

Through the “Golden Door” 4.1

Millions of Immigrants

**Some immigrants seek
better lives; others
temporary jobs**

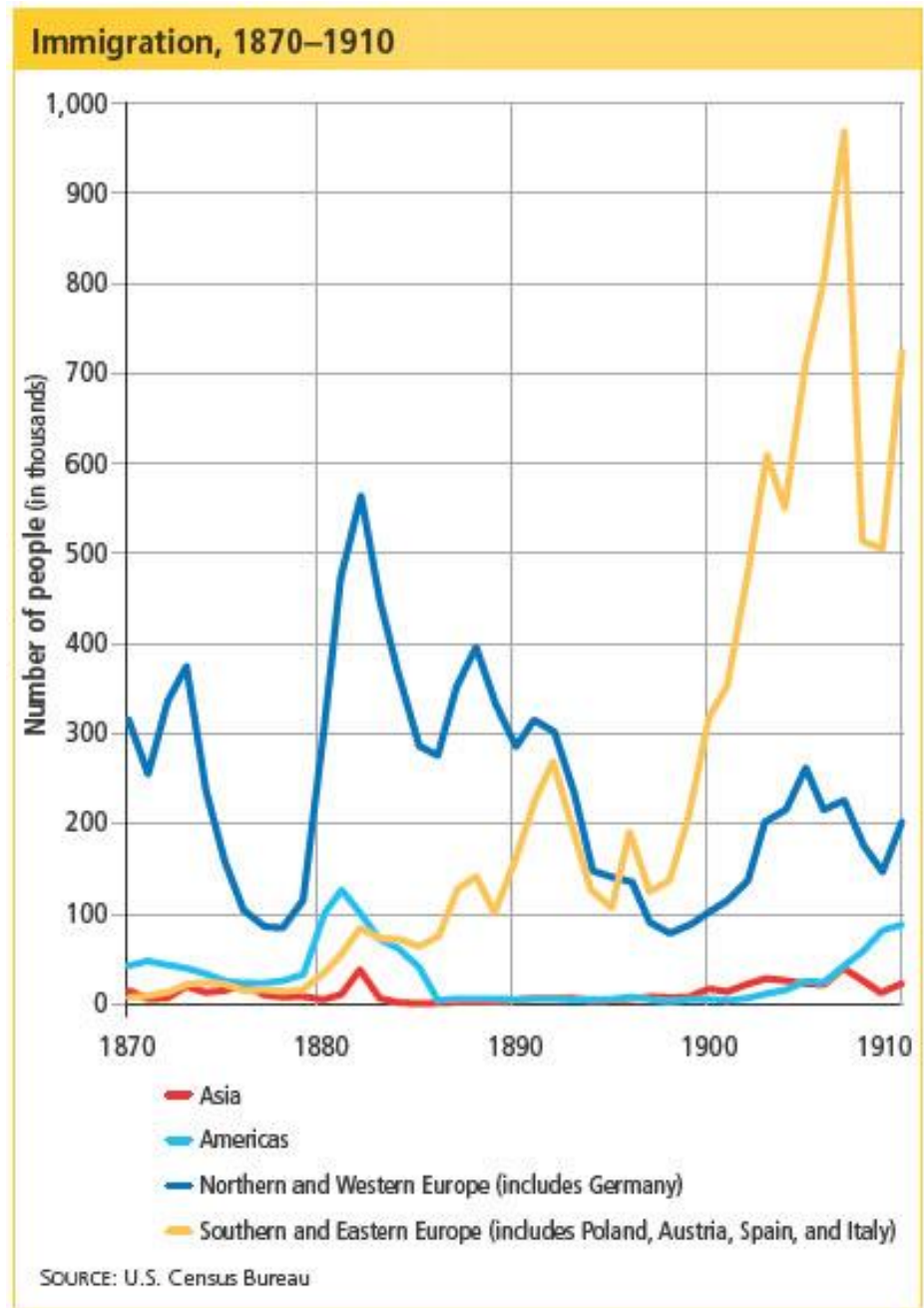
Europeans

**1870–1920, about 20 million
Europeans arrive in U.S.**

**Many flee religious persecution:
Jews driven from Russia by
pogroms**

**Population growth results in
lack of farmland, industrial
jobs**

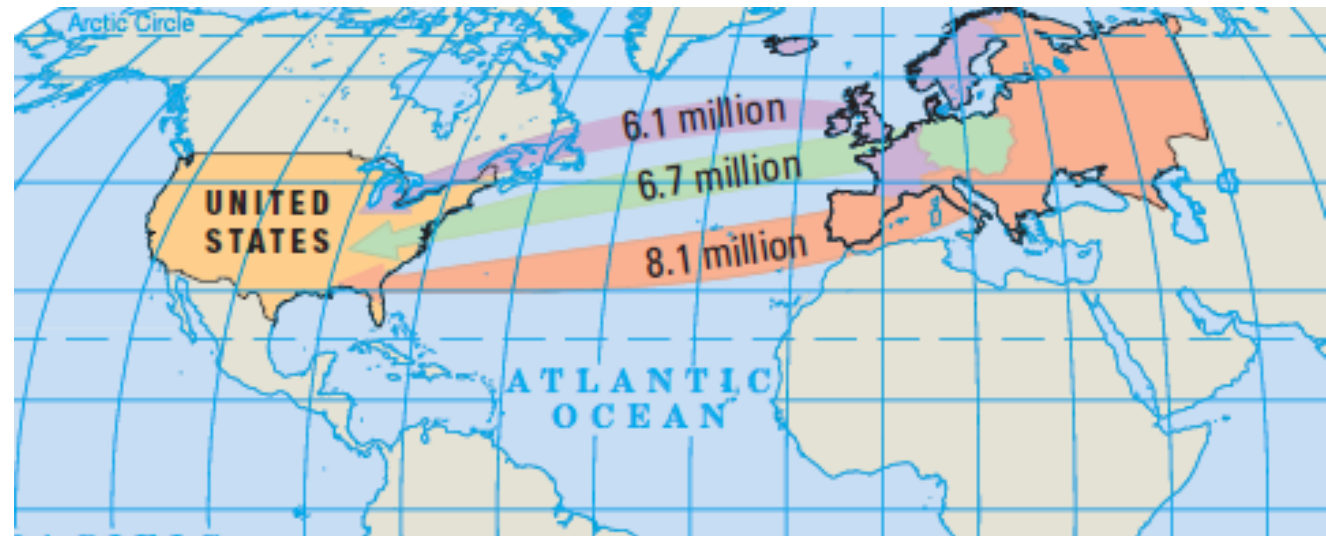
**Reform movements, revolts
influence young who seek
independent lives**



**Immigration
1820-1870
(Western and
Northern Europe)**



**Immigration
1880-1920
(Southern and
Eastern Europe)**



A Difficult Journey

Almost all immigrants travel by steamship, most in steerage



Ellis Island

Ellis Island in New York Harbor, immigrants were given physical exam by doctor; seriously ill not admitted

**Inspector checks documents to see if meets legal requirements
1892–1924, about 17 million immigrants processed at Ellis Island**

Angel Island

Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, immigrants endured harsh questioning, long detention for admission

Cooperation for Survival

Immigrants must create new life: find work, home, learn new ways

Many seek people who share cultural values, religion, language

ethnic communities form

Friction develops between “hyphenated” Americans, native-born



Immigration Restrictions 4.1

Many believed that American society was a “melting pot” where white people of different nationalities blended to create a single culture.



This model excluded Asian immigrants, who became targets of social and legal discrimination.



Immigrants often dealt with **nativism** and hostility from native-born white Americans.

**Nativists believe Anglo-Saxons superior to other ethnic groups
Some object to immigrants' religion: many are Catholics, Jews
1897, Congress passes literacy bill for immigrants; Cleveland vetoes
— 1917, similar bill passes over Wilson's veto**

In 1882, Congress started to restrict immigration to the United States.

- The **Chinese Exclusion Act** prohibited immigration by Chinese laborers, limited the rights of Chinese immigrants in the U.S., and forbade the naturalization of Chinese residents.
- Congress passed another law that prohibited the immigration of anyone who was a criminal, immoral, a pauper, or likely to need public assistance.

Gentlemen's Agreement—Japan limits emigration, in return, U.S. repeals segregation

Urban Opportunities

Immigrants Settle in Cities

Industrialization leads to urbanization, or growth of cities

Most immigrants settle in cities; get cheap housing, factory job.

**Americanization movement—
assimilate people into main culture.**

**Schools, voluntary groups
teach citizenship skills.**

**— English, American
history, cooking, etiquette.
Ethnic communities provide
social support.**



Housing

Working-class families live in houses on outskirts or boardinghouses

Later, row houses built for single families

Immigrants take over row houses, 2–3 families per tenement.



Transportation

Mass transit moved large numbers of people along fixed routes, by 20th century, transit systems link city to suburbs

Water

1860s cities have inadequate or no piped water, indoor plumbing rare
Filtration introduced 1870s, chlorination in 1908

Sanitation

**Streets: manure, open gutters,
factory smoke, poor trash
collection**

**Contractors hired to sweep
streets, collect garbage, clean
outhouses**
**— often do not do job
properly**

**By 1900, cities develop sewer
lines, create sanitation
departments**



Urban Problems 4.2

Crime

As population grows, thieves flourish

Early police forces too small to be effective

Fire

Fire hazards: limited water, wood houses, candles, kerosene heaters

Most firefighters volunteers, not always available

1900, most cities have full-time, professional fire departments

Fire sprinklers, non-flammable building materials make cities safer

The Settlement House Movement

Social welfare reformers work to relieve urban poverty

Social Gospel movement—preaches salvation through service to poor

Settlement houses—community centers in slums, help immigrants

Run by college-educated women, they:

- provide educational, cultural, social services
- send visiting nurses to the sick
- help with personal, job, financial problems

Jane Addams founds Hull House with Ellen Gates Starr in 1889

Politics in the Gilded Age 4.3

The Emergence of Political Machines

The Political Machine

Political machines give services to voters, businesses for political, financial support

After Civil War, machines gain control of major cities

Machine organization: precinct captains, ward bosses, city boss



The Emergence of Political Machines {continued} 4.3

The Role of the Political Boss

Whether or not city boss serves as mayor, he:

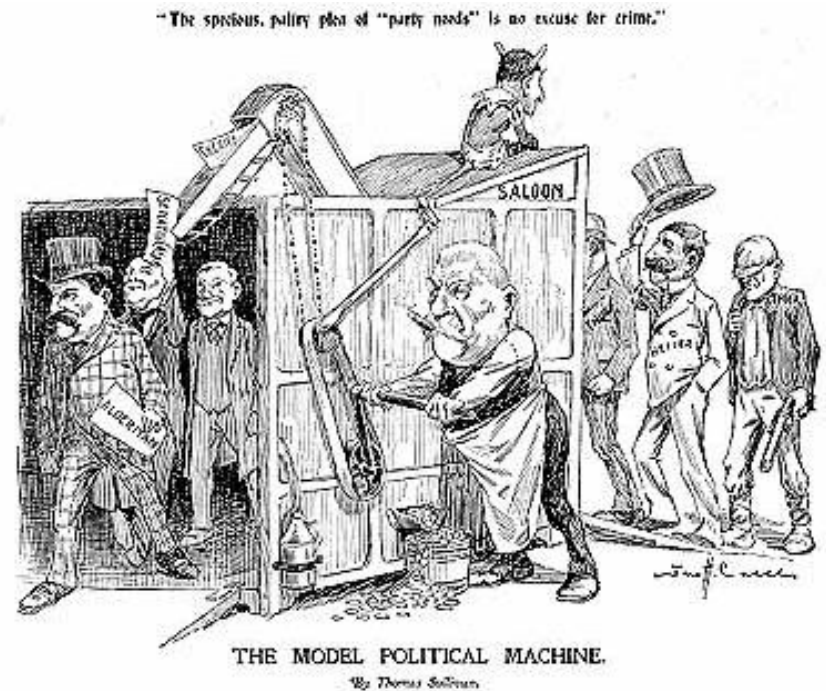
- controls access to city jobs, business licenses**
- influences courts, municipal agencies**
- arranges building projects, community services**

Bosses paid by businesses, get voters' loyalty, extend influence

Immigrants and the Machine

Many captains, bosses 1st - or 2nd - generation Americans

Machines help immigrants with naturalization, jobs, housing



Municipal Graft and Scandal 4.3

Election Fraud and Graft

Machines use electoral fraud to win elections

Graft—illegal use of political influence for personal gain

Machines take kickbacks, bribes to allow legal, illegal activities

The Tweed Ring Scandal

1868 William M. Tweed, or Boss Tweed, heads Tammany Hall a NYC political machine

Leads Tweed Ring, defrauds city of millions of dollars

Cartoonist Thomas Nast helps arouse public outrage

**— Tweed Ring broken in
1871**



Civil Service Replaces Patronage 4.3

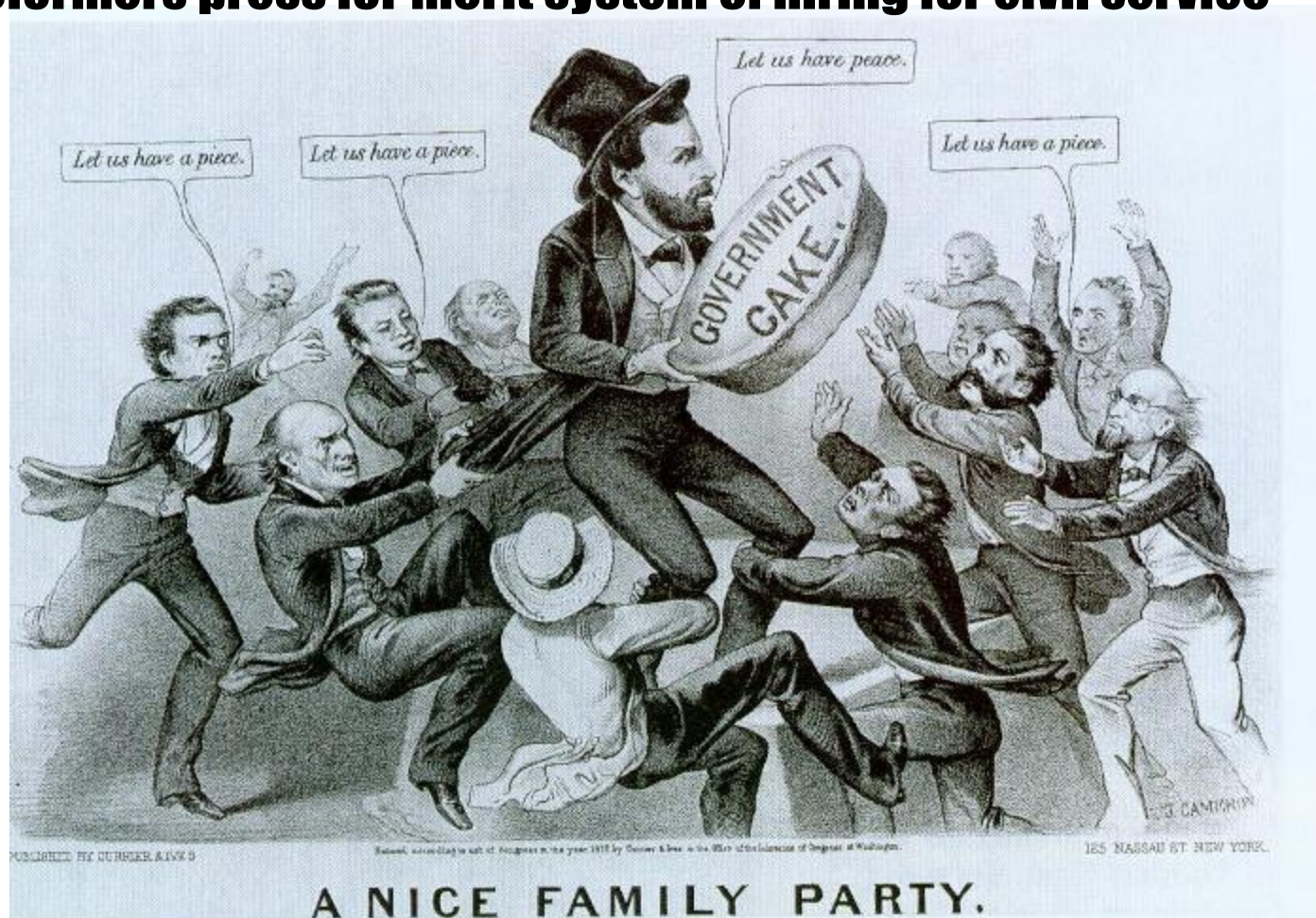
Patronage Spurs Reform

Patronage—government jobs to those who help candidate get elected

Civil service (government administration) are all patronage jobs

Some appointees not qualified; some use position for personal gain

Reformers press for merit system of hiring for civil service



Civil Service Replaces Patronage 4.3 {continued}

Reform Under Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur

Republican Rutherford B. Hayes elected president 1876

- names independents to cabinet**
- creates commission to investigate corruption**
- fires 2 officials as a result**

In 1880, Republican independent James A. Garfield wins election

Stalwart Chester A. Arthur is vice-president

Garfield gives patronage jobs to reformers; is shot and killed

As president, Arthur urges Congress to pass civil service law

Pendleton Civil Service Act—appointments based on exam score

Harrison, Cleveland, and High Tariffs

Business wants high tariffs; Democrats want low tariffs

1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland wins; cannot lower tariffs

1888, Benjamin Harrison becomes president, supports higher tariffs

— wins passage of McKinley Tariff Act

1892, Cleveland reelected, supports bill that lowers McKinley Tariff

— rejects bill that also creates income tax

— Wilson-Gorman Tariff becomes law 1894

1897, William McKinley becomes president, raises tariffs again



Technology and City Life

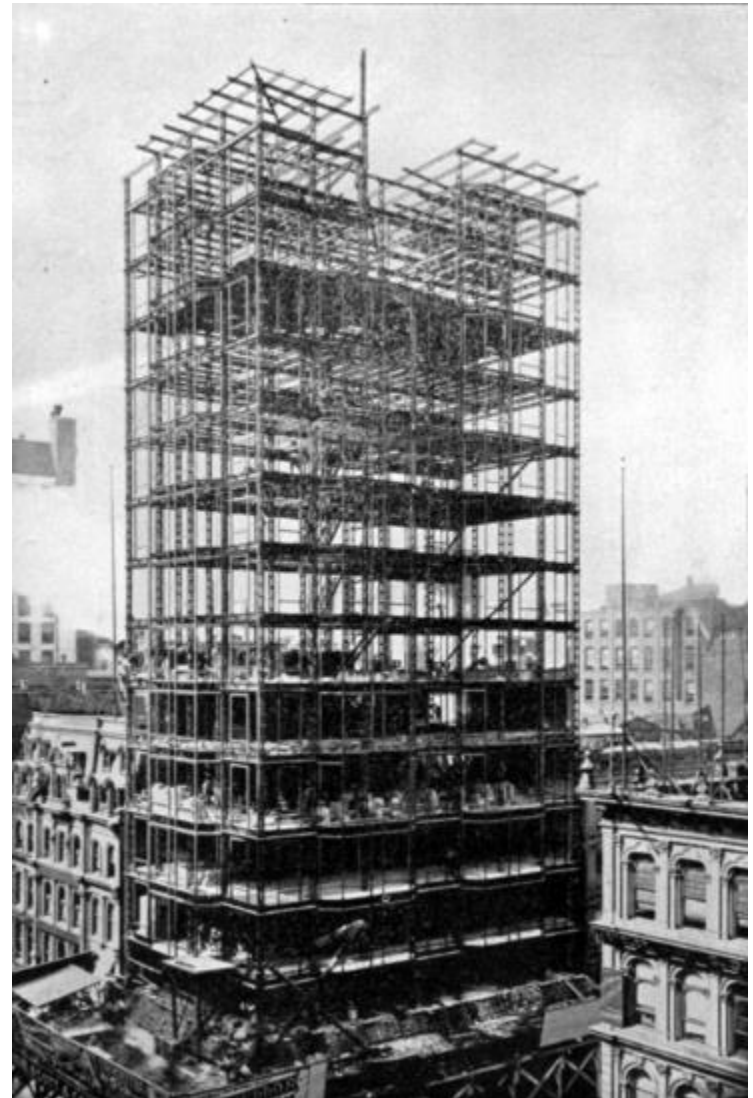
Skyscrapers

1890, 58 cities have 50,000 people;

1900, 4 of 10 people in cities

**Invention of elevators, internal
steel skeletons lead to skyscrapers**

**Skyscrapers solve urban problem
of limited, expensive space**



Electric Transit

Before Civil War, horse-drawn streetcars run on iron rails

By 1900, electric streetcars (trolleys) run from suburbs to downtown

Some cities build elevated trains or subways

Engineering and Urban Planning

Steel-cable suspension bridges link city sections

Need for open spaces inspires science of urban planning

Frederick Law Olmstead

spearheads movement for planned urban parks

—1857, helps design Central Park



City Planning

Chicago's population growth results in unregulated expansion

Daniel Burnham draws plan for city with parks along Lake Michigan

—designs White City for 1893 World's Columbian Exposition

A Revolution in Printing

By 1890, U.S. literacy rate almost 90%

Growing demand for newspapers, magazines, books

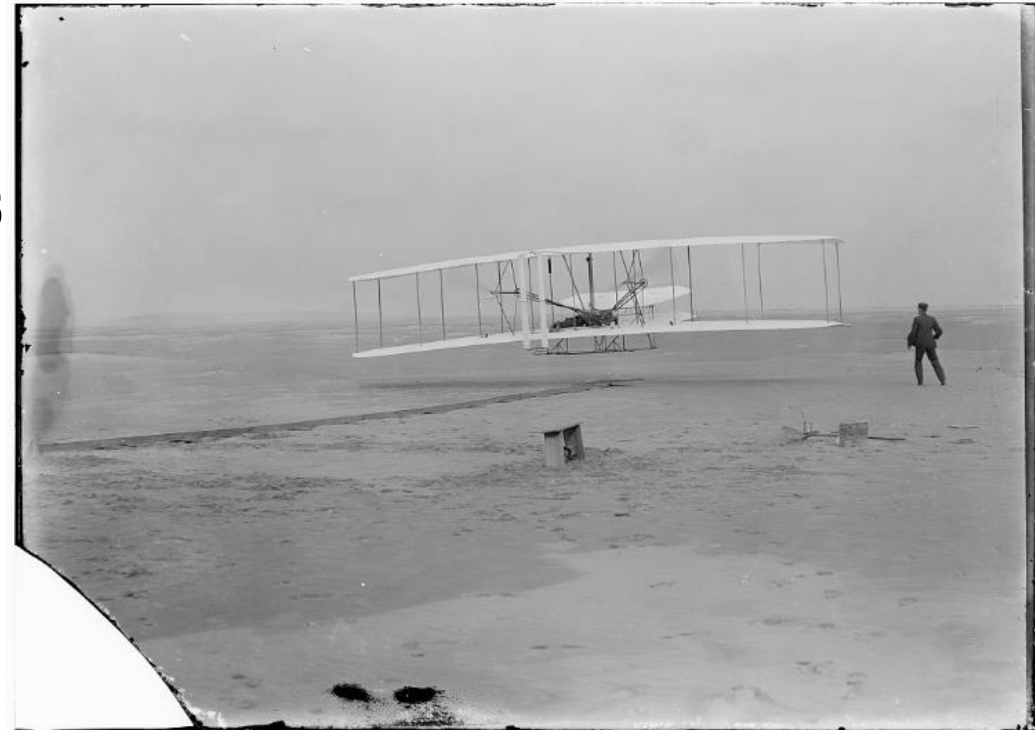
Mills produce cheap paper that withstands high-speed presses

Airplanes

**Orville, Wilbur Wright use engines
to fly “heavier-than-air” craft**

—first successful flight Dec. 1903

**By 1920, first transcontinental air
mail established**



American Leisure

Amusement Parks

Cities begin setting aside green space for recreation

Amusement parks built on outskirts with picnic grounds, rides

Spectator Sports

Americans become avid fans of spectator sports

By turn of century, boxing, baseball become profitable businesses

Baseball

1845, Alexander J. Cartwright organizes club, sets down rules

National League forms 1876; American League forms 1900

Discrimination leads to Negro National, Negro American Leagues

Mass Circulation Newspapers

Newspapers use sensational headlines, stories to capture readers

Joseph Pulitzer - Buys News Your World, pioneers innovations

William Randolph Hearst—NY, San Francisco papers exaggerate stories to sell papers.

Popular Fiction

By 1900, thousands of free circulating libraries in country

Most people like dime novels—glorified adventure tales of the West

Some want more serious, realistic portrayal of ordinary people, life

Novelist, humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, or Mark Twain:

— rejects high culture yet writes American classics

Galleries, libraries try to raise cultural standards

The Chain Store

**Chain stores offer same merchandise under same owners for less
— buy in quantity, limit personal service**

Advertising

Advertising explosion: \$10 million spent 1865, \$95 million 1900

Advertising in periodicals, billboards, sides of buildings

Catalogs and RFD

**Montgomery Ward, Sears
Roebuck catalogs bring goods to
small towns**

**Rural free delivery (RFD) —post
office delivers direct to every
home**

