General History Chapter 14 Notes

Cities and Immigration (1880-1920)

Section 1- Immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe

**ghetto**- a neighborhood where people of the same race, religion, or country live

**tenement**- an apartment house with poor safety, sanitation, and comfort conditions

**skyscraper**- a very tall building with many floors, elevators, and a steel frame.

 Most early immigrants came to the United States from northern and western Europe. In the 1880’s, they began arriving from the southern and eastern parts of Europe. How might these groups be different? How might they be the same? Think about different parts of the United States as you reflect on your answer.

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 Fewer than one million immigrants came to the United States between 1790 and 1840. These immigrants started many early customs that became part of the American way of life.

 The immigrants were alike in several ways.

 1.) Their religions were mostly Catholic, Jewish, and Greek Orthodox.

 2.) Most of the new immigrants did not speak English.

 3.) Most new immigrants were used to living and working conditions that were different from those of people living in the United States.

What are reasons why you would consider moving far away from New Lenox?

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 New immigrants left their homelands for many reasons, just as old immigrants had. Wars, violence, and religious freedom caused many people to leave their homes. hey saw the United States as a place to begin new life.

 Most immigrants entered the United States through New York. Those who arrived after 1892 landed on a small island near the Statue of Liberty. This place was called Ellis Island. There, immigrants were checked for disease. Records of their arrival were kept.

 Only a few of the new immigrants ever saw their dreams come true. Most did not speak English. Most were not skilled workers. Many immigrants did not have enough money to buy land for farming. Most immigrants ended up living in cities and working at low-paying factory jobs.

How would a population boom impact a city? A state? A country?

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 The new immigrants wanted to share the language, religion, and customs with people they knew. Between 1870 and 1920, people living in U. S. cities grew from 10 million to more than 50 million.

 Often immigrants settled in the parts of a city that were set apart from other parts of a city. The area in which the immigrants lived became known as **ghettos**.

 Even though many ghettos were poor places, they were places where immigrants could get used to life in their new country. Getting used to life was not easy.

Imagine you are left in a foreign country. Describe your experience.

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 Sometimes dishonest Americans cheated the newcomers by charging them higher prices for goods. Often immigrants were targets of hate from people who disliked newcomers.

 Cities grew quickly between 1860 and 1900. The rapid growth of cities led to problems. Can you imagine what some of these problems might have been?

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Often there were not enough places for people to live. **Tenements** were built quickly to provide homes for the many people moving to the cities.

 Usually, tenements were poorly built. Many families were crammed into the buildings. The rooms in tenements were small with little light or air. Tenements were in neighborhoods that were dirty or crowded. There was lots of noise, rotting garbage, and bugs and rats. Unclean conditions led to disease and deaths.

 Most of the immigrants took jobs in factories. They worked long hours for little pay. Workers often found themselves working in poorly lit building with little fresh air.

 Fire was always a danger in overcrowded cities. Why do you think it is?

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One example occurred in the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York. Over 140 workers, mostly young women, dies in the fire because most doors in the building were locked.

 Crime was a huge problem for people living in poor, crowded neighborhoods. Thieves stole wallets and purses. Street gangs often robbed and attacked people. Many cities added more police officers to fight crime. Crime rose too fast for the police to control.

 Cities were not ALL problems. There were exciting and new opportunities. Cities had public schools and colleges, museums, libraries, theaters, shops, and sports fields.

 The growth of the steel industry and the development of electric power helped to bring taller buildings to cities. **Skyscrapers** rose high above city streets. Why do you think these buildings were named skyscrapers?

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Section 2- Immigrants from Asia and Latin America

**nativism**- a feeling of citizens who are against immigrants

**exclusion**- keeping a person or group from coming in

 As immigrants poured into the United States, some Americans feared that they would not fit in with the American way of life? We are going to make up our own unconventional customs for our class and see if we have difficulty following them. What would some of these new customs include?

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Other Americans feared that the new immigrants would take away their jobs.

 Almost 300,000 immigrants from Asia arrived during the second half of the 1800’s. These immigrants came mostly from Japan, China, and the Philippine Islands. How do outside countries and cultures positively impact our society?

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 When Chinese immigrants first came to California in 1849, they first found work in gold mines and on farms. As mining jobs became harder to get, Chinese workers found jobs building the transcontinental railroad. When that was finished, many Chinese people chose to settle in San Francisco, California.

 Some Chinese immigrants living in cities became factory workers. Others opened small businesses. Still others opened eating places or stores that sold cloth and other Chinese goods.

 Immigrants from Japan were the second group of Asian immigrants to arrive in the United States. Many travelled first to Hawaii, where American businesses owned sugar cane fields. Japanese workers could earn six times the pay in Hawaii that they could in their homeland.

 Some Japanese people immigrated to California. They worked on farms. Some worked on railroads or in food packing plants. Many Japanese immigrants were able to buy farmland. The warm and sunny climate was perfect for growing fruits and vegetables. Many of these farms were successful. In fact, fruits and vegetables owned by Japanese farmers/farms in California were being shipped to the east coast by the early 1900’s.

 The United States took control of the Philippine Islands in 1898. In 1903, the U.S. government invited the first Filipino immigrants to come to the United States. The newcomers were young students. They came to finish their education in American universities.

 Our government paid for their education. The students were expected to go back to their homeland to become leaders and teach others what they had learned.

 In the early 1900’s, most of the Filipino immigrants were men who came to find work, not to go to school. Most Filipinos worked outside under the hot sun. Some went to Hawaii to work in the sugar can plantations. Their plan was to return to their homeland after they had earned a lot of money.

 Many Americans wanted to keep Asian immigrants from entering the United States. They believed that the newcomers were taking jobs from them. Immigrants were willing to work long hours for low pay. This led to feelings of **nativism**.

 The U.S. government took steps to limit immigration. Lawmakers passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This act banned Chinese immigration for ten years.

 In 1908, the United States and Japan made a “Gentleman’s Agreement.” The agreement limited the number of Japanese immigrants entering the United States. Only the children, wives, and parents of the Japanese people already living in the United States were allowed to enter.

 Until 1948, Mexico controlled much of the land in the southwestern part of the United States. In that year, the U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This ended the war between the United States and Mexico and settled the boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. This treaty helped the U.S. gain one million square acres of land.

 Many Mexicans continued to live on the land that the U.S. gained. The Mexicans still spoke Spanish. Many of their customs were from Mexico, which was their homeland.

 Most Mexican immigrants came to live in the Southwest. Most came to find freedom and jobs, like other immigrants before them.

 Many Mexicans became farm workers. They worked long hours every day on huge farms, planting and packing crops such as tomatoes, lettuce, and grapes.

Section 3 African Americans Move North

**migration**- a movement of people within a country or area

**racism**- feelings against people because of their skin color

 African Americans had first been brought to the Americas as enslaved people. Hundreds of years later, slavery was ended. However, African Americans were faced with discrimination and violence. From the late 1800’s to the 1920’s, many African Americans migrated from the South to the North. By 1920, more than 1,000,000 African Americans lived in northern cities such as Chicago, Detroit, and New York City.

 Once African Americans moved North, they faced discrimination and **racism** there as well. African Americans faced other problems as well.

 1.) Business owners refused to hire African Americans.

 2.) Business owners who hired African Americans gave them the worst jobs.

 3.) African Americans were unable to live in neighborhoods where white people lived.

 Sometimes the difficulty between the whites and African Americans led to violence. In Chicago in 1919, fighting broke out between mobs of African Americans and white people. Thirty-eight people were killed.

 African Americans had to fight for equal education. They opened their own schools. Howard University opened in 1868. Booker T. Washington, an African American leader, started Tuskegee Institute in 1881.

 Another important African American leader was W.E.B DuBois. In 1905, DuBois and 28 other leaders met in Niagra Falls, Canada. The group decided to protest until they received equal treatment as Americans. However, equal treatment did not come easily.

 In 1909, a group of African Americans and white Americans formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This group became one of the strongest groups in the fight for equal rights for African Americans. The NAACP helped African Americans to fight the racism they faced on their jobs, in housing, and in education.