HIST3617 Lecture 2

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Sept 17 2024

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Section 1

Lecture 2

1.1 Introduction to immigration: memory and reality

1.1.1 The "Browning" of America

- A term used by demographers as the introduction of non-white people in America

1.1.2 Factors in growth of industrial America

- Abundant natural resources

- Growing supply of labour (immigration)

- Expanding market for manufacturing

- Availability of capital for investment

- Government investment (federal and state, financing for railways)

1.1.3 Assembly lines in factories

- Meat packing was a common job in early 1900s America, which was done in an assembly line fashion

- Segmentation of labour, alienation from the final product

1.2 Patterns of immigration, old vs new immigration

1.2.1 The primary group

- The primary group of immigrants in 19th century America are Irish people

    - They were seen as "non-White"; not Anglo-Saxon, protestant, proper English speaking people, etc. Thus they experienced mass prejudice by "White" people all the way up to the 1960s because of JFK becoming president.

    - They were often portrayed as sub human savages by "White people", which was also used to portray black people as well.

    - Race at the turn of the century was talked about in an ethnic context like "italian race", "german race", etc. rather than what we're used to today like black, asian, white, etc.

1.2.2   The secondary group

- The secondary group of immigrants are southern italians, balkans, central europeans, russian jews, baltics, etc.

- Southern italy (south of Naples, Sicily, etc), was the poorest and rural part of italy.

- Italians were not seen as "white" because they didn't speak English, were roman catholic, too many children, etc. So they started "whitening" by doing the opposite of what they were used to and assimilating.

- Anarchism and socialism was prominent in italy at the time, so they were persecuted

- Most jews in tsarist russia were confined to a part of Russia called the "pale" which encompasses most of Ukraine, Moldova, Crimea, etc. This was a product of anti semitism in the state.

- Mass "pogroms" were organized, which were lynchings of jews in russia. The government did nothing to stop it.

- Most of them went to the east coast, specifically in NYC (Ellis island, repurposed as an immigrant processing center)

- People were checked for various physical and mental illness such as TB, schizophrenia, insanity, etc. TB especially since it was still a new disease so people were dying left and right.

- Many of these people were put back onto ships going back to europe. Families were broken up as a result.

- They were also asked if they adhered to anarchism or anarchist ideologies (buzzword for terrorism in early 1900s).

- Mannhattan was the final destination for 70% of immigrants after landing in Ellis island

- More remote states like North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, etc were settled in by northern/eastern europeans for the promise of agriculture

- East asians mostly went to the west coast (SF, Washington, etc) to work on railways (almost exclusively male for chinese)

- Also included are people from the former british India and the Phillipines

- The chinese exclusion act of 1882; when chinese men weren't working on railways, they were washing clothes for a living purely by association to feminine work

- The chinese exclusion act is the first piece of legislation about immigration that specifically mentions a race of people

- They could not marry white women and could not bring their families from china.

1.3   Push and pull factors; shifts in global and american capitalism

1.3.1   Push factors

- Economic opportunity

- Specific jobs

- Available land

- Familial connection

1.3.2 Pull factors

- Economic hardship

- Lack of employment/land

- Persection (political or religious)

- Famine

1.4 Immigration, war, and