

USHC 4.5 Explain the causes and effects of urbanization in late nineteenth-century America, including the movement from farm to city, the changing immigration patterns, the rise of ethnic neighborhoods, the role of political machines, and the migration of African Americans to the North, Midwest, and West.

The “New Immigrants”

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the United States was flooded with millions of “New Immigrants” from _____ and _____ Europe, which included countries such as _____, _____, and _____.

Native born Americans tended to resent the “New Immigrants” for several reasons:

1. They didn’t understand _____.
2. Their home countries lacked traditions of _____ government.
3. Their religions (_____, _____, _____) were largely alien to native born Americans.
4. They provided a steady supply of _____, which undermined efforts by labor unions to get better wages.

Catholicism and cheap labor were also reasons why people resented the _____ immigrants during the antebellum period. However, the Irish did speak English and had traditions of republican government, so no efforts were made by Congress to limit Irish immigration during the nineteenth century.

Anti-Immigrant Legislation and Quotas

_____ Exclusion Act (1880s)

The first legislation to prohibit immigration by people of a specific nationality. Laws restricting immigration from Asia remained on the books until the WWII era.

Immigration Quota Acts (1920s)

Restricted immigration from _____ and _____ Europe, giving preference to immigrants from the British Isles and Germany.

Ethnic Neighborhoods and Immigrant Poverty

In most cases, immigrants were too poor to move beyond coastal cities, leading to the rise of densely populated ethnic neighborhoods. Immigrants relied on **political machines**, led by party bosses, to help them find jobs. The political machines relied on immigrant votes to keep themselves in power.

_____ were writers and journalists who exposed corruption. Jacob _____, author of *How the Other Half Lives*, exposed the poor conditions in urban **tenements** (low-rent apartments) and **sweatshops**, where immigrants performed cheap labor.

Although most immigrants stayed in coastal cities, such as NYC, many went to _____ and other cities in the Midwest to work low-paying, undesirable jobs (e.g., meatpacking).

Upton Sinclair’s book, *The _____*, exposed the wretched working conditions in Chicago’s meatpacking industry.