

# “Civilization’s Inferno”: The rise and reform of Industrial Cities

Chapter 19 - Mr. Muller



Aim: What characterizes America during the Gilded Age?

Do Now: “I don't care who does the electing, so long as I get to do the nominating.”

-William “The Boss” Tweed



**Questions 3–5 refer to the excerpt below.**

“Today three-fourths of its [New York’s] people live in tenements. . . .

“If it shall appear that the sufferings and the sins of the ‘other half,’ and the evil they breed, are but as a just punishment upon the community that gave it no other choice, it will be because that is the truth. . . . In the tenements all the influences make for evil; because they are the hotbeds of the epidemics that carry death to rich and poor alike; the nurseries of pauperism and crime that fill our jails and police courts; that throw off a scum of forty thousand human wrecks to the island asylums and workhouses year by year; that turned out in the last eight years around half million beggars to prey upon our charities; that maintain a standing army of ten thousand tramps with all that that implies; because above all, they touch the family life with deadly moral contagion. . . .”

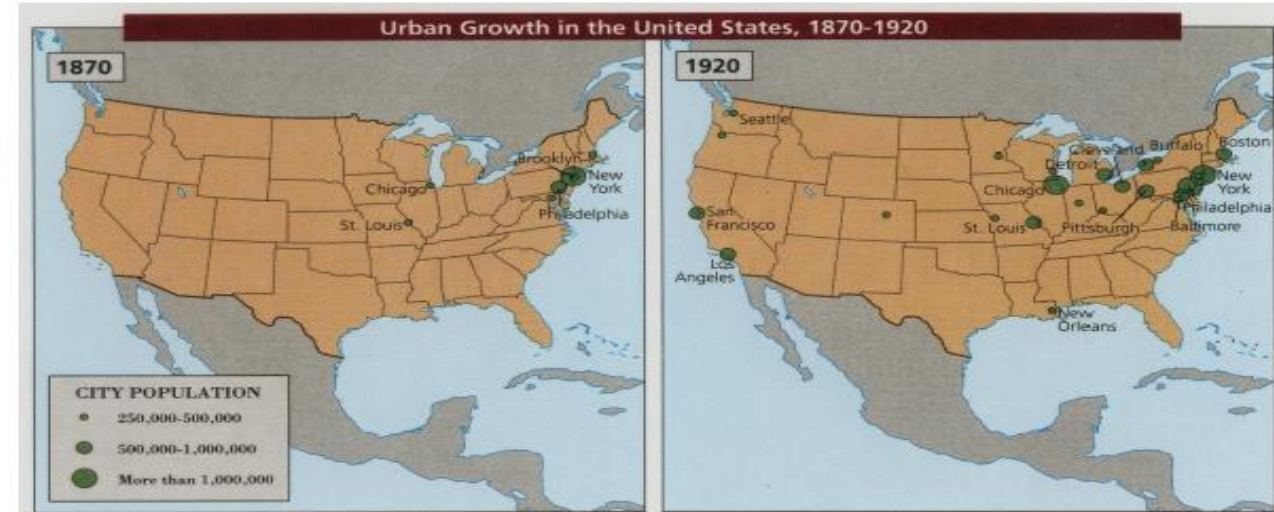
—Jacob A. Riis, journalist, *How the Other Half Lives*, 1890

3. Which phrase best summarizes what Riis considers the cause of the problems he sees?
- (A) “are but as a just punishment upon the community”
  - (B) “In the tenements all the influences make for evil”**
  - (C) “throw off a scum of forty thousand human wrecks”
  - (D) “touch the family life with deadly moral contagion”
4. During the late 19th century, which of the following groups most benefited from the poverty described by Riis?
- (A) Impressionists
  - (B) Political machines**
  - (C) Social Darwinists



# GROWTH OF CITIES

- **Huge increase in urbanization**
  - **Economic opportunities in industrial jobs** bring people to the cities
    - Both international and internal migrations
- **New technology supports this growth**
  - In 1885 the 1<sup>st</sup> **skyscraper** built in Chicago
  - **Electric streetcars** allow people to travel greater distances
- **Changing roles for women**
  - Took on new jobs
  - Economic opportunity and sense of independence

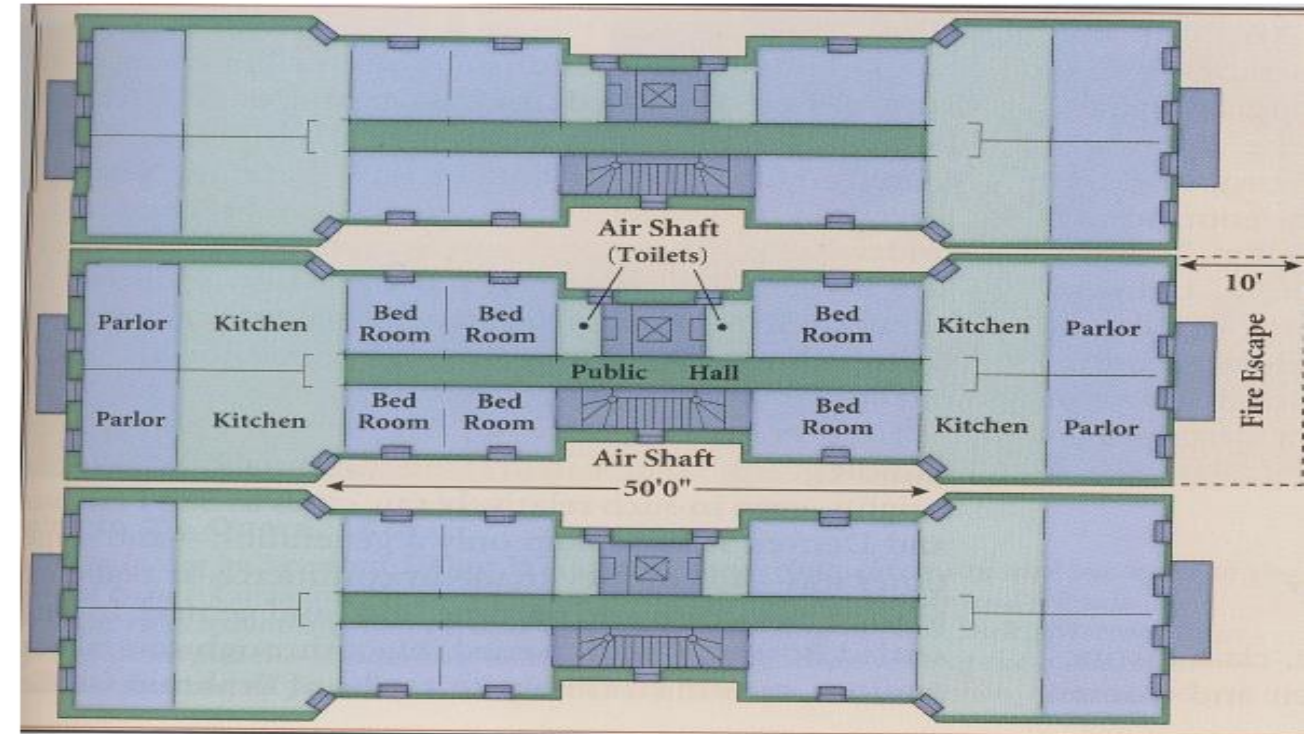




# PROBLEMS IN THE CITIES

## Challenges:

- **Growth of urban poverty**
  - Rising gap between the rich and poor
- **Huge population increase leads to:**
  - **Lack of clean water**
  - **Limited trash disposal & poor sanitation**
  - **Rise Tenement / slums**
    - **Dumbbell tenement**
- **Neighborhoods segregated by race, ethnicity, and class**
  - **Little Italy in New York**
  - **Lower Eastside Jewish community**
  - **Polish neighborhood of Pilsen in Chicago**
  - **Southside of Chicago**

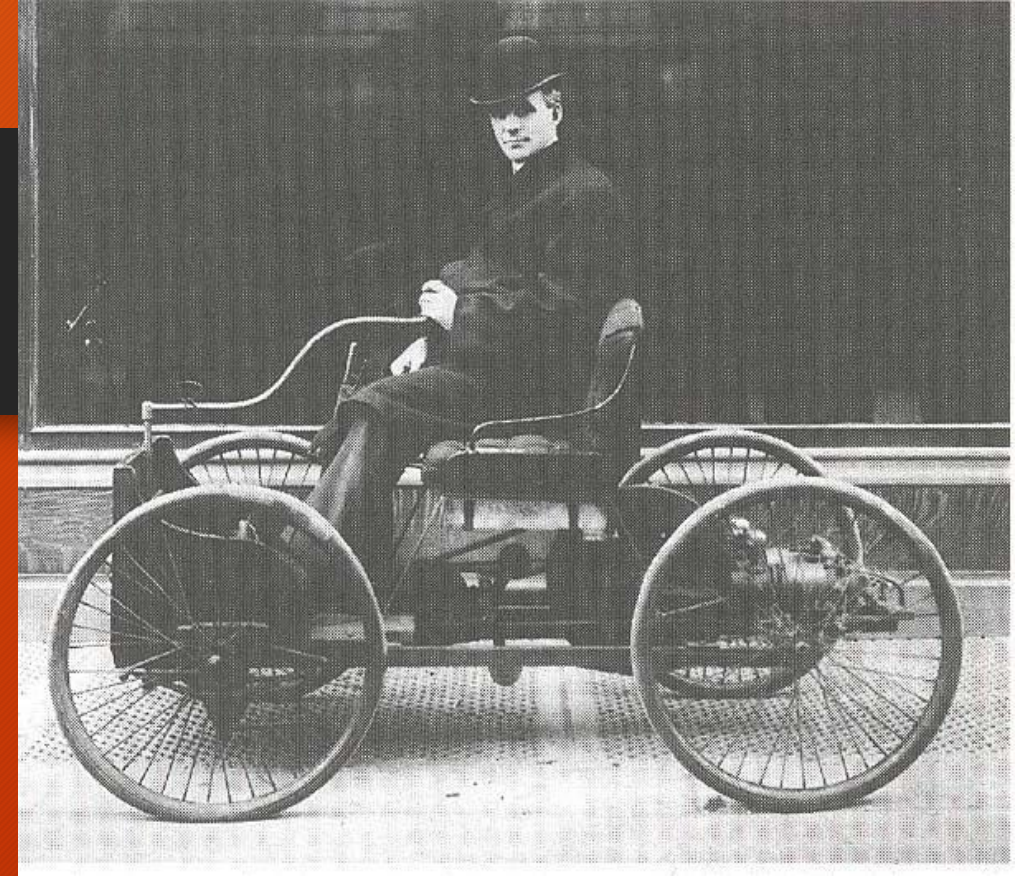




# 19<sup>th</sup> century progress

## Ford's First Car

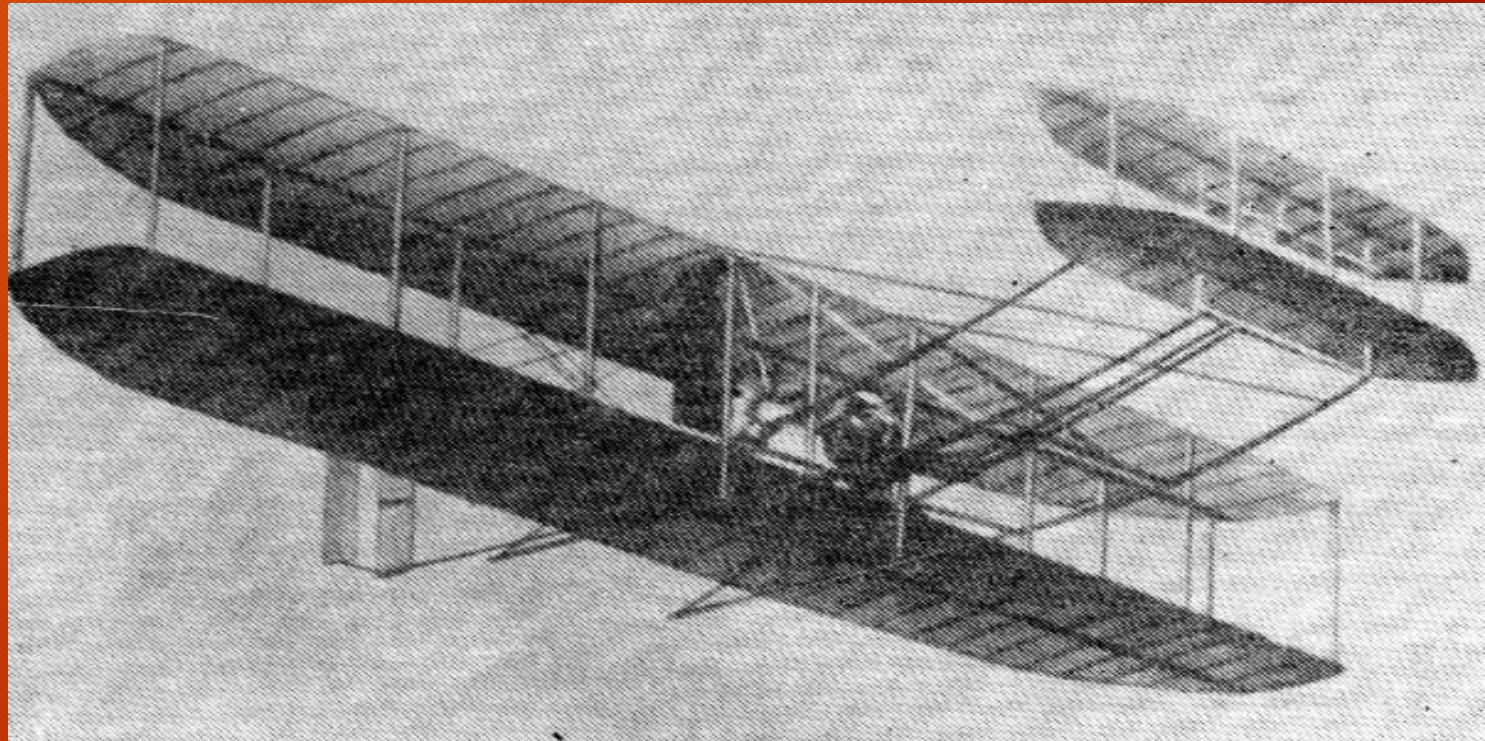
- Henry Ford brings the car to America and makes them much more affordable.
- How does he make them more affordable?
  - The Assembly Line.
  - Interchangeable parts.





# Wright Brothers Fly

- They flew a gasoline powered flying machine in North Carolina.
- The longest flight was only 59 seconds.
- What did it create though?
  - An entire new industry, the aircraft industry.





# The Rise of Mass Culture

- What is mass culture?
  - The production of works of art and entertainment design to appeal to large audiences.
- What are some examples of mass culture today?
  - Hip Hop
  - Apple technology
  - Computers







- What makes mass culture possible during this time period (think about time)?
  - Spread of public education → increased literacy.
  - Mass market for books, newspapers, and magazines.
  - Working people had time for leisure (laws limited working day to ten hours & most people worked 5 ½ days a week).



# Music Halls and Vaudeville

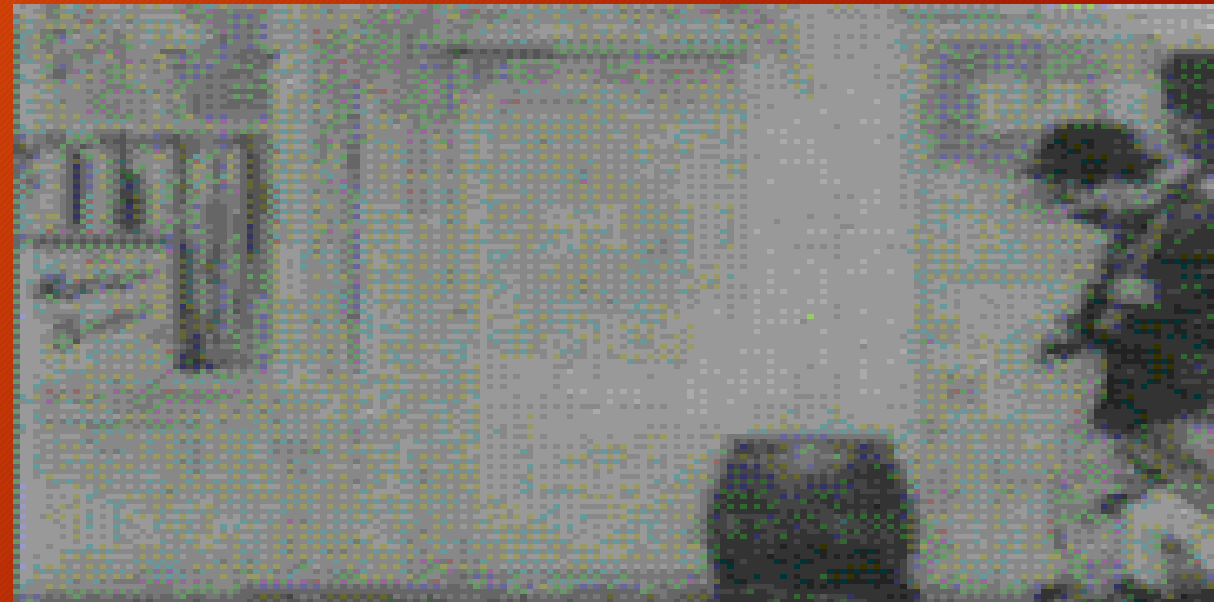


- What did people do with this extra time?
  - Trip to local music hall.
  - Singers, dancers, comedians, jugglers, magicians, acrobats.
  - In the US, these shows were called Vaudeville.



# People went to the movies

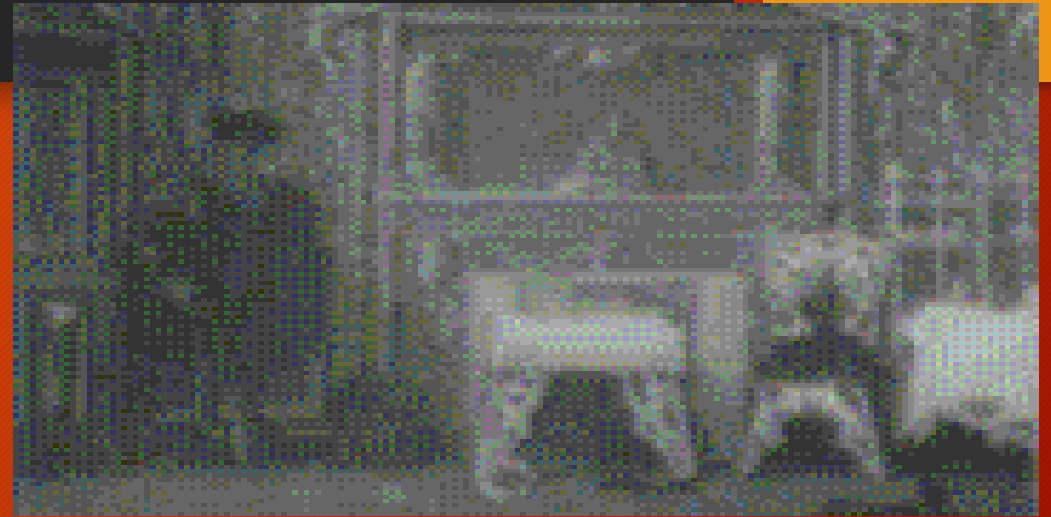
- First movies were in black and white.
- Only lasted a minute.
- No plot.
- Edison's first film was a man sneezing.
  
- Were these “movies” a hit?
  - Yes. They were a sensation because of how new and unique it was.





# Another Movie

- Sometimes the early shorts used reverse photography to produce effects like this. But it's also clear that in the first years of the movies, projectionists felt free to do what they liked--they played films backwards, or sped them up, or slowed them down for comic effect





- One Last Trick Film.... I promise!





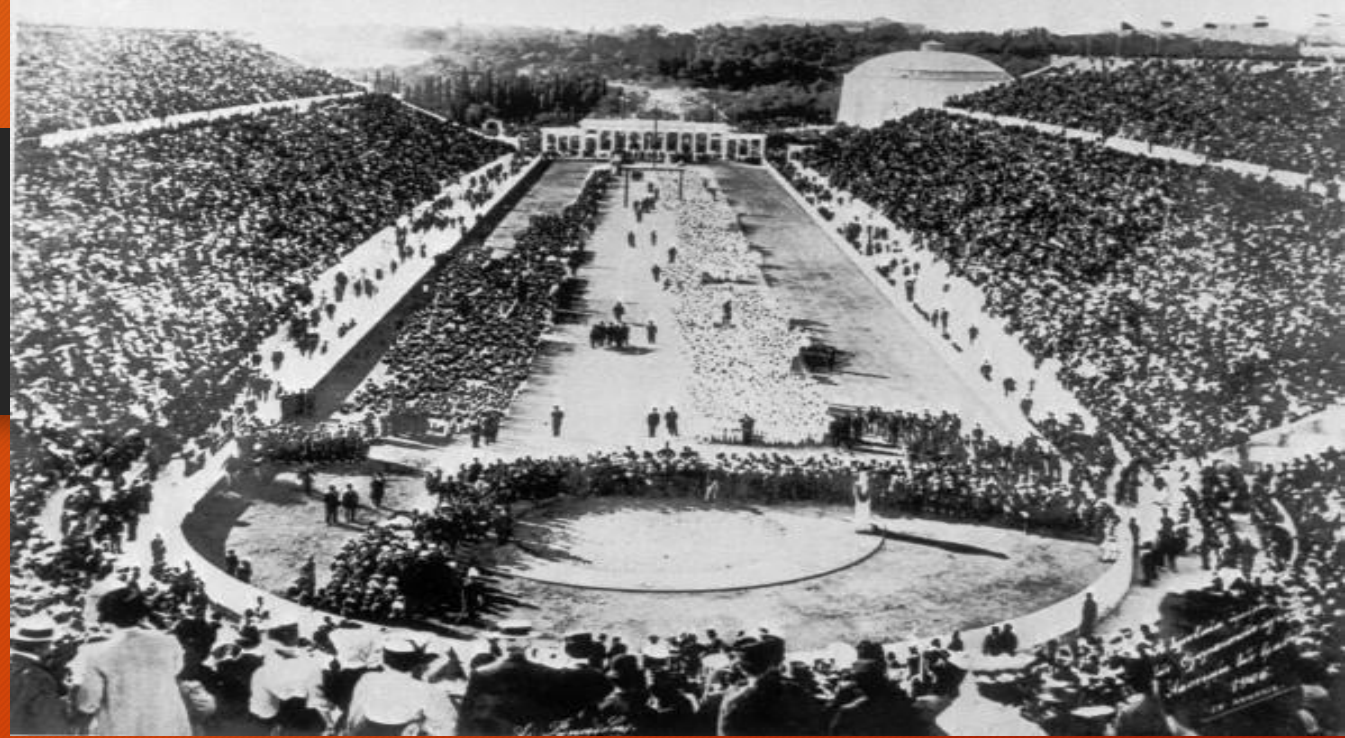
# Development of movies

- Within the next few years, movies quickly became big business.
- By 1910, 5 million Americans attended 10,000 theaters each day to watch silent movies. Europe experienced the same growth.





# Sports



- With new time, people also began playing sports and outdoor activities.
- The international Olympic games began in 1896 reviving the ancient Greek tradition. First Olympics took place in Athens.
- Baseball and Football became popular in the U.S.
- Soccer and Cricket became popular in Europe and in the British colonies.



# Yellow Journalism

- Exaggerated story telling, designed to sway public opinion
- William Hearst with the New York Journal and Joseph Pulitzer with the New York World, made up exaggerated accounts of brutality to the Cubans by the Spanish General Valeriano Weyler.
- Stories like poisoned wells  
And children being thrown  
into shark infested waters



**The Irreverent Times**  
*Comedy Newspaper*

Volume Two Number Two    "Yellow Journalism At Its Finest!"    NINETY-FIVE CENTS

The Irreverent Times... Facts are for people who can't handle fiction!

## Boy, 10, Inhales Tuba Into Lungs



Oliver Tubswell, 10, seen here in the playground of Al Jarreau Middle School in Kingsley, Iowa shortly after inhaling the school's only tuba.

Ten-year-old Oliver Tubswell is resting comfortably after being detoxified at St...

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**NEWS: CAPTAIN CRUNCH ARRESTED** Captain Crunch was picked out of a police lineup and arrested in connection with up to 34 cereal killings including Sonny, the coccoo for Cocoa Puffs bird, and Frankensberry. Page 4

**FEATURE: INTERVIEW WITH PILOT BOB** T.I.T. chats with the pilot who flies over the Simpson trial with offers for Marcia Clark. We'll find out how Pilot Bob got the hots for the Deputy D.A., and suggest venues for their dream date. Page 43

**SPORTS: LITTLE LEAGUERS SET STRIKE DATE** Players say they'll walk on July 15th if their demands are not met. Page 13

**NIGHT LIFE: PATRICK SWAYZE OPENS NEW CELEBRITY WATERING HOLE** Dirty dancing is only part of the fun at Swayze's Mariachi Mosh Pit.

**SIMPSON TRIAL: O.J. ESCAPES!** The world's most famous defendant sheds would-be tacklers like during his glory days in the NFL. The former rushing leader flees the courtroom and remains at large.

**PLUS:** A book review of Rodney King's new bar...



# THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

- **WHY:** **Industrialization**, **urbanization**, and **immigration** created significant changes and challenges for the United States.
- **WHAT:** Effort to use government power to regulate and improve society
  - **Rejection of laissez faire ideology**
  - **Not a radical movement- reject ideas such as socialism**
    - **Saving and improving capitalism**
- **WHO:** Many of the Progressive Era reformers were middle class men and women
  - **But very diverse group of reformers**
    - **Protestant church leaders demanding temperance**
    - **Politicians regulating monopolies / trusts**
    - **Union leaders addressing workers rights**
    - **Women demanding right to vote**
    - **African Americans demanded greater equality**
- **Compare to other reform periods: Age of Jackson, Populist, New Deal**

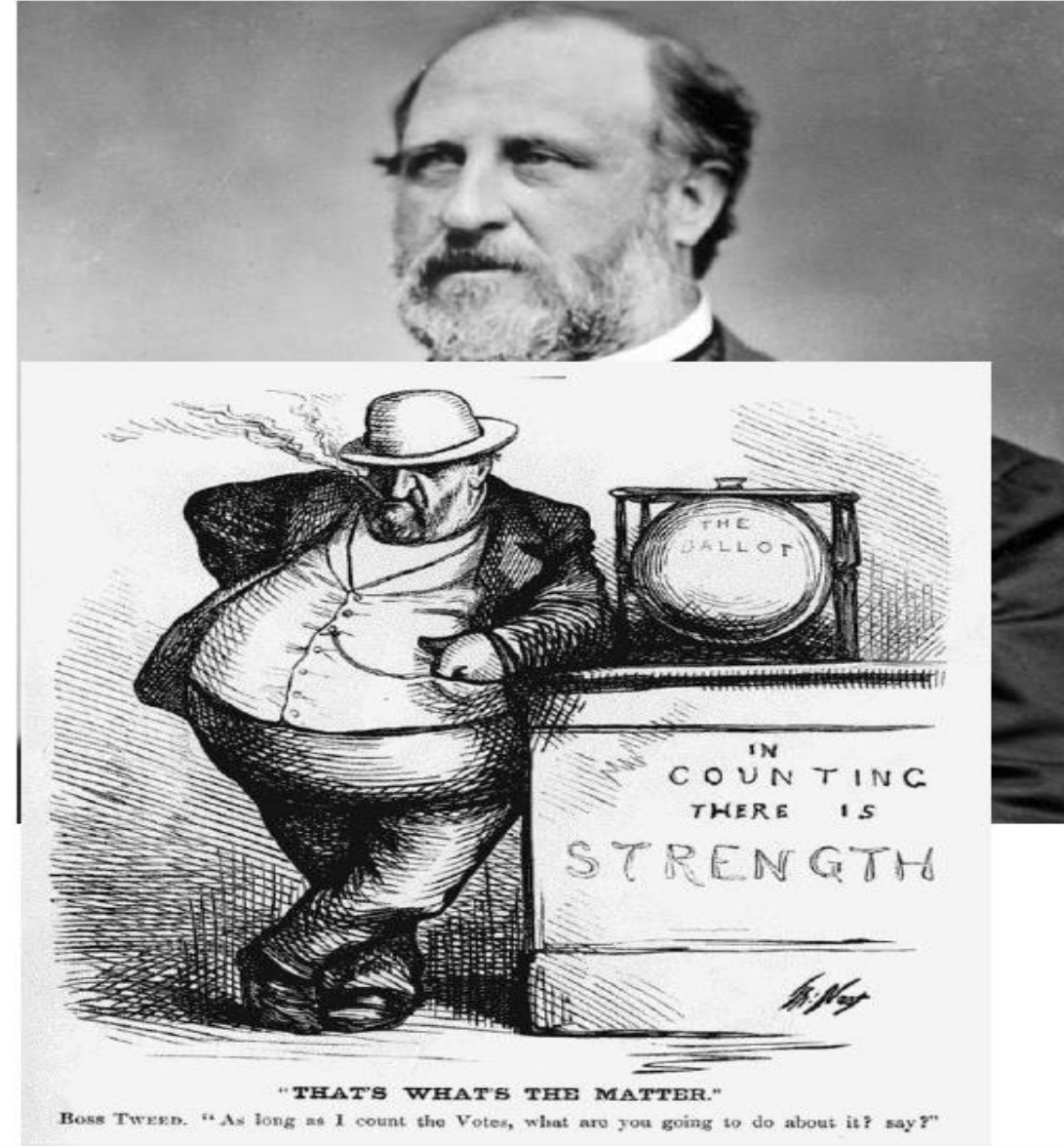


# The Ultimate Symbol of Gilded Age Political Corruption: Boss Tweed

Local Political corruption:  
**Tammany Hall** (Democratic  
party **political machine**):

- “**Boss**” **Tweed** used bribery, graft, and fraudulent elections to steal over \$200 million from NY taxpayers

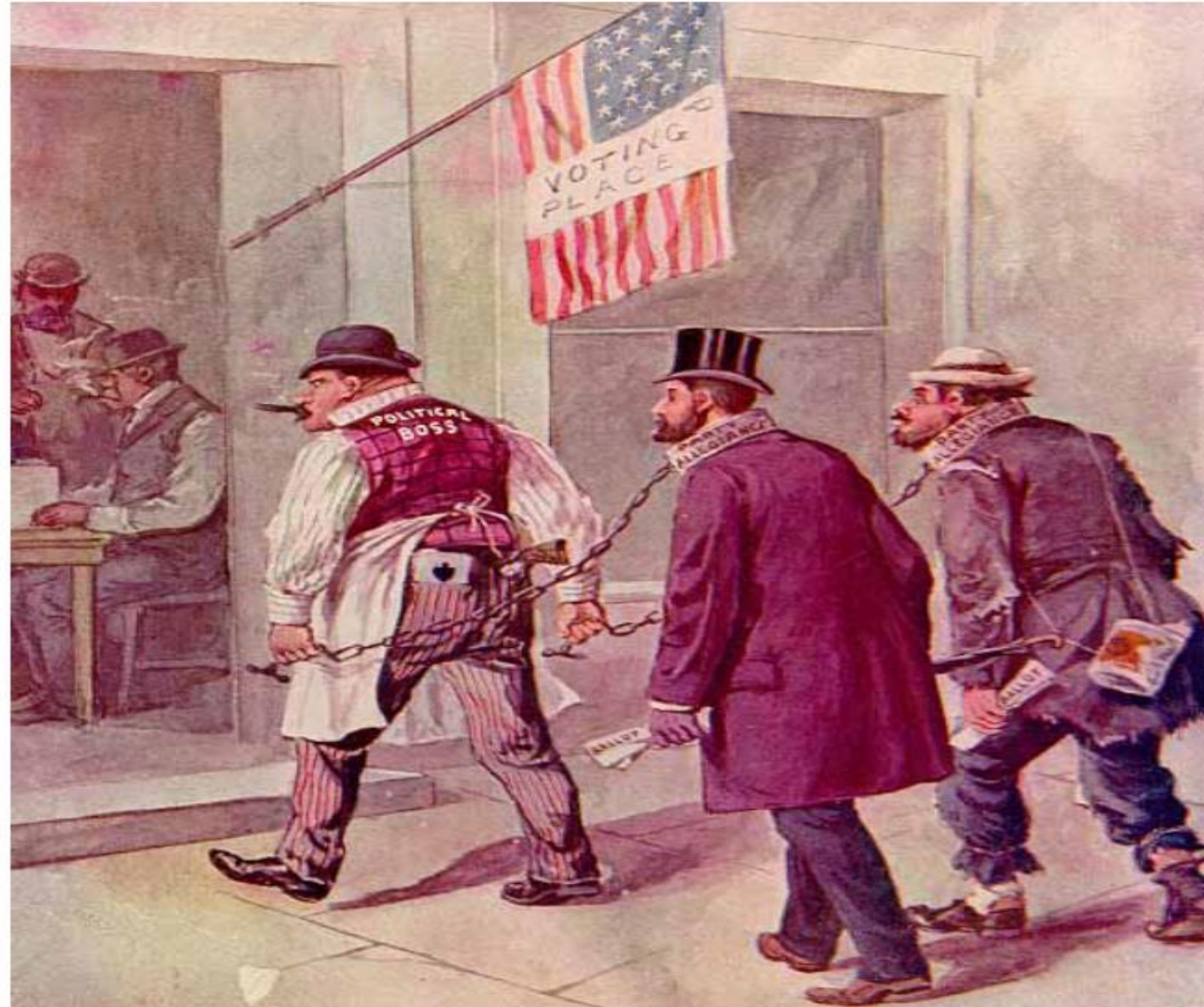
- **Thomas Nast** would expose this corruption to the masses





# Political Bosses & Machine Politics

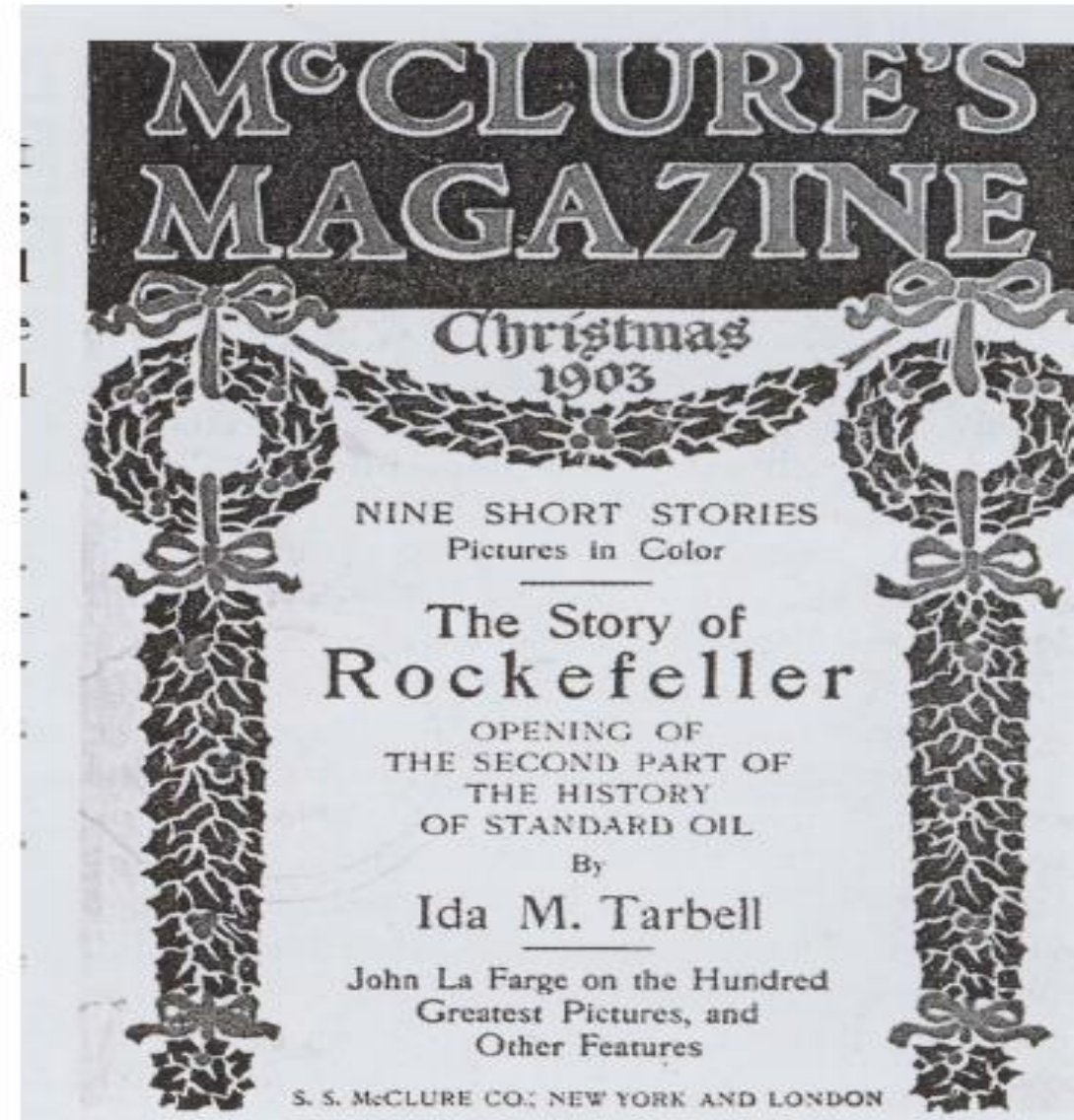
- Political machines controlled politics in major cities
  - William “Boss” Tweed of Tammany Hall in NY
- Political bosses controlled the rank and file and rewarded supporters with jobs
- Provided basic welfare type services to the poor and immigrant community
- Greed, graft, and fraud was common





# PROMOTING REFORM: MUCKRAKERS

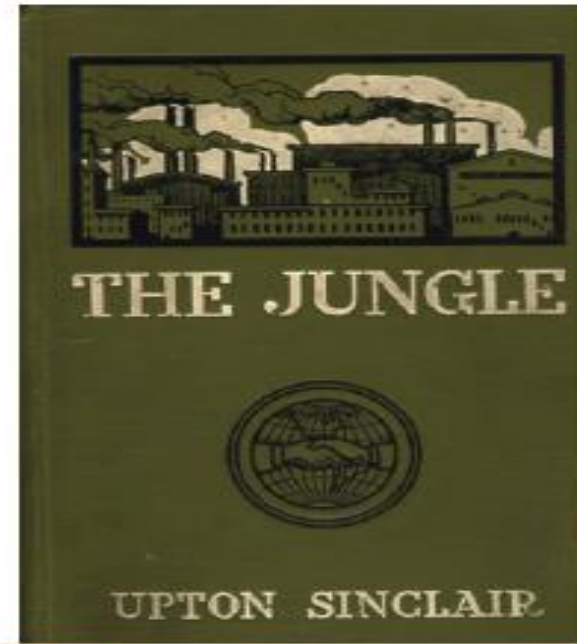
- **Muckrakers**: Attempted to expose problems in American society
  - Named by Theodore Roosevelt
- Important examples
- **Ida Tarbell** “History of Standard Oil Company” published in McClure’s Magazine (1902)
- **Jacob Riis** “How the Other Half Lives” exposed the horrors of life in the slums of NY (1890)
- **Lincoln Steffens** “The Shame of the Cities” (1904) exposed corruption in city politics (political machines)
- **Upton Sinclair** “The Jungle”





# Consumer Protections

- **Relatively few protections for consumers**
- **Upon Sinclair's "The Jungle" was intended to increase support for socialism and workers rights**
  - **Public focuses on the unsanitary nature of the meat industry**
  - **Public pressure for TR to act**
- **Meat Inspection Act (1906) the federal government would regulate and inspect the meat industry**
- **Pure Food & Drug Act (1906)**
  - **Created FDA & protected the public against the manufacture, sale, and transportation of mislabeled foods and drugs**





# Response to Urbanization & Immigration Issues

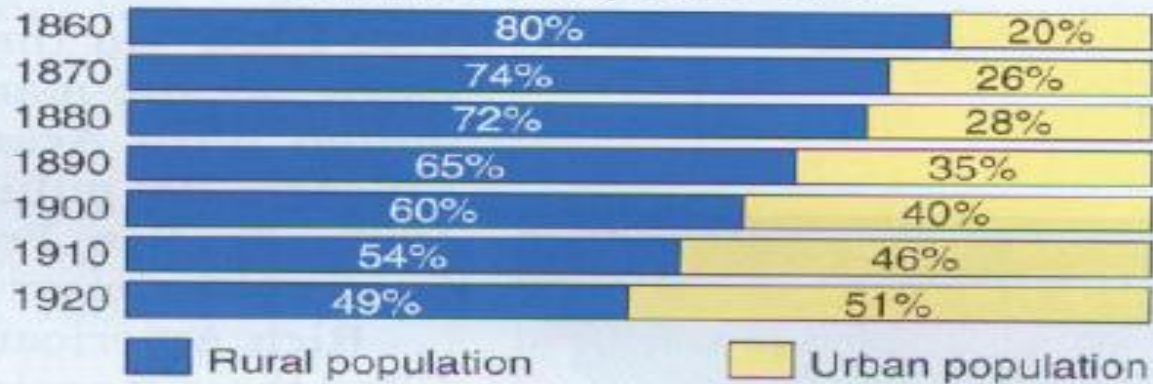
- Various attempts undertaken to deal with the problems posed by urbanization & immigration
- **Social Gospel Movement**
  - Christians had a responsibility to deal with urban poverty
- **Salvation Army** came over from England in 1879 & provided poverty relief while spreading Christian values
- **YMCA & YWCA**- Christian values
- **Settlement House Movement**
  - **Jane Addams** establishes the **Hull House** in 1889
  - Provided various social services in the community
  - Helped immigrants adapt to new society





# URBAN REFORM

Rural and Urban Population in the United States, 1860–1920



- **Large number of problems in the cities: 1) urban poverty & slums 2) political corruption 3) alcoholism**
- **Jane Addams & Florence Kelley (settlement house)**
- **Demands to take away power from political bosses by taking public utilities out of private companies hands**
  - **Examples: Place gas lines, water systems, transportation systems, etc. under public control**
  - **Municipal govt reform such as voters electing heads of city departments (fire, police, sanitation)**



# Role of Women in the Progressive Movement

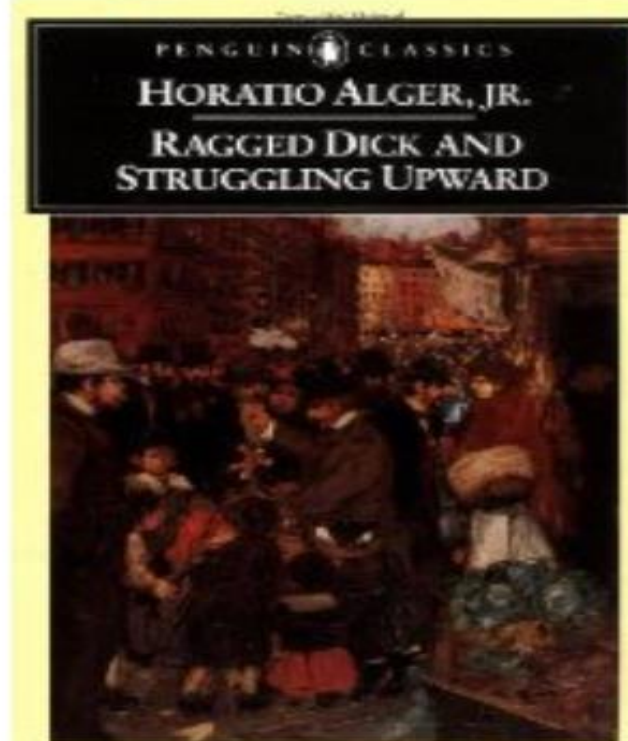
- **Women played an important role in the Progressive Movement**
  - **Broke down the idea of the “separate spheres”**
- **National Child Labor Committee** fought for laws banning child labor
- **National Consumers’ League** headed by **Florence Kelley** advocated for the rights of women in the work place, laws against child Labor, etc.
  - **Muller v. Oregon** (1908) court ruled that laws protecting women workers and restricting women to 10 hour days were constitutional
- **Triangle Shirtwaist Fire** (1911) led to the death of 146 workers
- **Women role in Temperance Movement**





# Belief Systems of the Industrial Revolution

- **Belief in Protestant work ethic**
- **Horatio Alger: story of “rags to riches”**
  - Honesty, hard work leads to success
  - Re-enforced by experience of people such as Andrew Carnegie (immigrant from Scotland)
- **Critics of the Industrial pro business climate of the Gilded Age**
  - **Henry George** “Progress & Poverty” critically examined the inequalities in wealth caused by industrialization and laissez faire capitalism.
  - **Edward Bellamy** “Looking Backward” about a utopian socialist society that has fixed the social and economic injustices of the time.
- **Effort to reform these problems will eventually lead to a movement known as the Progressive Movement in the 1890s**
  - Rise of press and education
  - compulsory attendance, tax supported schools were more accessible, & illiteracy rates were dropping





“...That was a woman filling her pail by the hydrant you just bumped against. The sinks are in the hallway, that all the tenants may have access--and all be poisoned alike by their summer stench. Hear the pump squeak! It is the lullaby of tenement-house babes. In summer, when a thousand thirsty throats pant for a cooling drink in this block, it is worked in vain... Listen! That short hacking cough, that tiny, helpless wail--what do they mean? They mean that the soiled bow of white you saw on the door downstairs will have another story to tell--Oh! a sadly familiar story--before the day is at an end. The child is dying with measles. With half a chance it might have lived; but it had none. That dark bedroom killed it.”

-excerpt from *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis (1890)

1. The scene described by Jacob Riis was likely being observed in

- A the Northeast
- B the Midwest
- C the South
- D the West

2. Statistically, the woman filling her pail would most likely be an immigrant from

- A England
- B Ireland
- C Germany
- D Italy



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