

IMMIGRATION

Between 1866 and 1915, more than 25 million immigrants poured into the United States.

Two main factors created this immigration: push factors and pull factors.

PUSH FACTORS (conditions that drive people to leave)

- Land became scarce
- Political and Religious persecution
- Revolution in Mexico

PULL FACTORS (Conditions that attract them to new area)

- Promise of Freedom
- Hope for better life
- Industry provided Jobs

Immigrants had to pass inspection before entering the U.S. Ships were stopped at Ellis Island off of New York Harbor. Doctors watched the men, women, and children as they came off the boats. The sick had to stay until they got well. If they failed to regain full health, they would be sent back to Europe.

Asians were processed on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. Americans did not want Asians to immigrate, so they often faced long delays.

In the late 1800s patterns of immigration changed. Many did not speak English and were of different religions. They found it harder to adapt to life in the U.S.

Immigrants settled in neighborhoods with their own Ethnic group (a group of people who share a common culture). Immigrants did mingle with other Ethnic groups. Learning English was an important step in becoming a citizen. The process of becoming part of another culture is Assimilation. Assimilation was easiest for the children.

Anti immigrant feelings grew stronger in the late 1800s. Workers resented immigrants because they took jobs for low pay. Nativists worked to end immigration from China. The Chinese helped build the economy of the West. But as the population grew so did prejudice and violence against them. In 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. This banned the immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years.

GROWTH OF CITIES

Causes of population growth in cities.

- Flood of immigrants
- Fewer pioneers because of less land
- African Americans ^{move} more to improve their lives
- Jobs
- Bright lights and bustle

A population explosion in a city is called urbanization.

Development of Cities:

Poor families lived in the center of the city (downtown)

- In tenement houses in the slums
 - the buildings were 6 or 7 stories high and divided into apartments
 - many had no windows, heat, or indoor bathrooms
 - 10 people often shared a room
 - typhoid and cholera were common due to close, poor living conditions
- Middle Class – located farther out of the city
 - neat row houses or apartments
- Rich - located at the rim of the city
 - built big houses with large lawns

The poor received help in the cities.

- Mother Cabrini – started hospitals that helped the immigrants
- Salvation Army – gave food and shelter to the poor
- Settlement Houses - Community centers that offer services to the poor
 - Hull House was started by Jane Addams
 - It provided day nurseries
 - They taught English to immigrants
 - They gave classes in health care

Many things were occurring that would change the look of the cities. Many were becoming overpopulated. Buildings were close together and made of wood.

The Chicago Fire occurred in 1871.

- It killed 300 people, leaving 100,000 homeless
- 17,450 buildings were destroyed
- It destroyed the entire downtown area.

Cities were running out of space in downtown areas. The solution to the problem was to build up instead of out. The first high rise building was built in 1885 and was 10 stories high. The buildings would have a steel frame. The buildings would also have the new invention by Elisha Otis, the elevator.

Traffic was also becoming a problem in the cities. Many cities installed the following new inventions.

- Electric street cars (trolley cars)
- Subway – the first was in Boston 1897
- Elevated trains

ELLIS ISLAND

Between 1892 and 1954, 12 million immigrants, traveling in third class took their first steps on American soil at Ellis Island. Before 1891, individual states regulated immigration at ports of entry like New Orleans, Miami, and Boston. However, at the end of the 19th century, the record number of immigrants was too much for the states to handle. The federal government began to take over the processing of the immigrants arriving to the United States.

In 1924 federal immigration legislation established a quota system for admission into this country. This new law limited immigration from any country to a percentage of immigrants from that country already residing here. This significantly reduced the number of immigrants passing through Ellis Island.

Ellis Island is a symbol of American immigration. Nearly 40% of Americans can trace their heritage to someone who came through Ellis Island.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France in 1865. Construction of the Statue began in France in 1875 with the original title being "Liberty Enlightening the World." It was sculpted by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and construction was completed in Paris in June of 1884. It was dismantled and shipped to the U.S. in 1885.

The Statue of Liberty was accepted on behalf of the U.S. by President Grover Cleveland on October 28, 1886. It was designated a National monument in 1924. The 7 spikes in the crown represent either the seven seas or the seven continents. The 25 windows in the crown represent the natural minerals of the earth. The toga represents the Ancient Republic of Rome while the torch represents enlightenment. The chains underfoot represent Liberty crushing slavery.