

IMMIGRANTS AND URBANIZATION



David Beck for Barron's

AMERICA BECOMES A MELTING POT
IN THE LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH
CENTURY

THE NEW IMMIGRANTS

- ✦ **Millions of immigrants entered the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries**
- ✦ **Some came to escape difficult conditions, others known as “birds of passage” intended to stay only temporarily to earn money, and then return to their homeland**



EUROPEANS



- ✦ Between 1870 and 1920, about **20 million Europeans** arrived in the United States
- ✦ Before 1890, most were from western and northern Europe
- ✦ After 1890, most came from southern and eastern Europe
- ✦ All were **looking for opportunity**

CHINESE

- ✦ Between 1851 and 1882, about **300,000 Chinese** arrived on the West Coast
- ✦ Some were attracted by the Gold Rush, others went to work for the railroads, farmed or worked as domestic servants
- ✦ **An anti-Chinese immigration act** by Congress curtailed immigration after 1882



Many Chinese men worked for the railroads

JAPANESE



- ✦ In 1884, the Japanese government allowed **Hawaiian planters** to recruit Japanese workers
- ✦ The U.S. annexation of Hawaii in 1898 increased Japanese immigration to the west coast
- ✦ By 1920, more than **200,000 Japanese** lived on the west coast

THE WEST INDIES AND MEXICO

- ✦ Between 1880 and 1920, about 260,000 immigrants arrived in the eastern and southeastern United States from the **West Indies**
- ✦ They came from Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other islands
- ✦ **Mexicans, too, immigrated** to the U.S. to find work and flee political turmoil – 700,000 Mexicans arrived in the early 20th century



LIFE IN THE NEW LAND



- ✦ In the late 19th century most immigrants arrived via **boats**
- ✦ The trip from Europe took about a month, while it took about 3 weeks from Asia
- ✦ The **trip was arduous** and many died along the way
- ✦ Destination was Ellis Island for Europeans, and Angel Island for Asians

ELLIS ISLAND, NEW YORK

- ✦ Ellis Island was the arrival point for European **immigrants**
- ✦ They had to **pass inspection** at the immigration stations
- ✦ Processing took hours, and the sick were sent home
- ✦ Immigrants also had to show that they were not criminals, had *some* money (\$25), and were able to work
- ✦ From 1892-1924, **17 million** immigrants passed through Ellis Island's facilities



Ellis Island circa 1905. Ferry boats
shuttled the immigrants from
steamships directly to Ellis Island's
Main Registry Building.



ELLIS ISLAND, NEW YORK HARBOR

ANGEL ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO

4-6486 Angel Island, CA
AERIALS ONLY 508-295-5551 (c)



- ✦ **Asians, primarily Chinese, arriving on the West Coast gained admission at Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay**
- ✦ **Processing was much harsher than Ellis Island as immigrants withstood tough questioning and long detentions in filthy conditions**



The Chinese Detention Building at Angel Island.

**ANGEL ISLAND WAS CONSIDERED MORE
HARSH THAN ELLIS ISLAND**

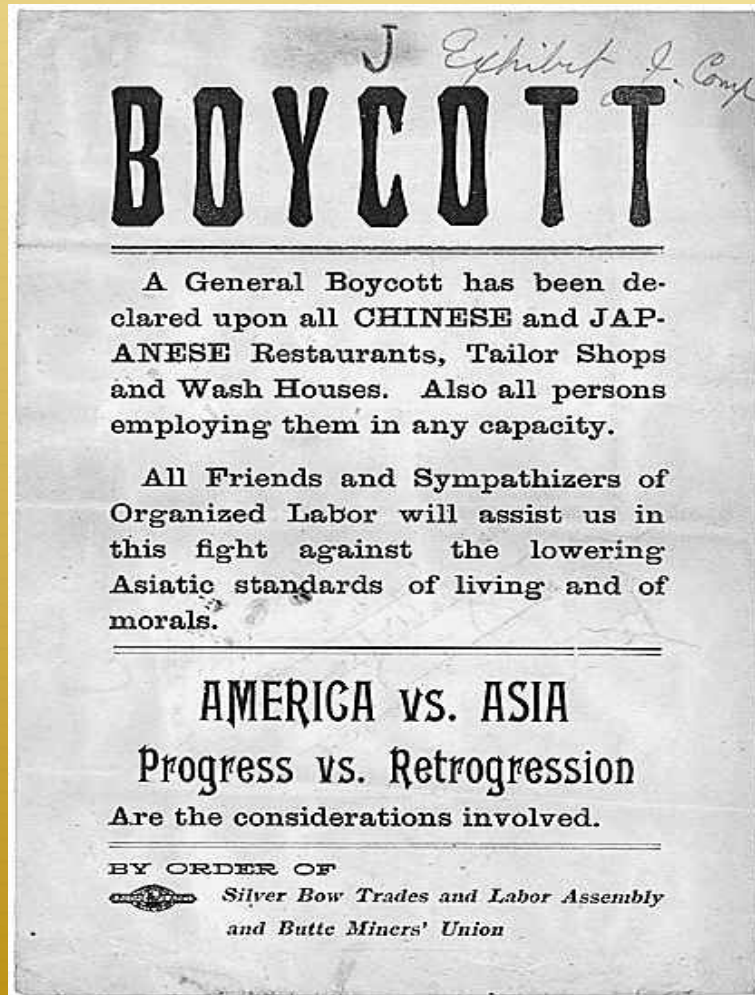
FRICTION DEVELOPS

- ✦ While some immigrants tried to **assimilate** into American culture, others kept to themselves and created ethnic communities
- ✦ Committed to their own culture, but also trying hard to become Americans, many came to think of themselves as **Italian-Americans, Polish-Americans, Chinese-Americans, etc**
- ✦ Some native born Americans disliked the immigrants unfamiliar customs and languages – **friction** soon developed



Chinatowns are found in many major cities

IMMIGRANT RESTRICTIONS



Anti-Asian feelings included restaurant boycotts

- ✦ As immigration increased, so did anti-immigrant feelings among natives
- ✦ **Nativism** (favoritism toward native-born Americans) led to anti-immigrant organizations and governmental restrictions against immigration
- ✦ In 1882, Congress passed the **Chinese Exclusion Act** which limited Chinese immigration until 1943

THE CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION

- ✦ **Rapid urbanization occurred in the late 19th century in the Northeast & Midwest**
- ✦ **Most immigrants settled in cities** because of the available jobs & affordable housing
- ✦ **By 1910, immigrants made up more than half the population of 18 major American cities**

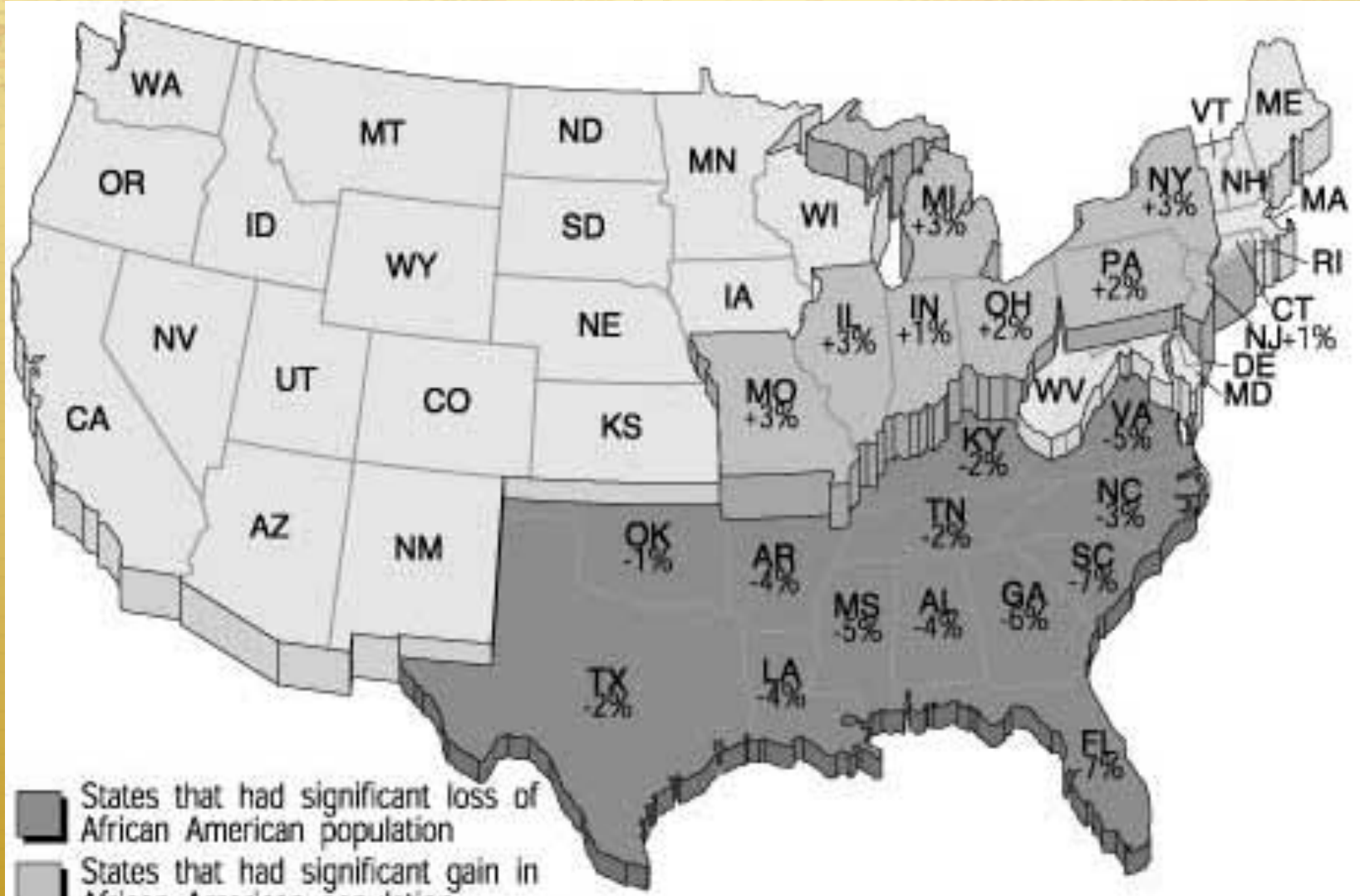


MIGRATION FROM COUNTRY TO CITY



Discrimination and segregation were often the reality for African Americans who migrated North

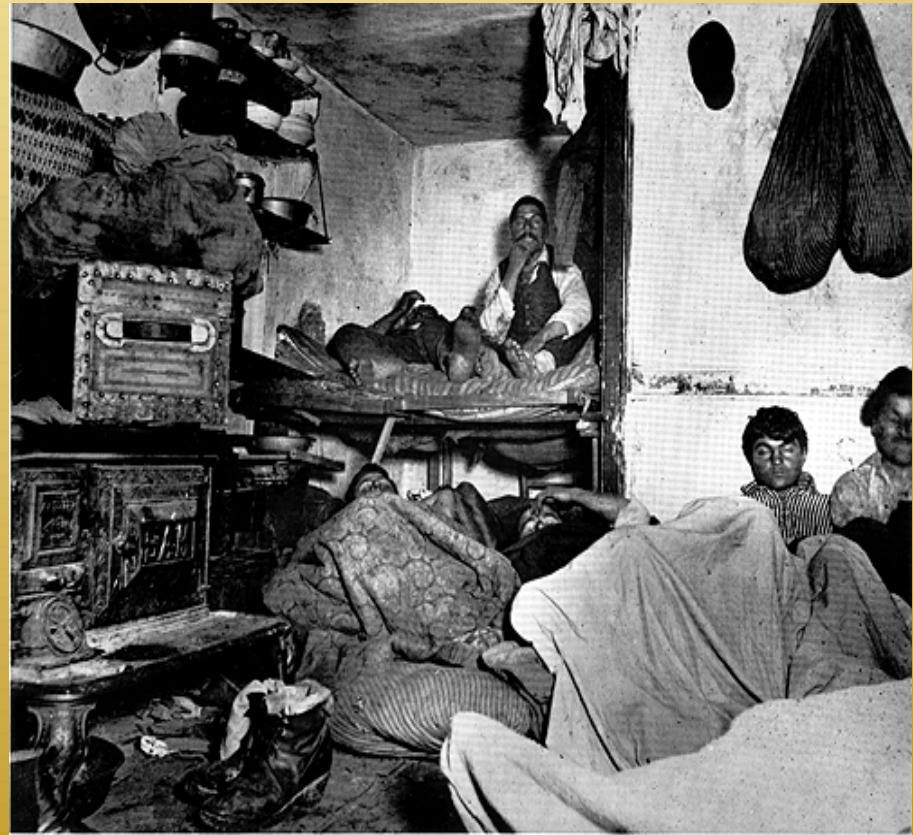
- ✦ Rapid improvements in **farm technology** (tractors, reapers, steel plows) made farming more efficient in the late 19th century
- ✦ It also **meant less labor** was needed to do the job
- ✦ Many rural people left for cities to find work- including almost 1/4 million **African Americans**



- States that had significant loss of African American population
- States that had significant gain in African American population
- 2% Gain or loss of African Americans as a percentage of a state's total population

URBAN PROBLEMS

- ✦ Problems in American cities in the late 19th and early 20th century included:
- ✦ Housing: overcrowded tenements were unsanitary
- ✦ Sanitation: garbage was often not collected, polluted air



Famous photographer **Jacob Riis** captured the struggle of living in crowded tenements

URBAN PROBLEMS CONTINUED

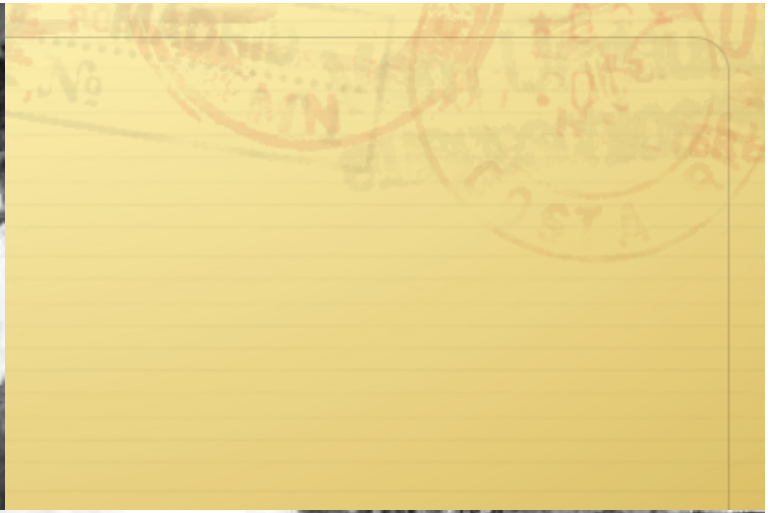


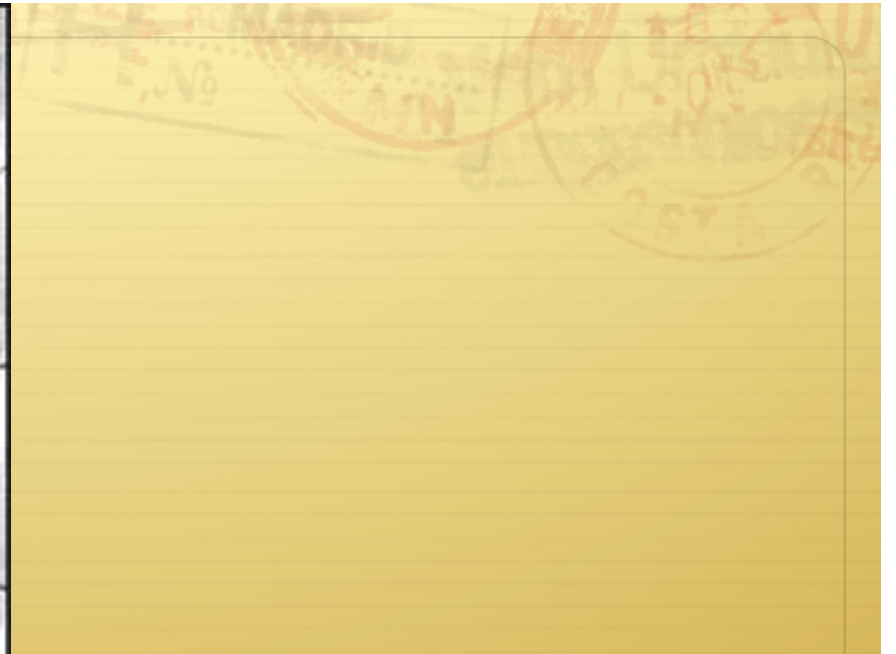
Harper's Weekly image of Chicagoans fleeing the fire over the Randolph Street bridge in 1871

- ✦ **Transportation:** Cities struggled to provide adequate transit systems
- ✦ **Water:** Without safe drinking water cholera and typhoid fever was common
- ✦ **Crime:** As populations increased thieves flourished
- ✦ **Fire:** Limited water supply and wooden structures combined with the use of candles led to many major urban fires – Chicago 1871 and San Francisco 1906 were two major fires

PHOTOGRAPHER JACOB RIIS CAPTURED IMAGES OF THE CITY









Jacob Riis

SEGREGATION AND DISCRIMINATION

✦ By the turn of the 20th century, Southern States had adopted legal discrimination

✦ Some states limited the vote to those who could read, or pay a poll tax prior to voting.

✦ Racial segregation (Jim Crow Laws) were put into effect in schools, hospitals, parks, and transportation systems throughout the South

✦ While most African Americans lived in the segregated South, many blacks migrated North in hopes of better jobs & equality

✦ However, the North had its own brand of racism as blacks got low paying jobs and lived in segregated neighborhoods

✦ The Black movement North was known as the Black Migration



PLESSY v. FERGUSON

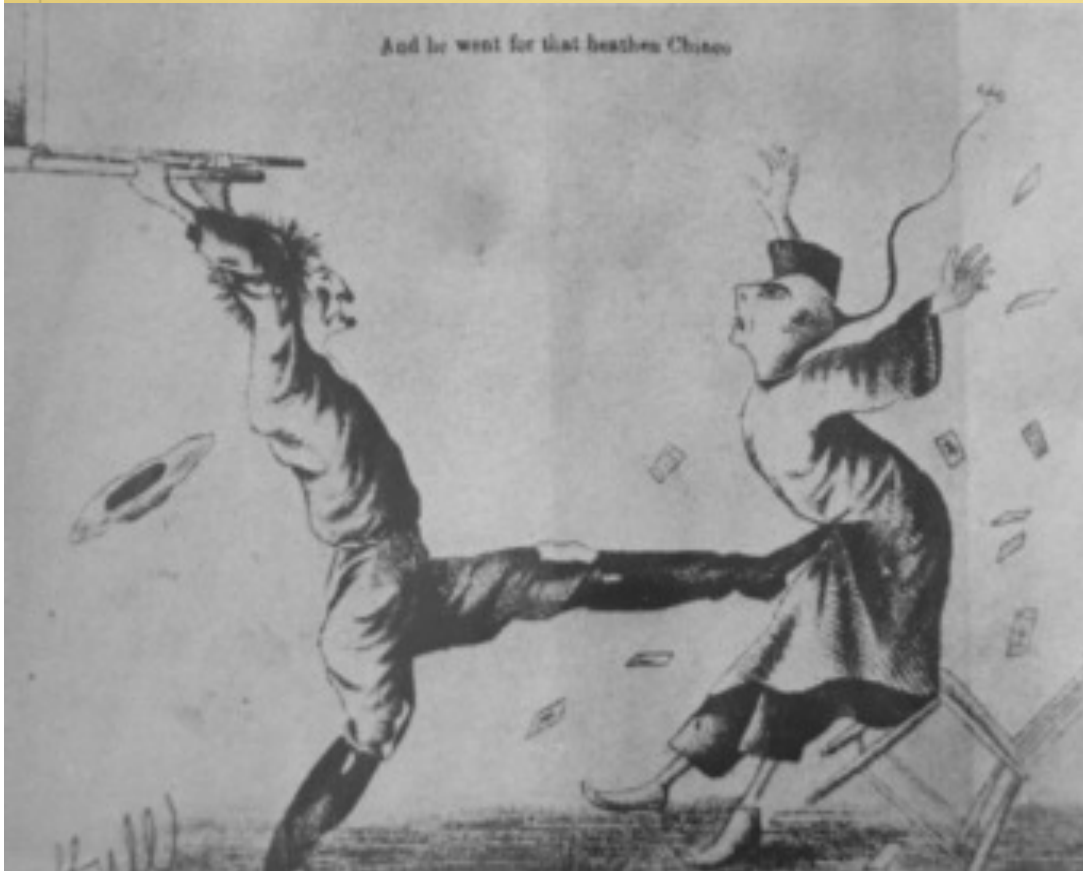


Photograph from Bettmann/Corbis



- ✦ Eventually a legal case reached the U.S. Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of segregation
- ✦ In 1896, in Plessy v. Ferguson the Supreme Court ruled that the segregation of races was legal and did not violate the 14th Amendment
- ✦ Blacks faced legal discrimination as well as informal rules and customs
- ✦ Meant to humiliate these “rules” included; whites never shaking the hand of an African American, blacks had to yield the sidewalk to whites, blacks also had to remove their hats in the presence of whites
- ✦ African Americans who did not follow the racial etiquette could face severe punishment or death
- ✦ Between 1882-1892, more than 1,400 black men and women were shot, burned, or lynched. Lynching peaked in the 1880s and 90s but continued well into the 20th century

DISCRIMINATION IN THE WEST



Anti-Asian Cartoon

- ✦ Discrimination in the west was most often directed against Mexican and Asian immigrants
- ✦ Mexicans were often forced in Debt Peonage – a system of forced labor due to debt
- ✦ Asians were increasingly excluded from mainstream society

REFORMERS MOBILIZE

- ✦ Jacob Riis was a reformer who through his pictures hoped for change– he influenced many
- ✦ The **Social Gospel Movement** preached salvation through service to the poor
- ✦ Some reformers established **Settlement Homes**
- ✦ These homes provided a place to stay, classes, health care and other social services
- ✦ **Jane Addams** was the most famous member of the Settlement Movement (founded **Hull House** in Chicago)



**Jane
Addams
and Hull
House**



POLITICS IN THE GILDED AGE



- ✦ As cities grew in the late 19th century, so did **political machines**
- ✦ Political machines controlled the activities of a political party in a city
- ✦ Ward bosses, precinct captains, and the city boss worked to ensure their candidate was elected

ROLE OF THE POLITICAL BOSS

- ✦ The “Boss” (typically the mayor) controlled jobs, business licenses, and influenced the court system
- ✦ Precinct captains and ward bosses were often 1st or 2nd generation immigrants so they **helped immigrants** with naturalization, jobs, and housing in exchange for votes



Boss Tweed ran NYC

MUNICIPAL GRAFT AND SCANDAL

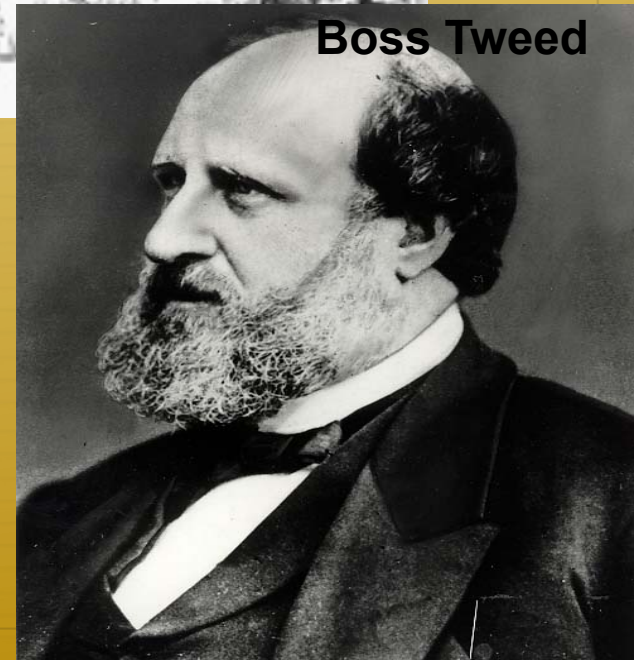


ELECTION FRAUD

- ✦ Some political bosses were **corrupt**
- ✦ Some political machines used fake names and voted multiple times to ensure victory (“Vote early and often”) – called **Election fraud**
- ✦ **Graft (bribes)** was common among political bosses
- ✦ Construction contracts often resulted in **“kick-backs”**
- ✦ The fact that police forces were hired by the boss prevented close scrutiny

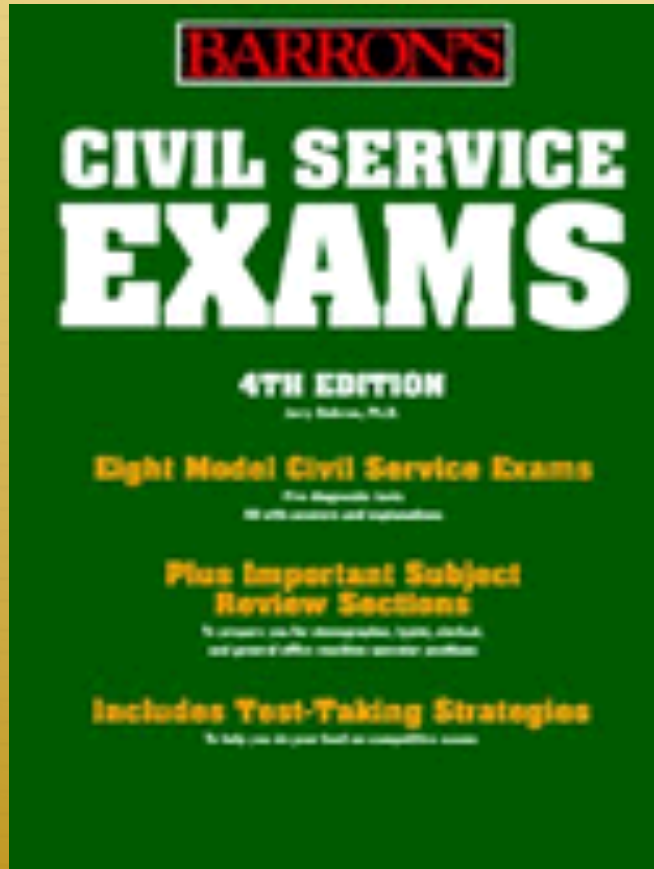
THE TWEED RING SCANDAL

- ✦ William M. Tweed, known as **Boss Tweed**, became head of **Tammany Hall**, NYC's powerful Democratic political machines
- ✦ Between 1869-1871, Tweed led the **Tweed Ring**, a group of corrupt politicians, in defrauding the city
- ✦ Tweed was indicted on 120 counts of fraud and extortion
- ✦ Tweed was sentenced to 12 years in jail – released after one, arrested again, and escaped to Spain



Boss Tweed

CIVIL SERVICE REPLACES PATRONAGE



Applicants for federal jobs
are required to take a Civil
Service Exam

- ✦ Nationally, some politicians pushed for reform in the hiring system
- ✦ The system had been based on *Patronage*; giving jobs and favors to those who helped a candidate get elected
- ✦ Reformers pushed for an adoption of a merit system of hiring the most qualified for jobs
- ✦ **The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883** authorized a bipartisan commission to make appointments for federal jobs based on performance