

SSUSH11: EXAMINE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE RISE OF BIG BUSINESS, THE GROWTH OF LABOR UNIONS, AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS.



ELEMENT D: Describe Ellis and Angel Islands, the change in immigrants' origins and their influence on the economy, politics, and culture of the United States.

“New Immigration” to the US

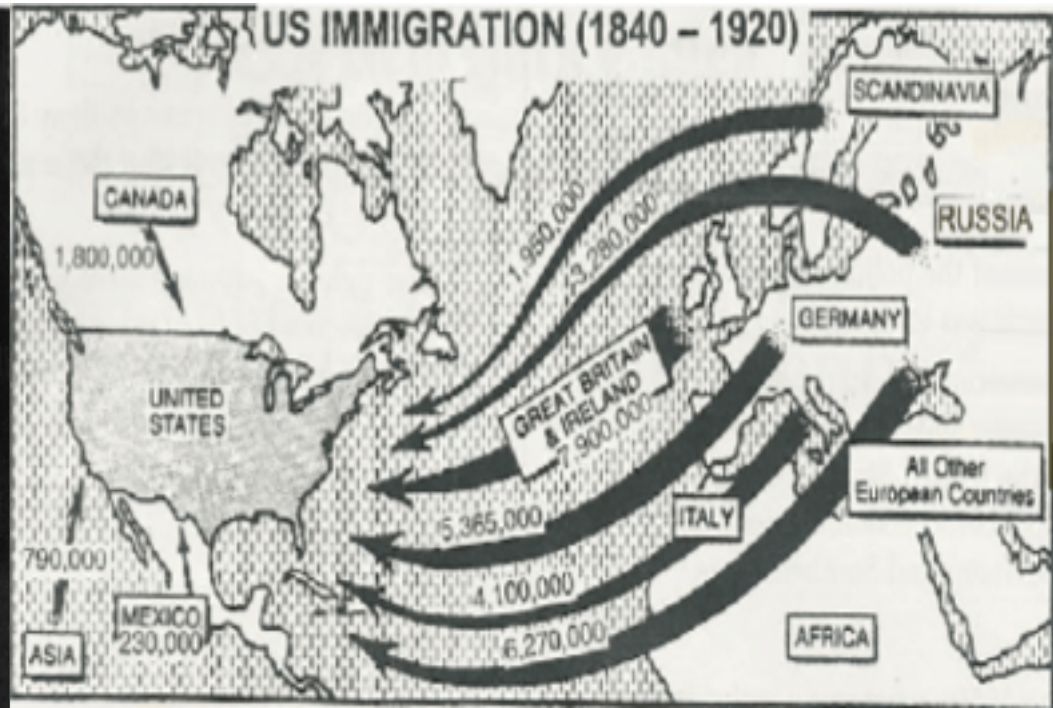


- ❑ The last quarter of the nineteenth century was marked by a great deal of turmoil in Europe.
 - Low wages, unemployment, disease, forced military conscription, and religious persecution inspired immigrants to flee their homelands and immigrate to the United States.
 - These groups formed the bulk of the "new immigration" coming to America.
- ❑ Chinese immigrants also came to America and settled in California.
- ❑ Immigrants who entered the United States were processed at Ellis Island in New York and Angel Island in California.
 - Each facility conducted the screening of immigrants in vastly different ways.
 - The immigrants who did gain entry into the United States influenced the nation's economy, politics, and culture.



Antebellum Immigration to the US

- Prior to the 1880s, the majority of immigrants to the United States came from northern and western Europe.
 - During the colonial period immigrants were overwhelmingly English, with smaller groups of Scots, Germans, and French settling in America.
 - In the decades after the American Revolution, large groups of Irish and German immigrants arrived.
 - After the Civil War, more Eastern and Southern Europeans immigrated to America. Between 1880 and 1920, over 20 million immigrants entered the United States.



New Immigrants



- ❑ These latest newcomers greatly affected the social as well as the economic and political landscape.
 - Because poverty and political instability were common in their home countries, the new immigrants were likely to be poor.
 - Often they were Jewish or Catholic and spoke no English.
 - Poverty prevented many from buying farmland, so most worked as unskilled laborers and mostly lived in northern cities.
 - Whether Asian on the west coast or European on the east coast, these new immigrants tended to settle in areas populated by people from their same country.
 - They formed neighborhoods where immigrants spoke the same languages and worshipped in the same ways. The new immigrants did not appear to blend into American society in the way earlier immigrants had.



Ellis Island, NY



- ❑ There were 21 immigrant-processing centers. The two most famous were Ellis Island in New York and Angel Island in California.
- ❑ Ellis Island Immigrant Station located in New York Harbor was opened in 1892.
 - By 1924, the station had processed 12 million immigrants. By some estimates, 40% of all Americans today can trace their port of entry back to Ellis Island.
 - Upon arrival in New York Harbor, immigrants were transported from their ships by barges to the immigrant-processing center.
- ❑ Arrivals to Ellis Island were asked 29 questions including name, occupation, and the amount of money carried.
 - The inspection process lasted from three to seven hours.
 - As more restrictive laws were passed in the 1890s, more rigorous provision for entry was required.
 - About 2% of the immigrants seeking entry were denied admission to the United States and sent back to their country of origin.
 - Some of the reasons for denied access were chronic and contagious disease, criminal background or insanity.



Angel Island - San Francisco, CA



- ❑ Angel Island Immigrant Station was quite different from Ellis Island.
 - Approximately 1 million Asian immigrants were processed at Angel Island between 1910 and 1940.
 - There was strong resistance to Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s, which resulted in the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882.
 - Chinese immigrants had been hired as workers to complete construction of the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860s.
 - They were discriminated against and taken advantage of by railroad companies.
 - The Chinese workers were paid half of what European workers earned and were required to do the most dangerous jobs of blasting and laying rail ties over the treacherous terrain of the high Sierra Mountains.
 - Once the railroad was complete, the hostility toward Chinese immigrants escalated.
 - As a result of this open discrimination and Nativist opposition, Chinese immigrants wanting entry into the United States spent weeks, months, and sometimes years on Angel Island awaiting approval for entry into the United States.
 - Approximately 18% of immigrants to Angel Island were rejected, of which the vast majority were from China.
 - The interrogation process at Angel Island was much more lengthy and specific than at Ellis Island.
 - Immigrants had to have American witnesses or family members come to Angel Island to vouch for the accuracy of their answers.

Impact of New Immigration on US

- The impact of immigrants on American society was significant.
 - Over-crowded cities led to increased problems with crime and disease.
 - Increased demand for agricultural and industrial goods spurred economic growth.
 - Low-wage labor was available to work in the growing American industrial economy.
 - New cultural items such as Italian opera, Polish polkas, Russian literature, kindergarten, and new foods, such as spaghetti, frankfurters and hamburgers, became a part of the American culture and diet.
 - Nativists viewed the fast-growing immigrant population as dangerous to the American political system.
 - Poll taxes and literacy tests were used to restrict immigrants from voting in ways similar to those used to restrict Blacks from voting in many Southern states.
 - The United States is a nation of immigrants.
 - The number of immigrants coming to the United States for opportunity increased during the last decades of the nineteenth century.
 - The immigrants arriving at that time were also from different areas of Europe and Asian than had previously been common. Although there was bitter resistance to these immigrants, there were many positive contributions to the economy and social makeup of the United States.

