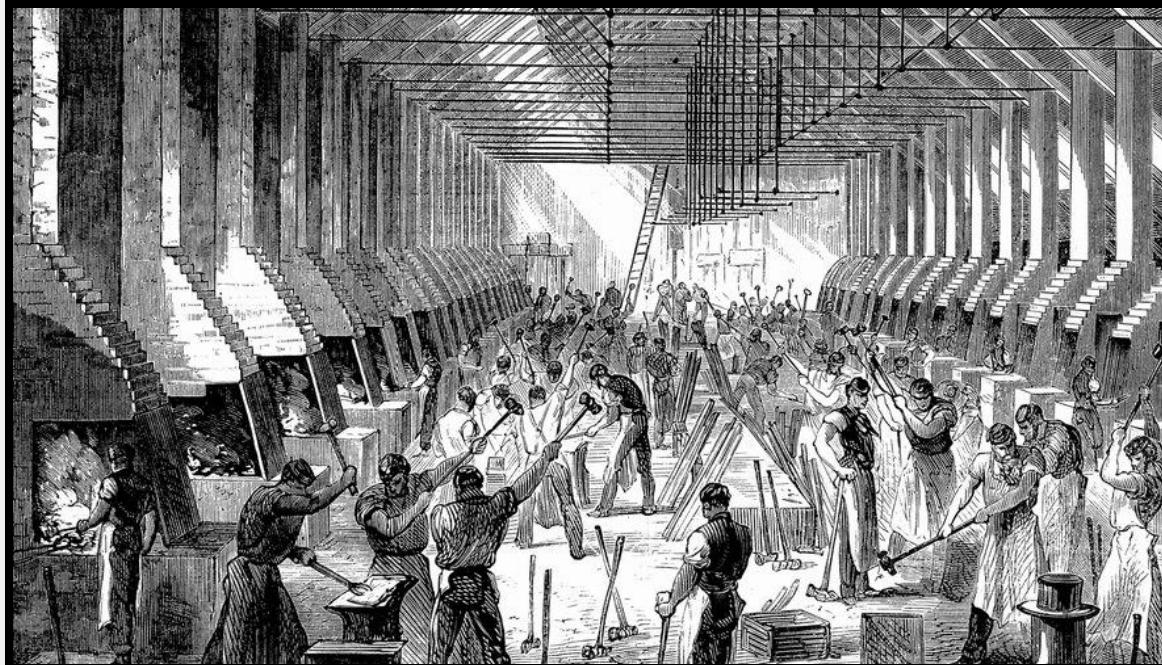
OLD Immigrants vs. NEW Immigrants



Many of these new immigrants were fleeing persecution and lives with no means for economic opportunity.

# NEED FOR IMMIGRANTS

- Economic Growth
- Industrial Growth
- Recruitment



# IMMIGRANT INDUSTRIAL WORKERS



IN GREAT NUMBERS THEY TOIL AND SWEAT AMID THE SMOKE OF OUR STEEL PLANTS AND FACTORIES. THEY BUILD OUR RAILROADS. WE MUST HAVE THEM (ASK THE MANUFACTURER & RAILWAY CONTRACTOR)

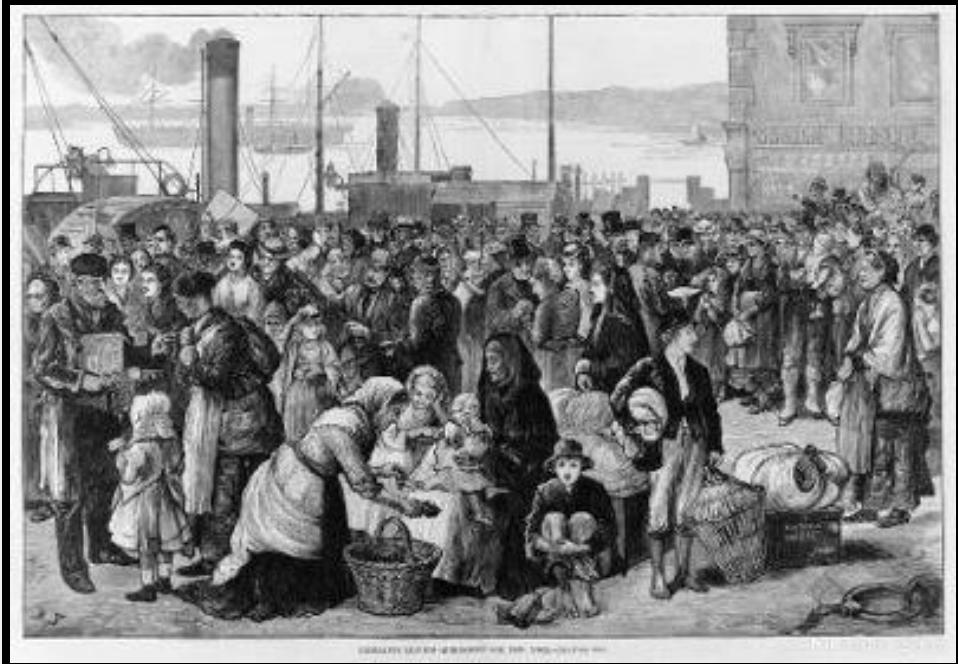
# INITIAL INTENT

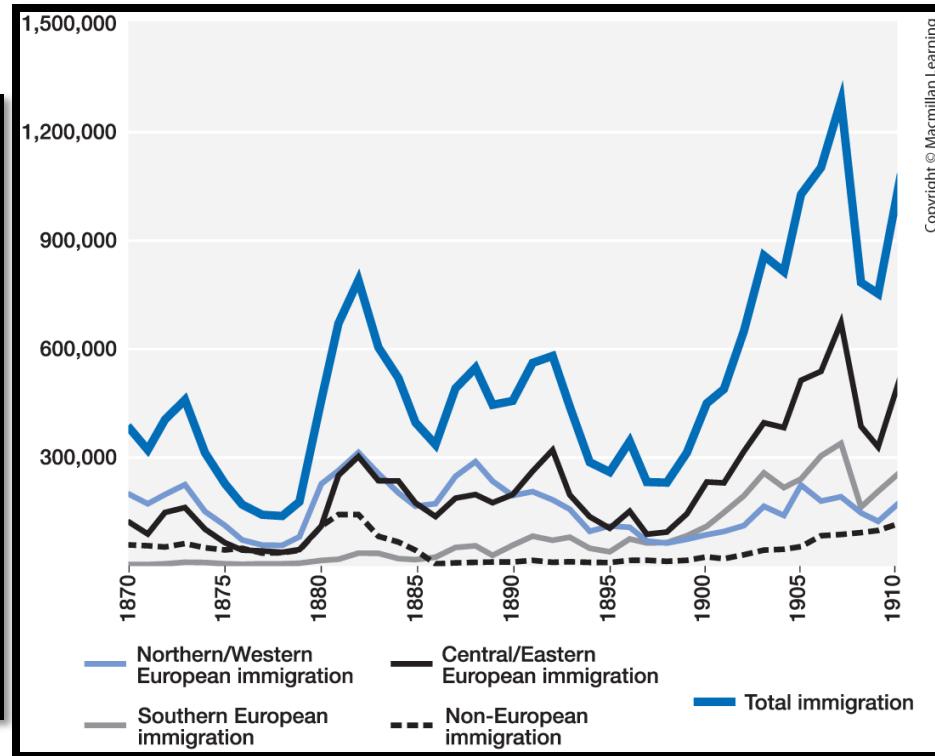
- The Idea of Going Home
- Seasonal Work
  - “Birds of Passage”
- 1900: 2/3 immigrants were young men
- Women?



# IMMIGRANT WOMEN

- Women
  - Less opportunity to enter US
  - Not here as Laborers





# RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION



# WAR & PERSECUTION

- 1880s: Conscription and Pogroms (Russia and Poland)
  - 1 million Ashkenazi Jews came to the US in two decades
  - Single men and entire families
- Creation of the Lower East Side
- Jewish Community in NYC



WANTED—Farm hand on poultry and fruit farm at once, to make himself generally useful, must know how, be neat, strong, active and obliging, no Jews or Irish, drunkards need not apply, wages \$15 a month, with board and washing, write fully giving experience and reference. Rockingham Fruit Farm, North Epping, N. H.



*"We can use about 75 men  
... Italians need not apply"*

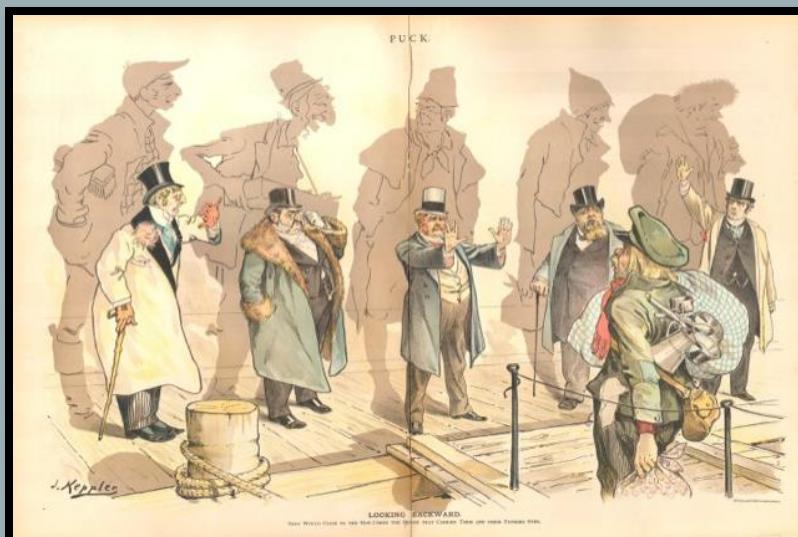
- Superintendent Samuel D. Nicholson, Ute-Ulay Mine  
— Auric Mining Company  
— Lake City Times, March 16, 1899  
(Sam Nicholson later became a U.S. Senator from Colorado.)

# RACISM LEADS TO IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION

Old Immigrant Groups Criticized the New

Social Darwinism at Play

Who was Considered White?



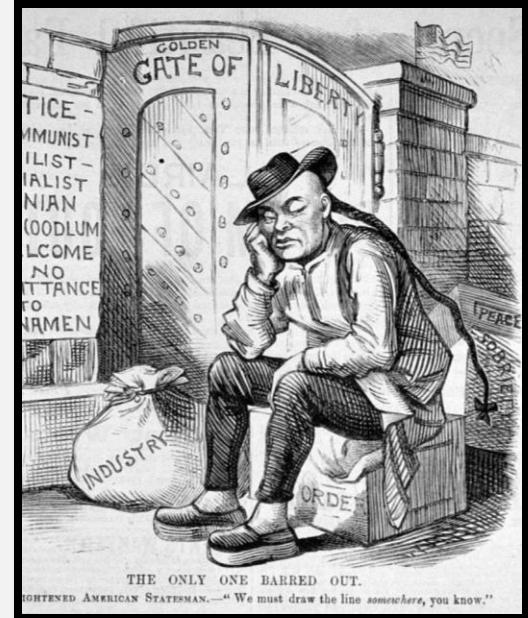
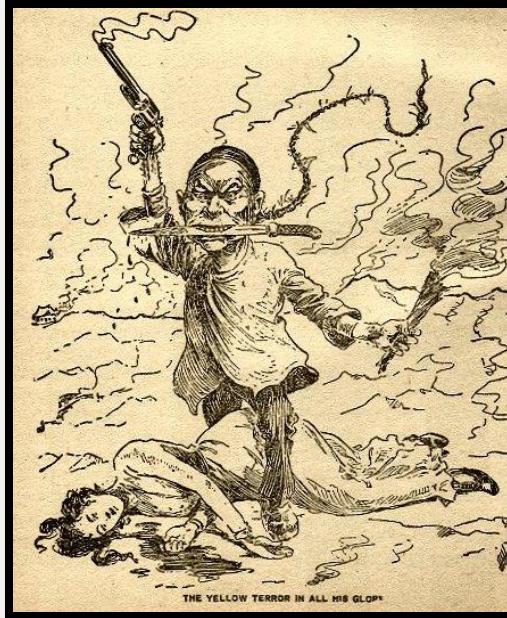
# SOUTHERN ATTITUDES

- North promised economic opportunities (1890s)
- Jim Crow South Restrictions
- Chicago, Philadelphia, New York (1900)



# ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT

- Sinophobia
  - Hostility toward Chinese
- Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> law to exclude immigrants based on race
  - Slowed Immigration
  - Did Not Stop it Completely



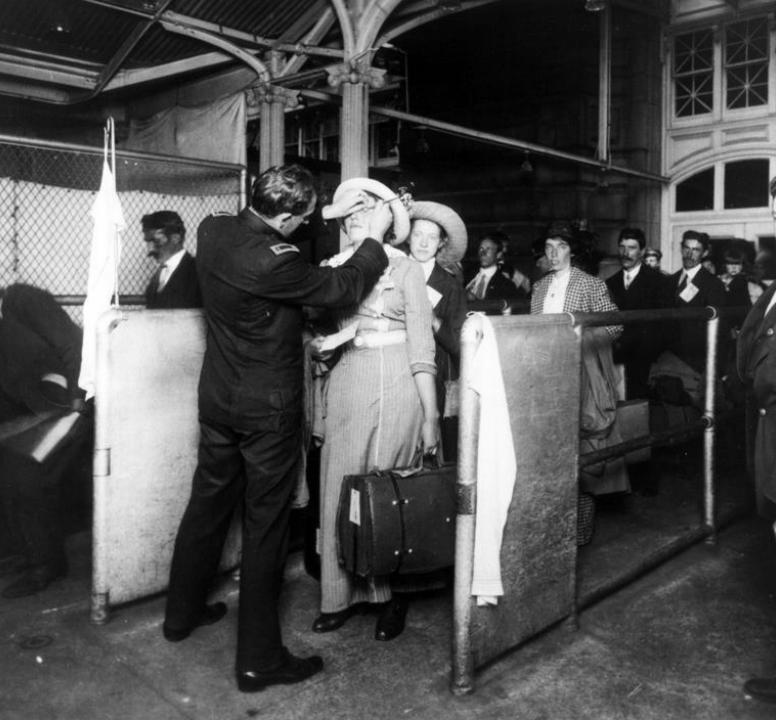
# ANGEL ISLAND

- Angel Island, San Francisco Bay, CA (1910)
- Quarantine Spot



# ELLIS ISLAND

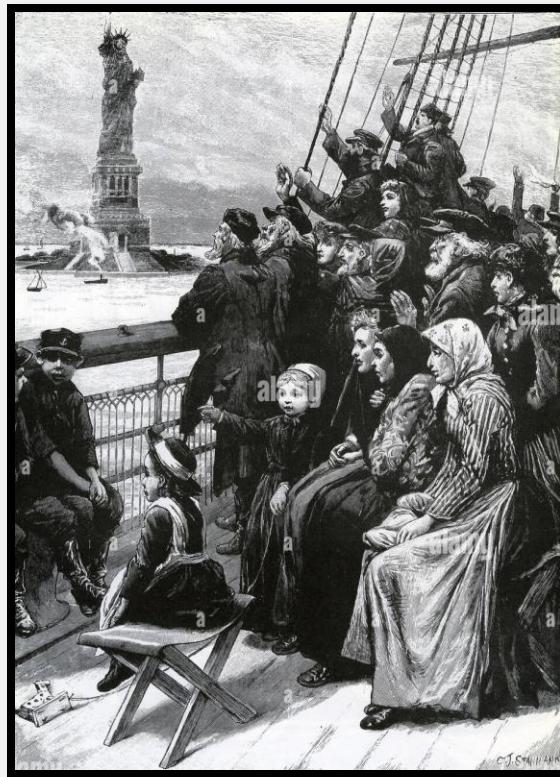
- Ellis Island (1890)
  - 5,000 Immigrants a Day
- Examined
- Medical Exams/Physicals
- Questioned about Work
- Political Questions



# IMMIGRANT SENTIMENTS

- “It is said, that the quality of recent immigration is undesirable. The time is quite within recent memory when the same thing was said of immigrants who, with their descendants, are now numbered among our best citizens.”

-President Grover Cleveland  
(1896)



- “These people are not Americans... they are the scum and offal of Europe.”
  - *Public Opinion* Journal
- Newcomers should be, “herded together like animals and beasts.”

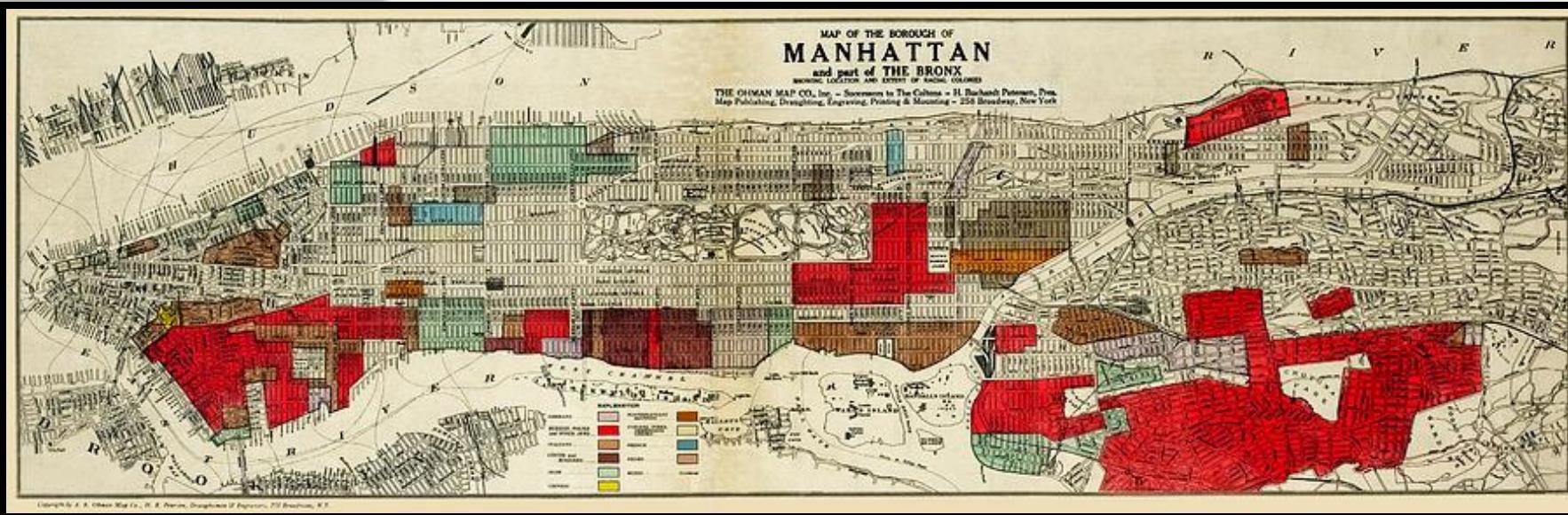
-Terence V. Powderly  
(Knights of Labor)



# WEALTH & SOCIAL SEGREGATION



- Separation of Rich and Poor
- Separation of Ethnicity, Old-Stock Americans and *Nouveau Riche*



# PLUTOCRACY

- Society ruled by the rich
- “The public be damned.”
  - William Vanderbilt
- Top 1-2% of population owned 1/3 of the wealth
  - 10% owned  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the wealth



# LIFE FOR LABORERS



- 1860: 5.3 million workers
- 1900: 17.4 million workers
  - Average Wage: 21.6 cents/hour
  - Average Annual Earnings: \$490
  - Average Work Week: 59 Hours
- 1913:
  - ~25,000 Factory Fatalities
  - ~700,000 Major Injuries

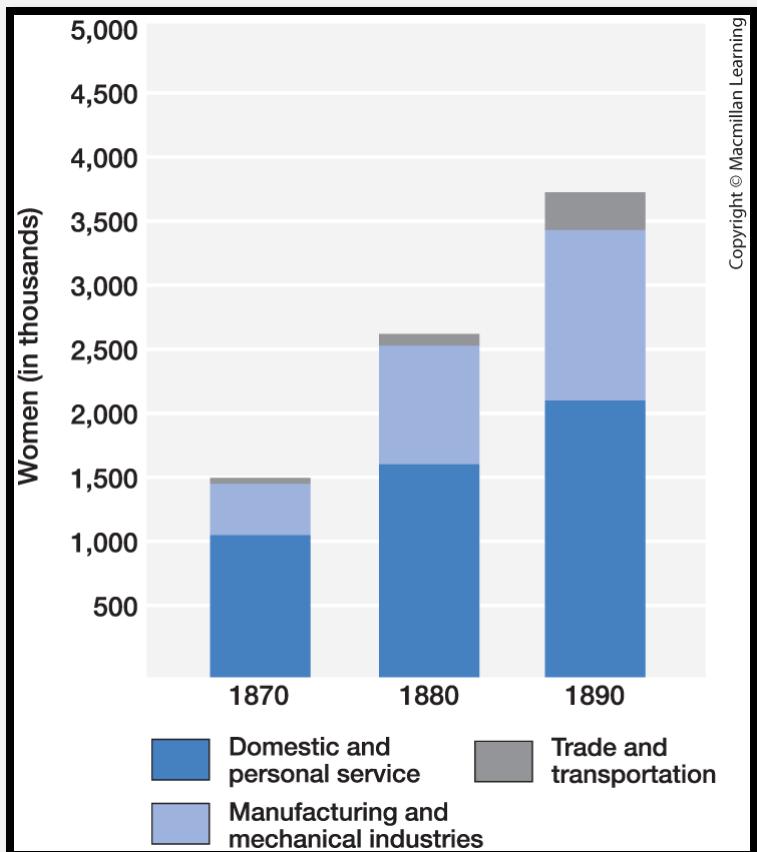


## INDUSTRIAL LIFE

- Mutualism vs. Individualism
- Mutual Aid Societies

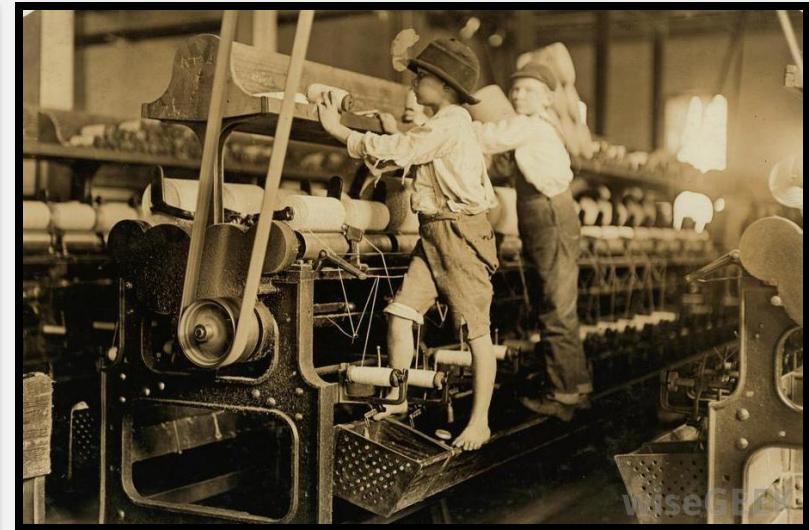
# WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

- 1870-1900: 2x women working in nonagricultural jobs
- Differed by race:
  - White Women
  - Black Women
  - Immigrant Women



# CHILD LABOR

- 1870: 750,000
- 1900: 1,750,000
- No Concept of Childhood
- Cheap Source of Labor



Number of Children Employed Ages 10-15 from 1870-1900	
Year	Number
1870	765,000
1880	1,118,000
1890	1,504,000
1900	1,750,000

# EMERGENCE OF THE WHITE-COLLAR JOB

Men: Managerial Positions

Women: Typewriters & Clerks

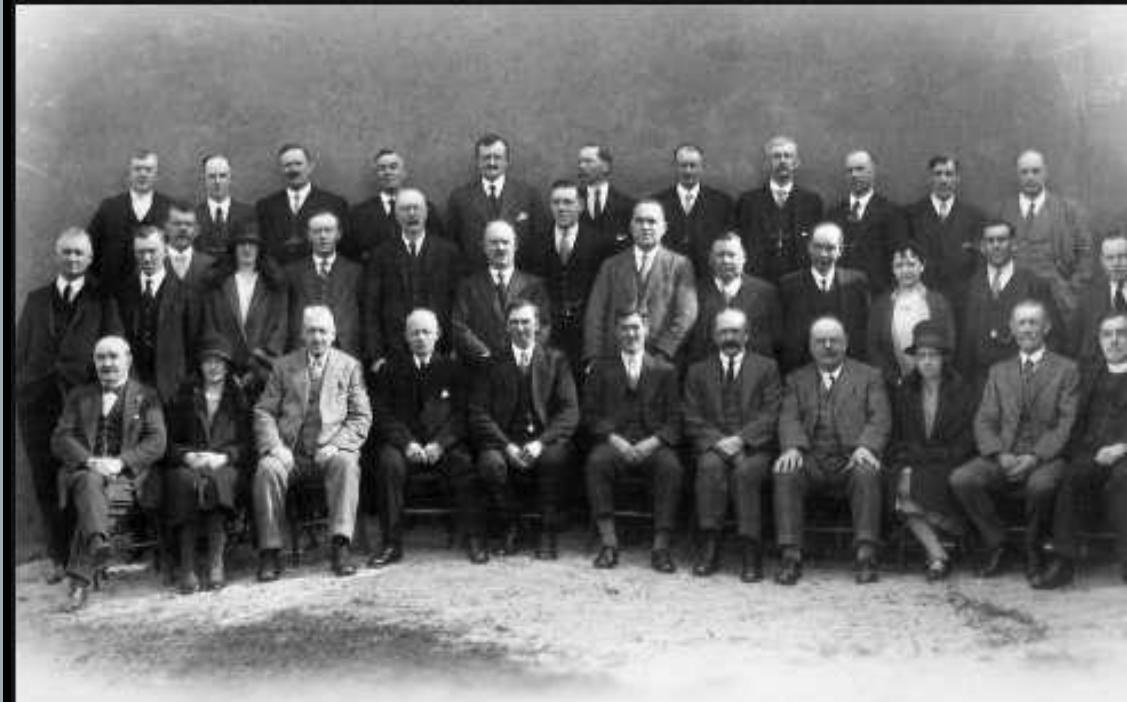
1890s: Native-Born, Single, White Women  
were 90% of the female clerical  
workforce

Early Department Stores:

Salesclerks at Macy's (\$25)

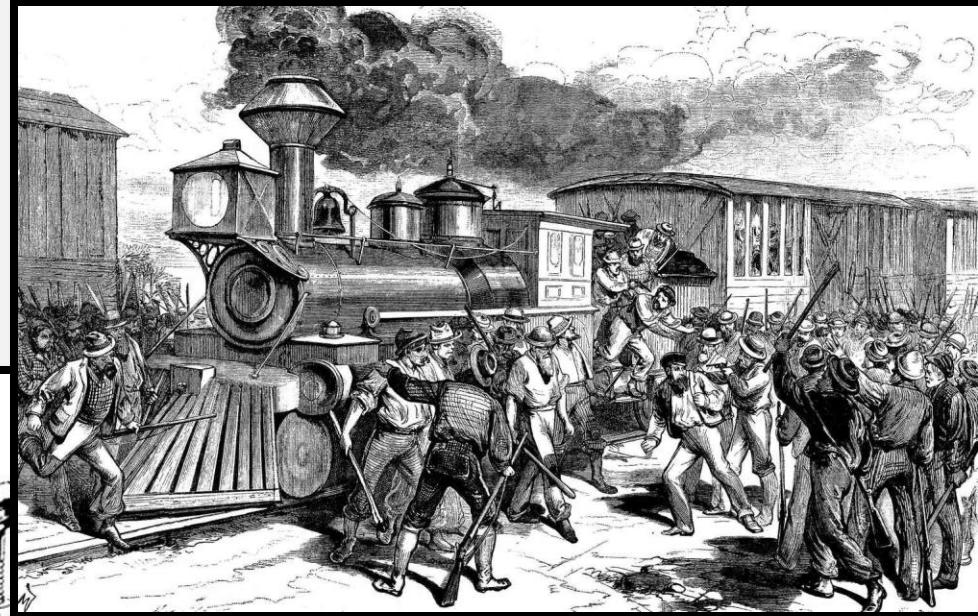
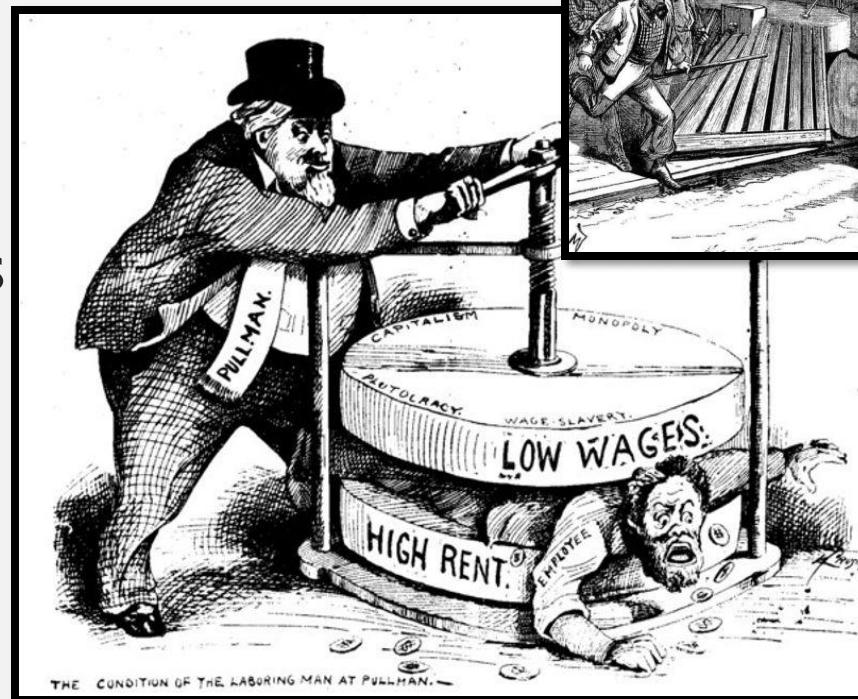
Wrapper (\$3)

Cashier (\$3)



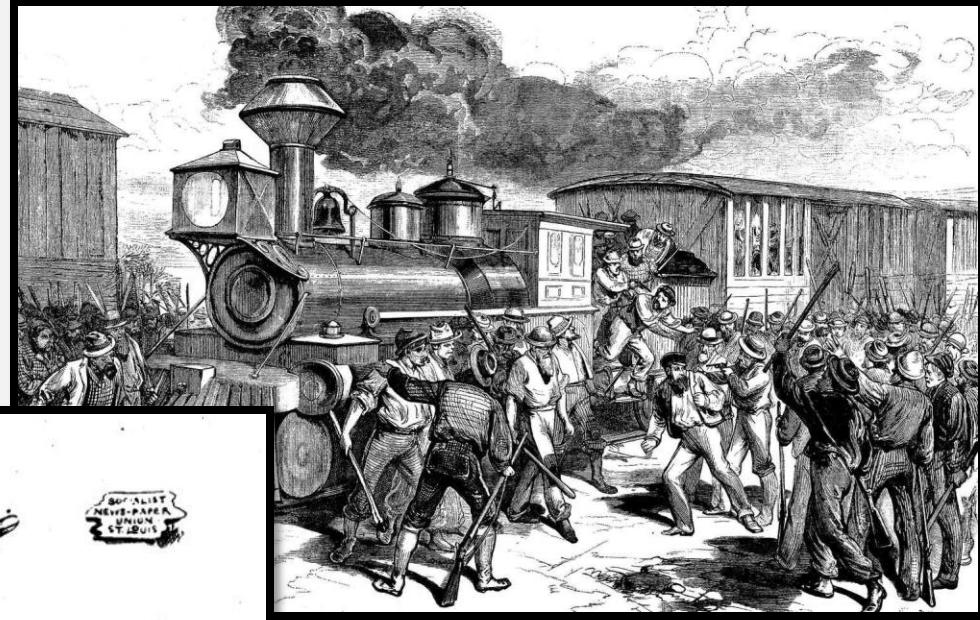
# GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877

- Economic Depression
  - 3 million out of work
  - Pay cuts
- Baltimore & Ohio railroad
  - 10% wage cut
  - 10% dividend to stockholders
- W.V. Brakemen
  - Pay \$70 to \$30
  - Walked out on Strike



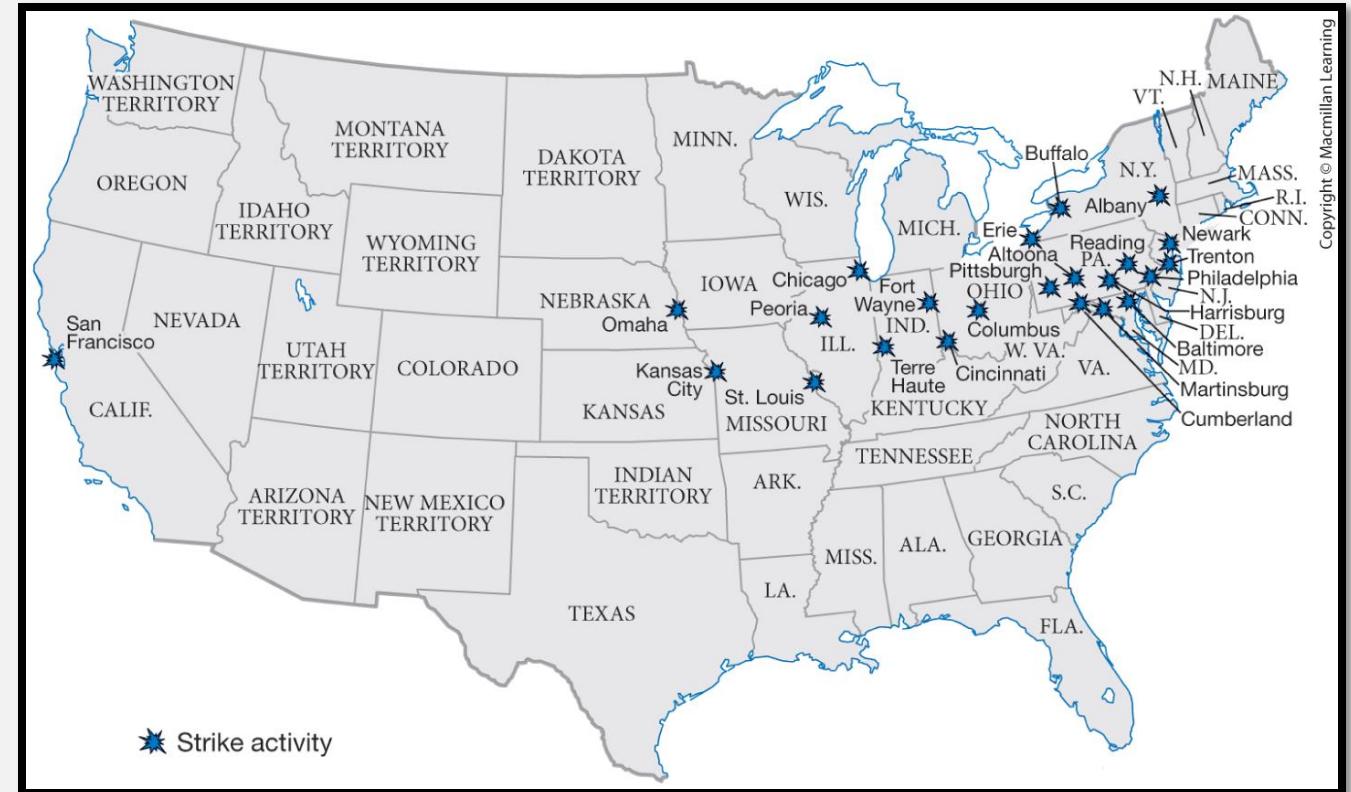
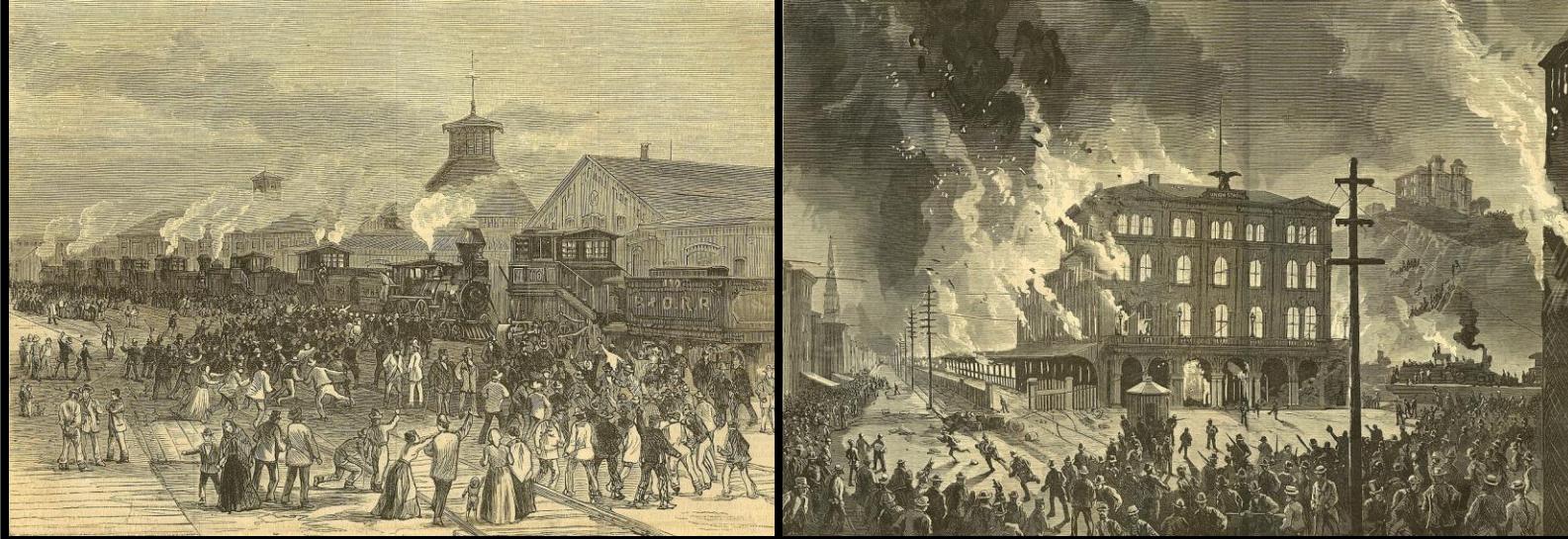
# GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877

- “We eat our hard bread and tainted meat two days old on the sooty cars up the road, and when we come home, find our wives complaining that they cannot even buy hominy and molasses for food.”



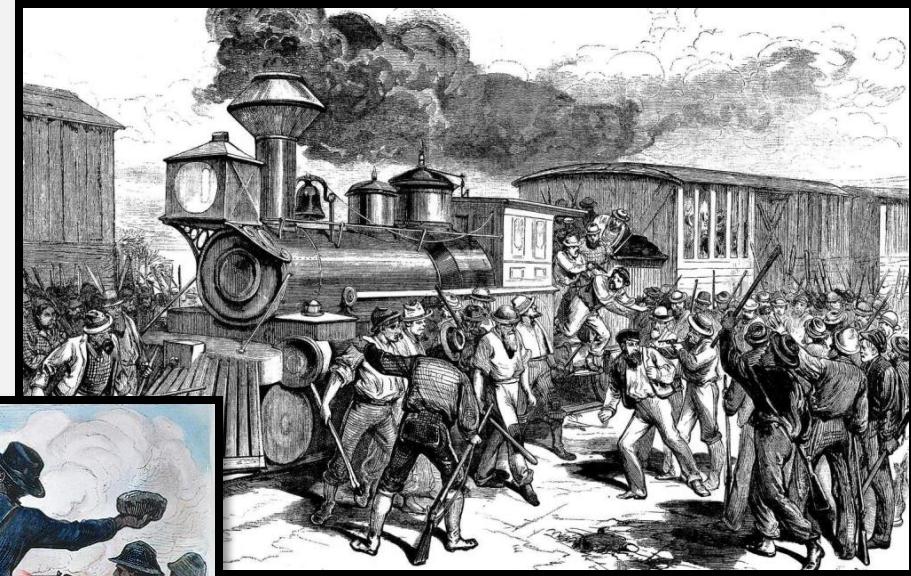
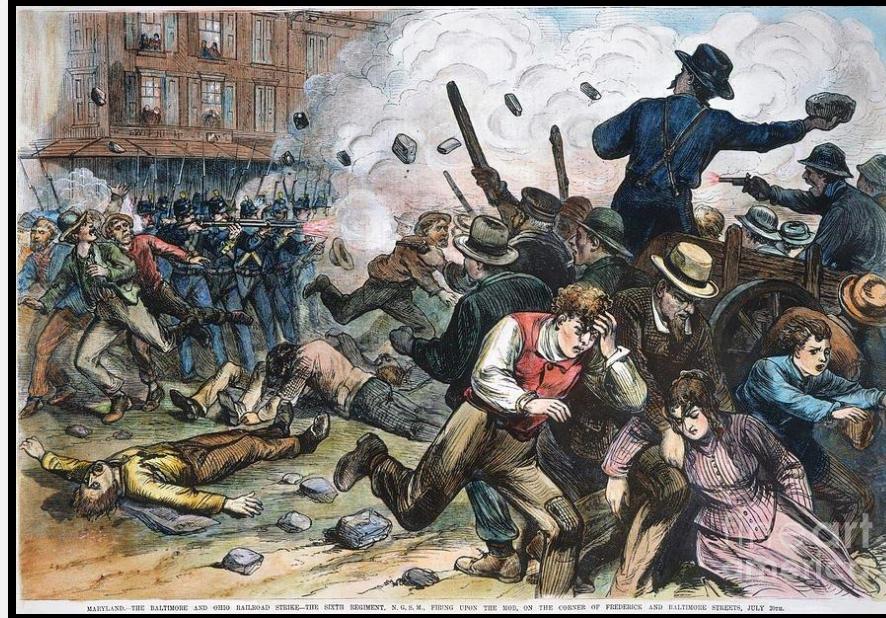
# GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877 GOES NATIONAL

- 100,000 Walked Off
- 500,000 Walked Off in Sympathy
- National Railroad Froze



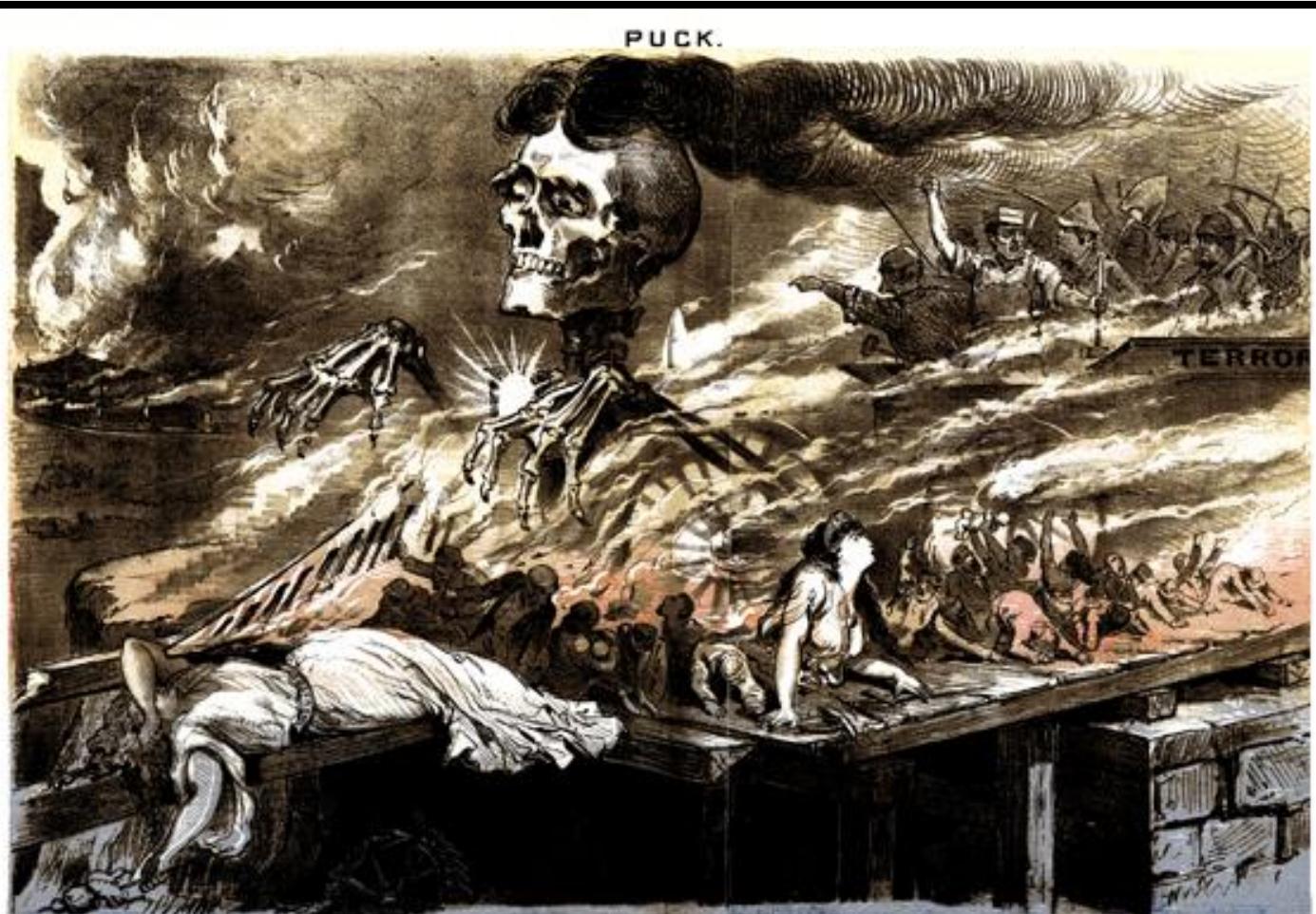
# GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877 GETS VIOLENT

- Violence in Pittsburgh
- Community Rebellion & Labor Action
- Damages:
  - 2,000 burned railroad cars
  - 40 burned buildings
  - \$2 million in property damage



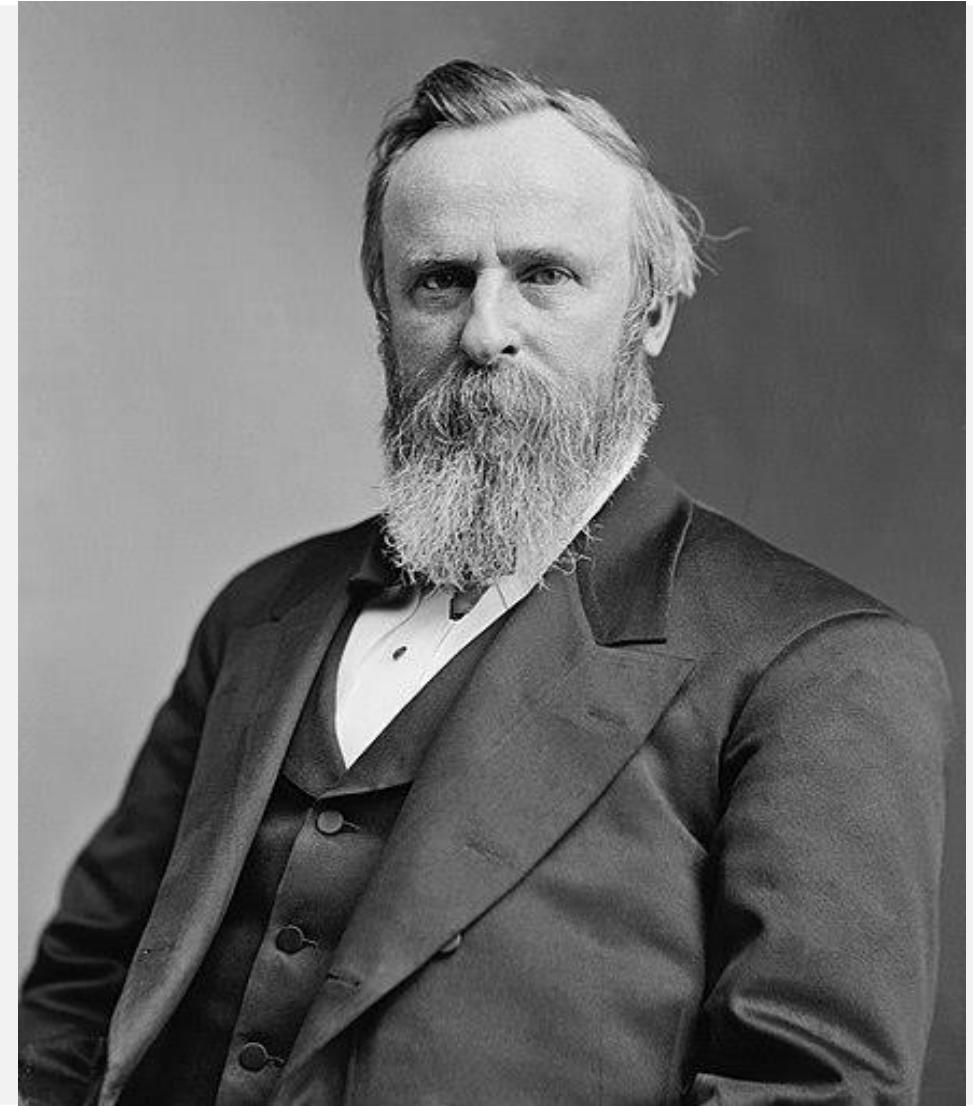
# GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877

- Friends to Enemies
  - Middle Class: Initially Sympathetic
  - Turns into Frustration & Hostility
    - Blamed for Property Damage
  - Class Wars



# GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877

“But now for the real remedy. Can’t something be done by education of the strikers, by judicious control of the capitalists, by wise general policy to end or diminish the evil? The railroad strikers, as a rule, are good men, sober, intelligent, and industrious.”

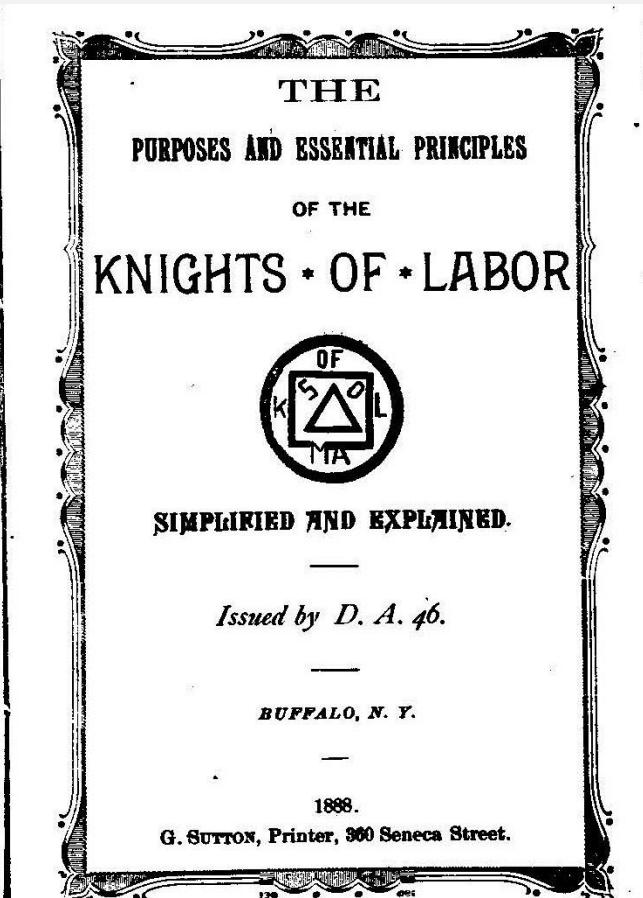


Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893)

# KNIGHTS OF LABOR



Terence Powderly  
(1849-1924)



- Founded in 1869
- During the 1880s: membership increased from 100,000 to 700,000
- Diverse Group
  - Women = 20% of KoL
  - African Americans: 95,000



## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR (AFL)

- Founded 1886
- Exclusive Labor Union
  - By 1900: 500,000 members
  - By 1920: 4 million members
- Umbrella Organization



Samuel Gompers  
(1850-1924)

# HAYMARKET BOMBING

- May Day, Chicago, (May 1, 1886)
  - Protest for 8 Hour Workday
  - Locals Lead the Rally
  - 80,000 Marched Peacefully



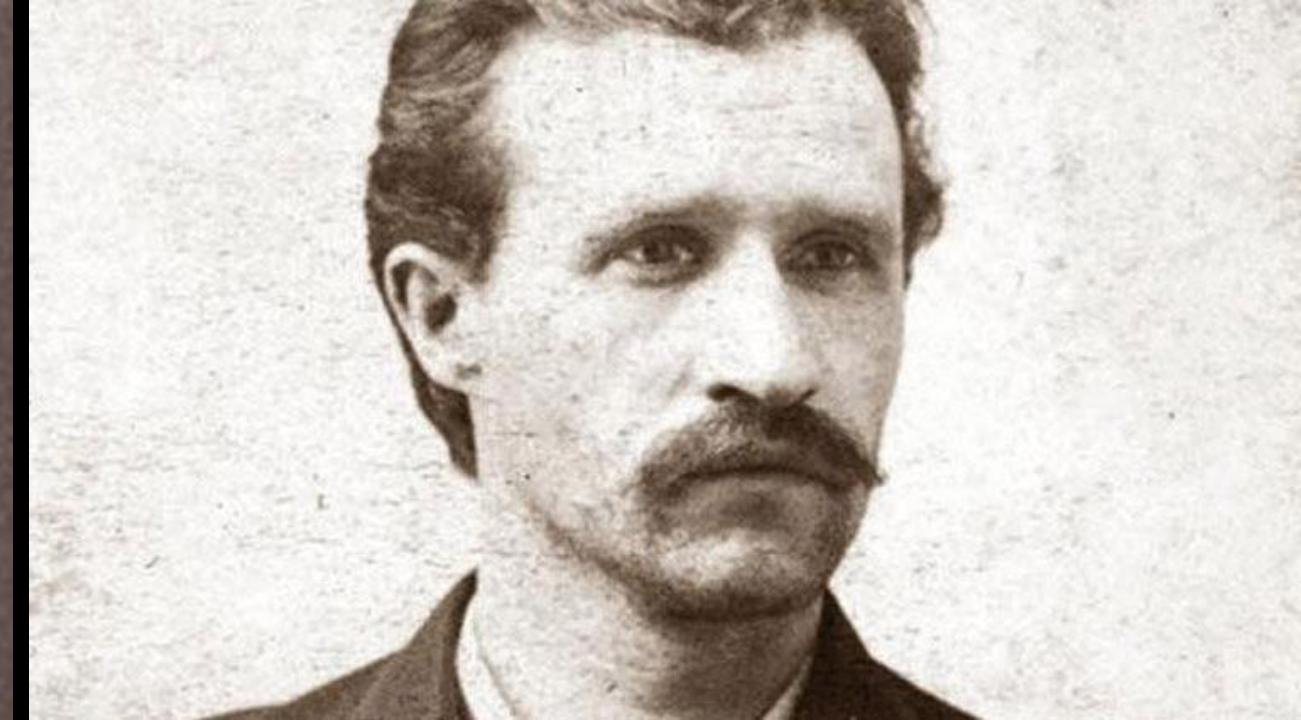
# HAYMARKET BOMBING

- May Day, Chicago, (May 4, 1886)
  - 2,000-3,000
  - Ordered Dispersal
- Bomb Thrown at the Police
  - Police Fired





Albert Parsons (1848-1887)



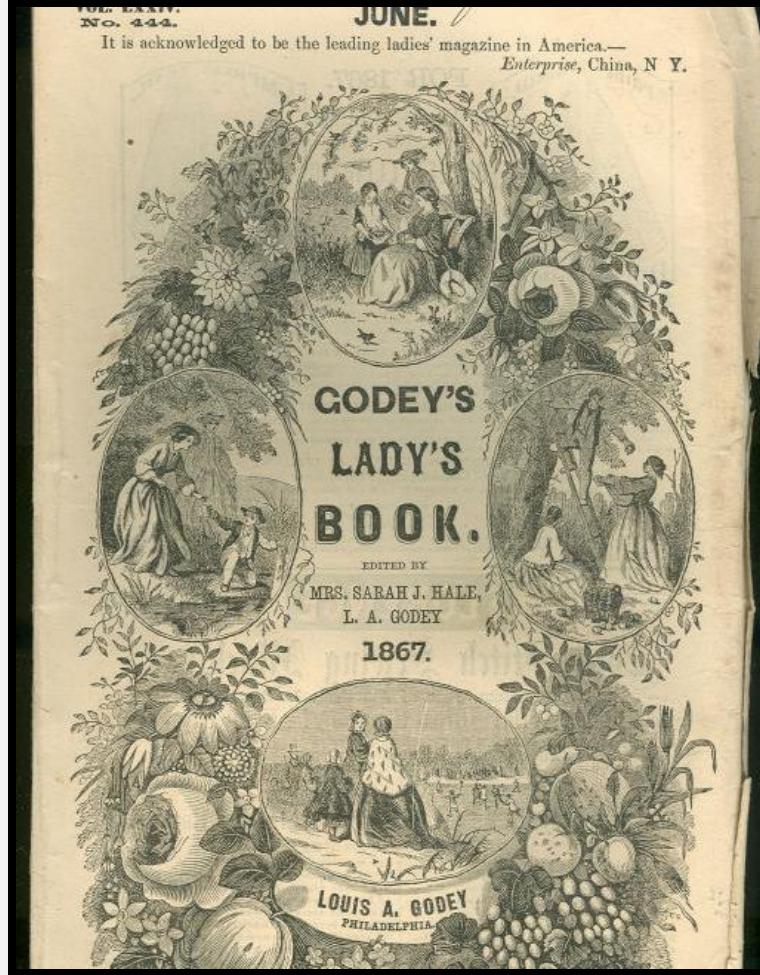
August Spies (1855-1887)

## HAYMARKET BOMBING OUTCOMES

- Anger at: Immigrants, Anarchists, Labor Unions, Working Class
- Parsons & Spies Hung
- Killed the 8 Hour Workday Campaign
- Knights of Labor Numbers Decline
- American Federation of Labor Gains Numbers

# CULT OF DOMESTICITY

- Cult of Domesticity: women's place was in the home to create havens for family. Freed white middle-class women to pursue things outside the home
- Increased the hiring of domestic workers
- Boon for middle-class women



# HOME LIFE & LEISURE FOR SOME, NOT ALL

Cities in the 1870s:

North: Generally Irish domestics

15-30% had live-in domestic  
workers

90% women

South: relied on poor black  
female help





BACHELOR. "Mary, I should like that piece of Bacon I left at Dinner yesterday."  
IRISH SERVANT. "Is it the bit o' Bhacon thin? Shure I took it to Loight the Fhoires!"

# DOMESTIC WORKER PERSPECTIVE

Domestic Service : Last  
Resort

Long hours and lack of  
privacy

Resentment

"Hard and lonely life."

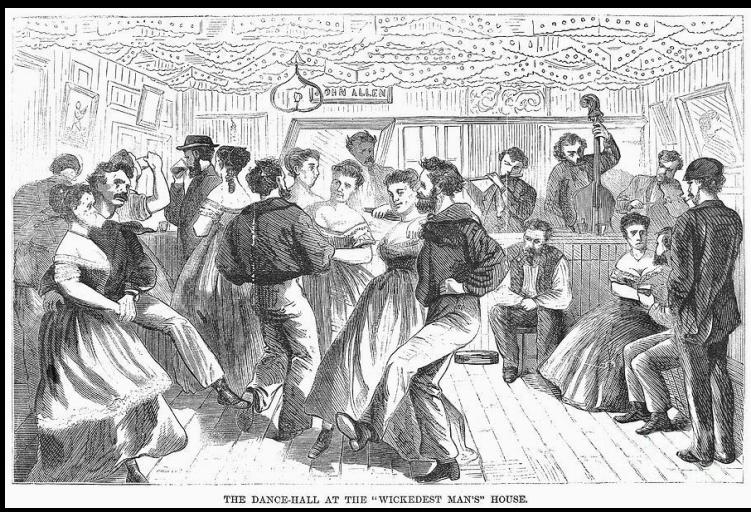
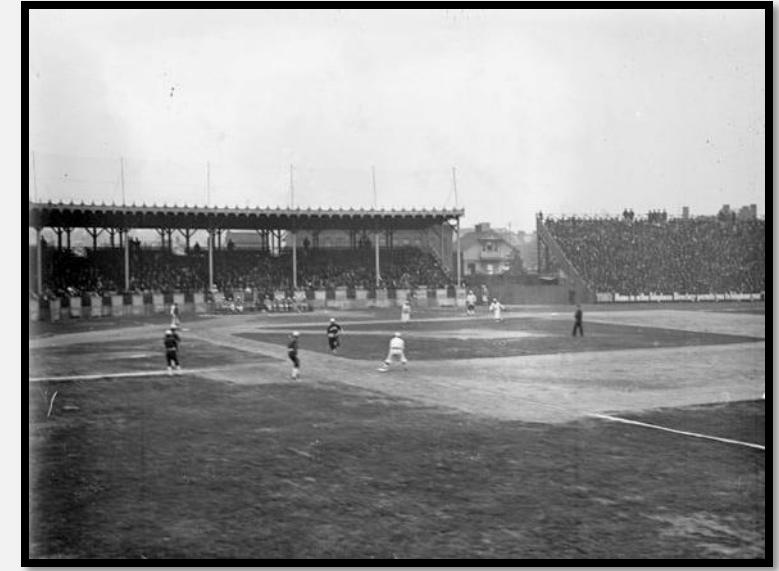


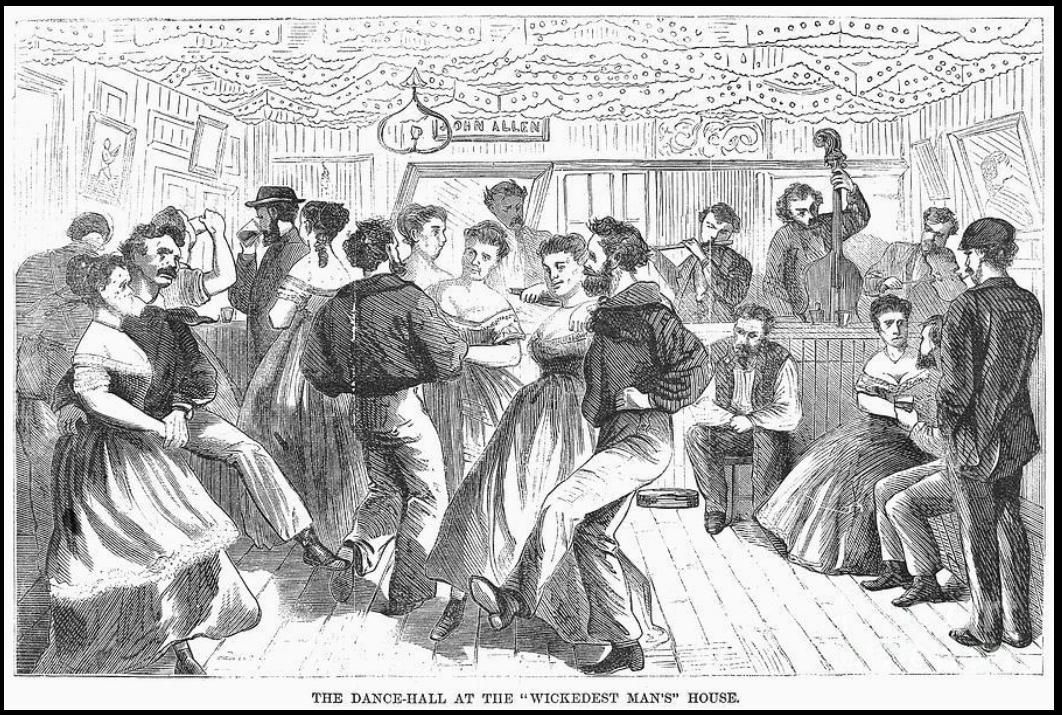
## LIFE OUTSIDE THE HOME: ‘LEISURE’

- Prompted:
  - Women’s Clubs
  - Temperance Movement
  - Suffrage

# WORKING CLASS LEISURE

- Working Class Leisure:
  - Dance Halls
  - Ballparks
  - Amusement Arcades
  - Music Houses



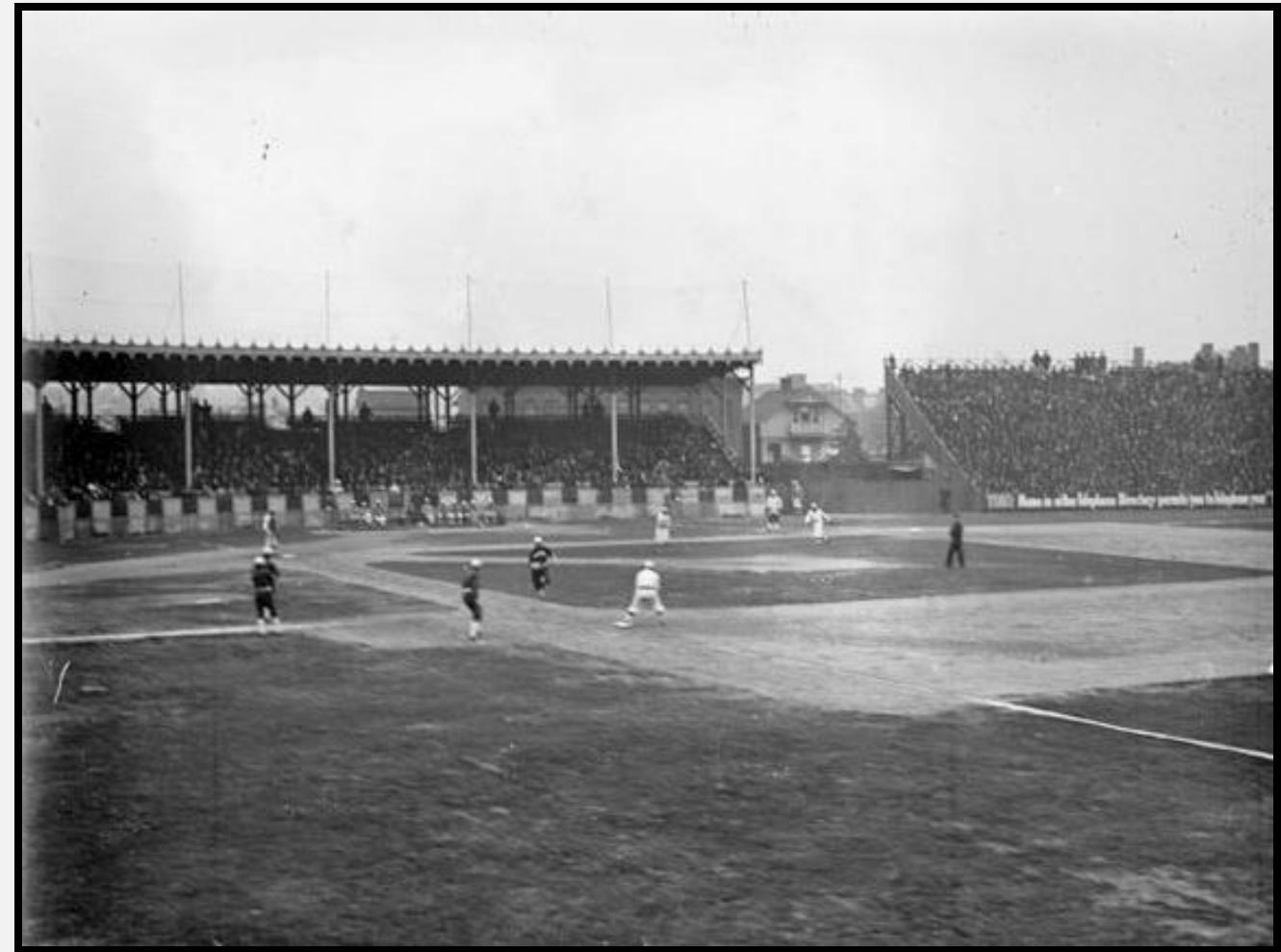
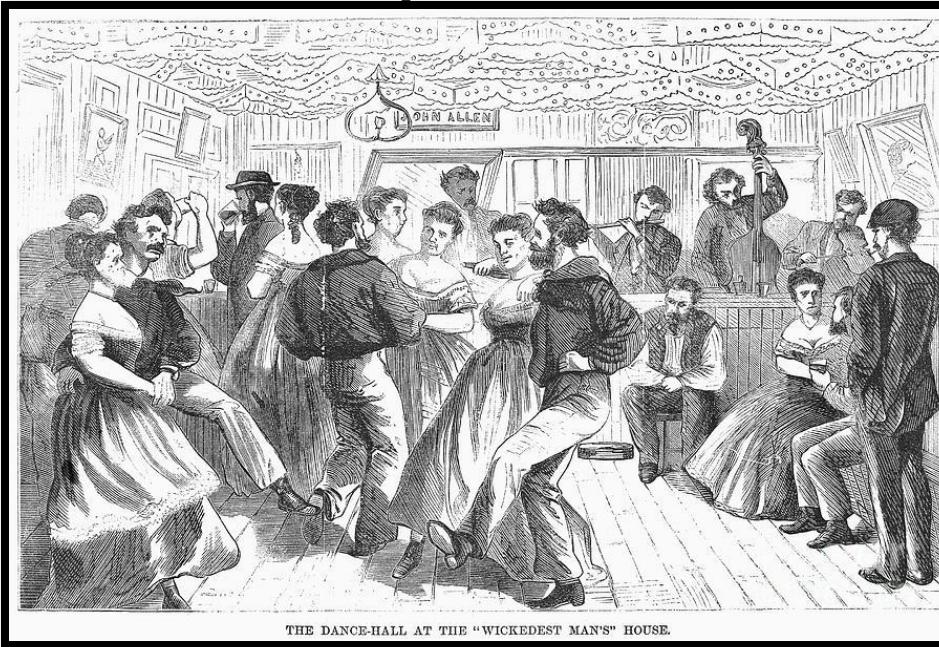


# WORKING CLASS LEISURE: WOMEN

‘Dating’  
Respectability vs. Promiscuity  
Power of the Dancehall  
Coney Island (1890s)

# WORKING CLASS LEISURE: MEN

- Dancehalls
- Baseball
- Coney Island



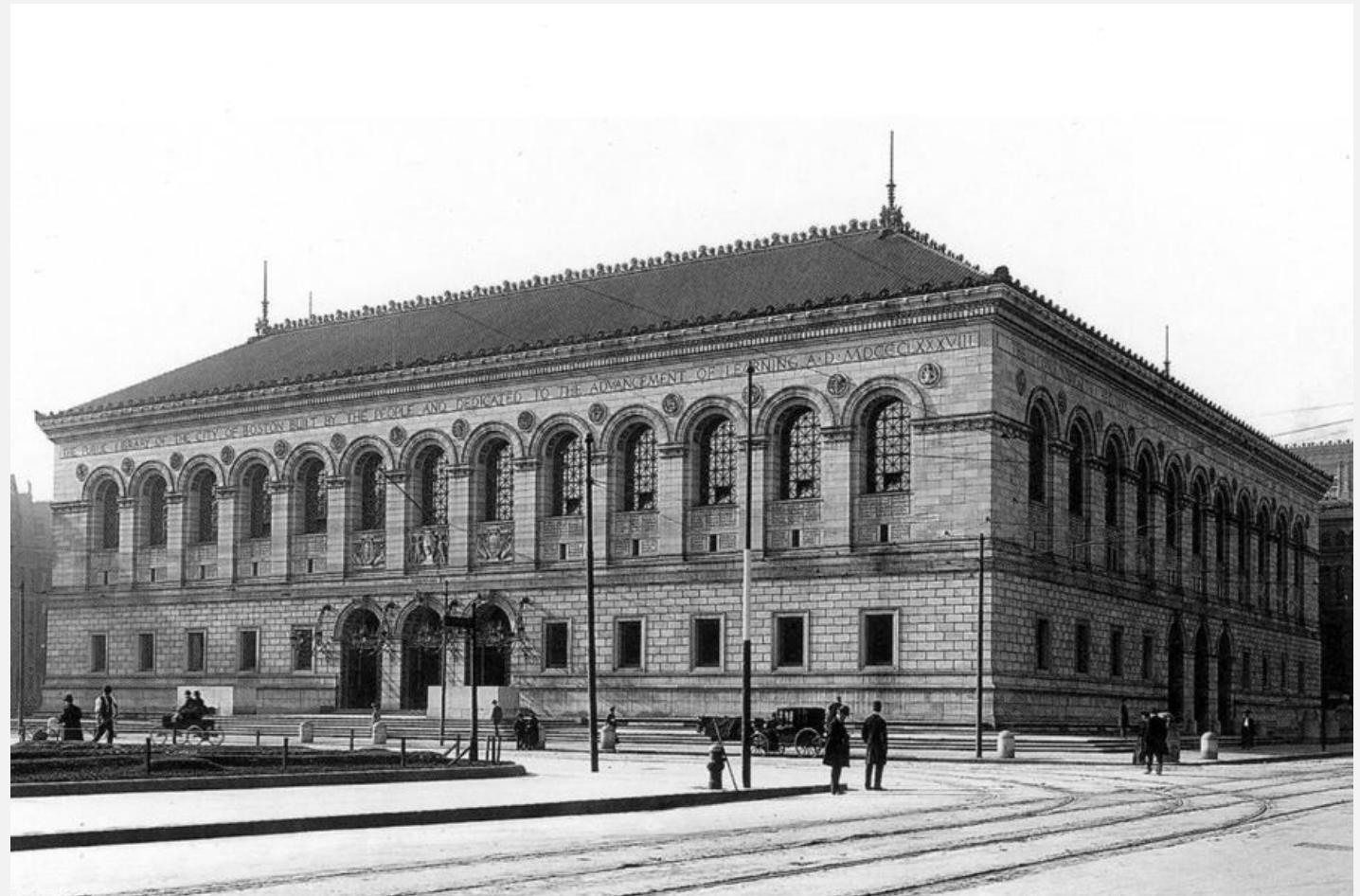
# CITY LANDSCAPE



- Paved Streets
- Subway Systems
- Sewers
- Electric Lamps
- Public Libraries
- Parks

# PUBLIC LIBRARIES

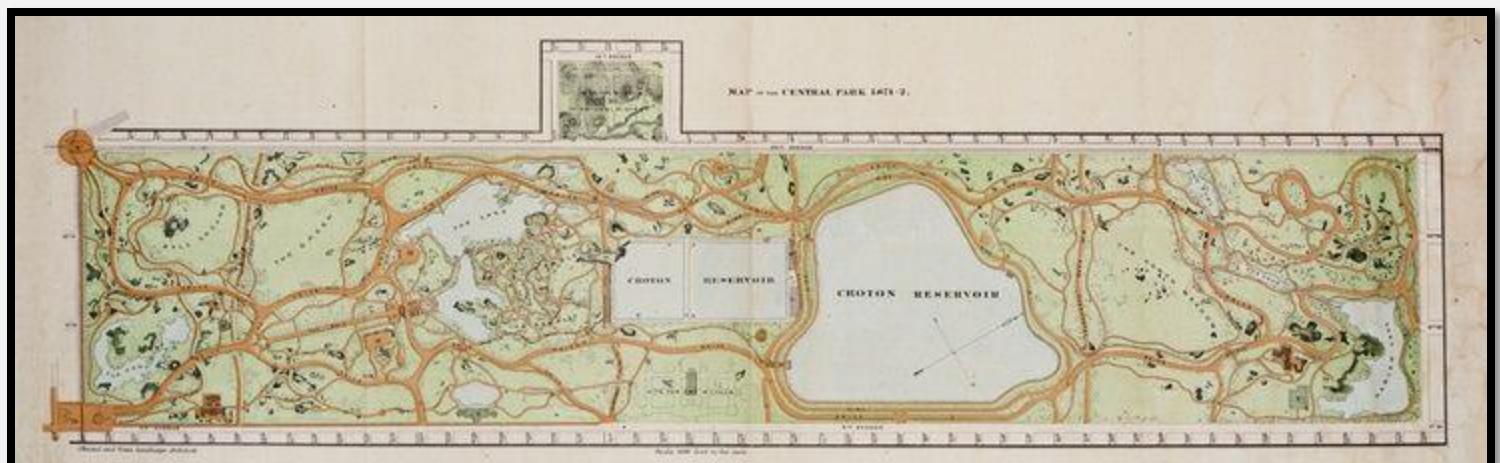
- Boston Public Library (1895)
  - Most extensive free public library system in the world
  - 700,000 books
  - “A Palace of the People”
    - All People?





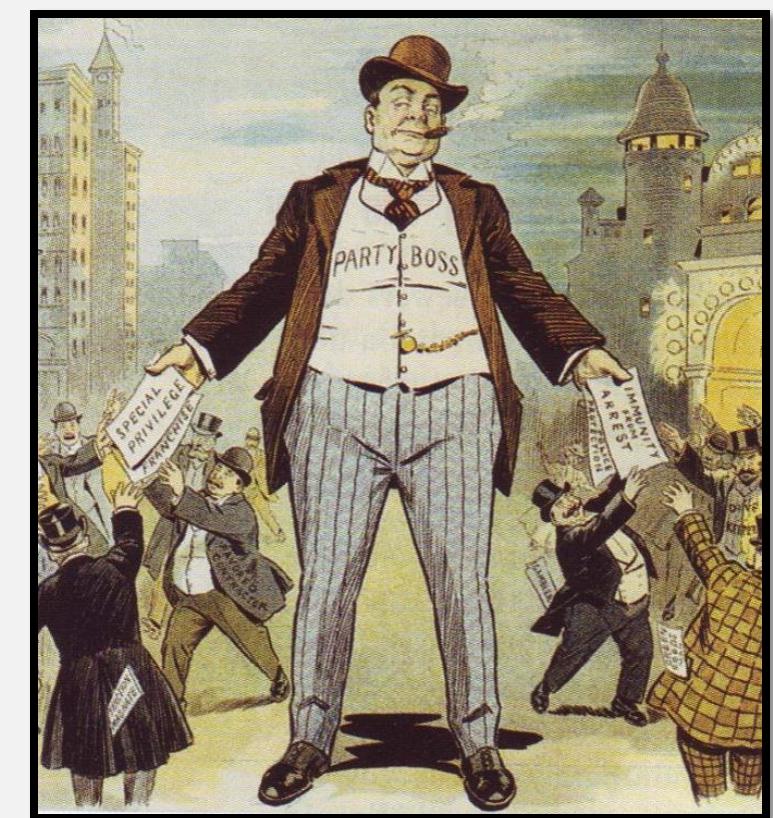
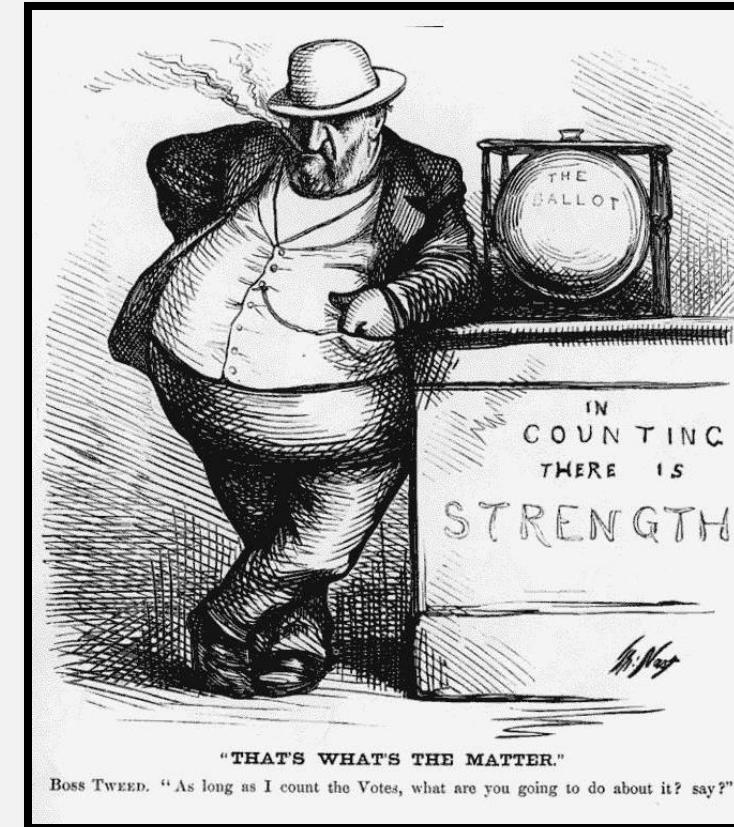
# URBAN PUBLIC PARKS

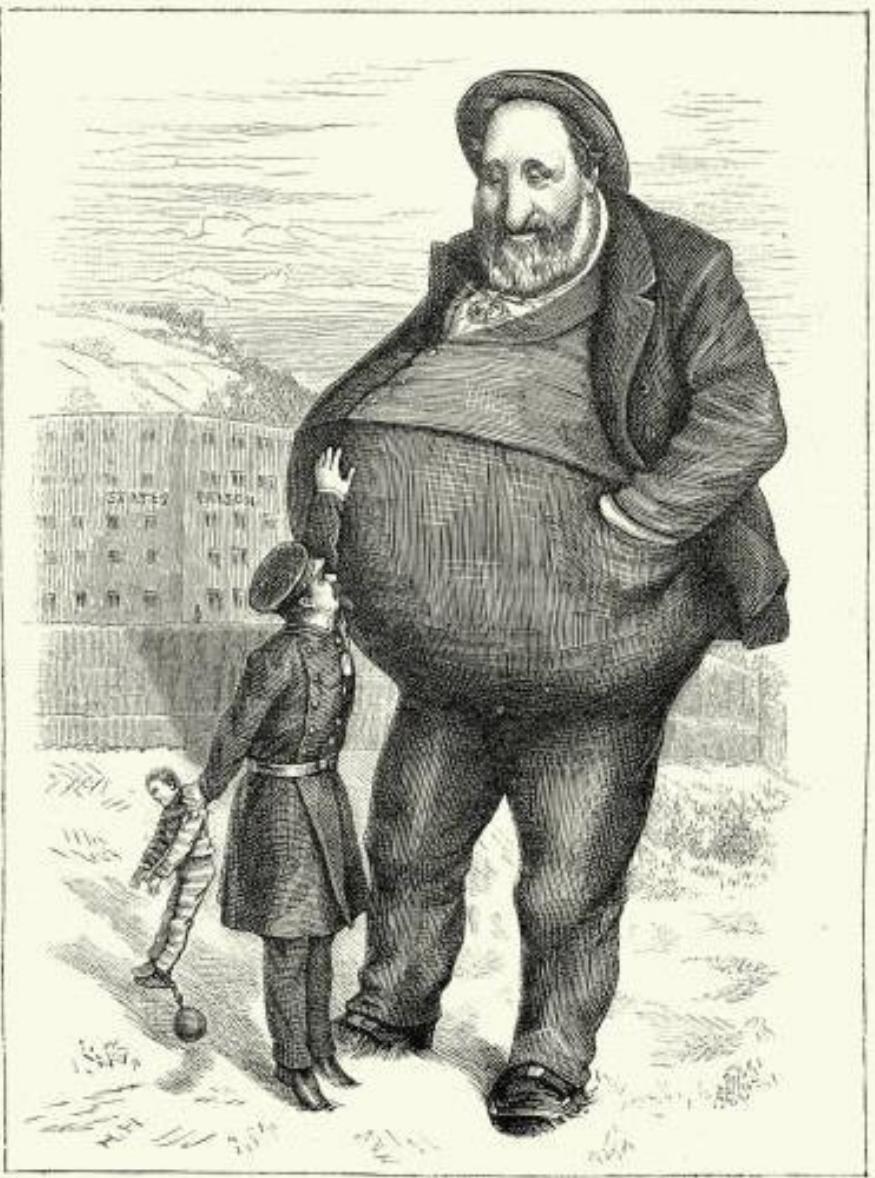
- Frederick Law Olmsted
  - Central Park (1873)
    - 5 Million Trees, Shrubs, Vines
    - 800 Acres



- Bossism: “Boss maintains level of power through command of the political machine that distributes services to its constituents.”
- You scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN URBAN LIFE





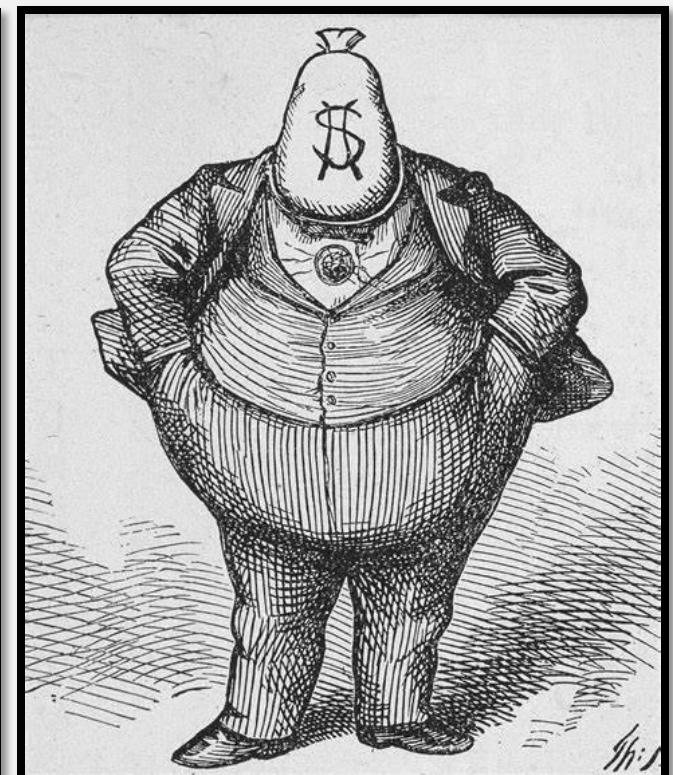
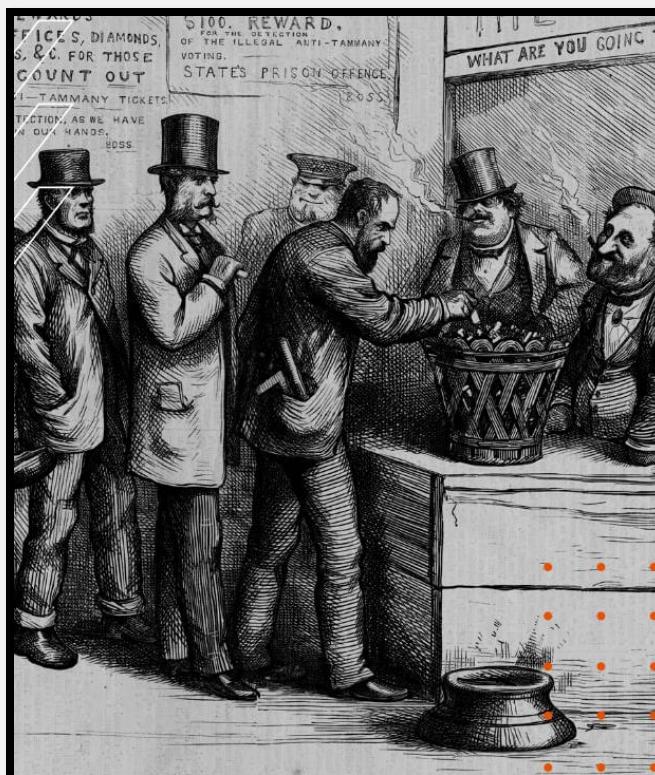
CAN THE LAW REACH HIM? THE DWARF AND THE GIANT THIEF

## TAMMANY HALL

- William Marcy “Boss” Tweed
  - Democratic Party Machine (NYC)
- Machine:
  - Grassroots level to obtain votes
  - Reward system
- Tried and Convicted for Stealing Taxpayer Money
- Dies in Jail (1871)

# BOSSISM SUCCESS (?)

- Helped the working poor and immigrants
- Wealthy constituents (Secretly)
- Compromise and Accommodation
- Reputation for Corruption



# NEW YORK CITY: THE CAPITALIST HUB



- New York City Economic Ladder
  - Merchants (Cotton & Slavery)
  - Industrial & Financial Powerhouse (Civil War Era)
  - Railroad & Industrial Millionaires
  - Capitalist Elite & Militia Against Strikers

# NEW YORK CITY ELITES

- Magnet for the Rich
- Carnegie from Pittsburg to NYC
- Rockefeller from Cleveland to NYC
- 1892: 27% of US Millionaires resided in Manhattan
  - Built libraries, museums, funded the arts
  - Civilized Society



# WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE – CHICAGO, 1893



# WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE – CHICAGO, 1893

- Attracted millions of visitors.
- “White City:” exhibits of technological innovation and of cultural exoticism.
- Embodiment of the urban ideal
  - contrasted with the realities of Chicago life & working-class struggles



# WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE – CHICAGO, 1893

- 1893 (Panic & Depression)
  - 27 million tickets purchased
  - Half carnival, half culture
  - Something for everybody



# WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE AS A SYMBOL

- 1893 Winter
  - Unemployed and homeless took over
  - July 1894 – federal troops & striking railway workers clashed = burned the White City
- White City
  - Beautiful but made of cheap material and easily destroyed
  - Emergent industrial strength



# CENTRAL THEMES

- Growth of American Cities in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Labor
- The Rise and Fall of Labor Unions
- Home Life Shaped by Industrialization
- Municipal Governments Response to Expansion
- Who Really Built the Modern City?

