Chapter 18 Study Guide

The Age of the City

I. Urbanization of America

The Lure of the City:

* Migrations: black women outnumbered black men in the cities because manuf. jobs were considered women’s work
* Rural Americans went to the urban cities for the American dream
* African American communities in over 30 cities in the North or in border states
* Immigrants came from Canada, Mexico, L. America, and China and Japan but the greatest number came from Europe like Italians, Greeks, Slavs, Slovaks, Russian Jews, Armenians

The Ethnic City:

* A dozen different ethnic groups found themselves living in close proximity; most were rural people and their adjustment to city life was painful so they formed communities to remind them of the past
* Jews, Germans, and the Irish developed more rapidly bc of their cultural beliefs and values like education

Assimilation:

* Family cultures or beliefs in gender roles changed because of the American way of women working, arranged marriages, controlling the family, and how women were more subordinate to men unlike in the United States
* Americanization entailed the romantic visions of the New World and become true Americans
* Public schools taught English, sold mainly American products, diets, wardrobe, lifestyles

Exclusion:

* Henry Bowers created the American Protective Association which was a group committed to stopping the immigrant tide
* The Immigration Restriction League was founded by 5 Harvard alumni and dedicated that immigrants should be screened through literacy tests and other standards to separate the desirable from the others
* 1882: Congress restricted Chinese immigration even though they were a small population and congress denied entry to undesirables like convicts and paupers and placed a tax of 50 cents on each person admitted
* Congress passed a literacy requirement for immigrants in 1897 but pres. Cleveland vetoed it

II. The Urban Landscape:

* Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux designed Central Park in NY to be one of the most admired places in the world
* 1893: Columbian Exposition in Chicago, honor Columbus’s first voyage to America and became an inspiration for the “city beautiful” movement
* Wanted a similar order and symmetry on the disordered life of cities like Burnham did
* Led to create new cities like Back Bay in Boston

Housing the Well-to-do:

* Lived in lavish places Fifth Avenue, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Society Hill, Lake Shore Drive, Nob Hill, and others
* Took advantage of less expensive land on the edges of the city and settled in new suburbs

Housing Workers and The Poor:

* Landlords tried to squeeze as many rent-paying residents as possible into the smallest available space
* Poor African Americans in N. Orleans or Richmond lived in slave quarters of cheap wooden houses called triple deckers
* Tenement: multiple family rental building and described slum dwellings; first ones built in NYC; little or no plumbing

-NY state law of 1870 required a window in every bedroom of tenements built after that date; crowded with people in small rooms

* Jacob Riis wrote *How The Other Half Lives* with pictures of the tenement buildings and the poor conditions; solution was to raze slum dwellings without building any new or better housing to replace them

Urban transportation:

* 1870: Ny opened its first elevated railway and NY, Chicago, SF, and others experimented with cable cars; Richmond and Virginia introduced the 1st electric trolley line in 1888 and in 1897, Boston introduced the first subway
* The Skyscraper: Equitable building in NY and tall buildings increased in 1870

III. Strains of Urban Life:

* Fire and disease: Chicago and Boston suffered great fires in 1871 and SF had a huge earthquake fire in 1906; created fire depts.

Environmental Degradation:

* Fogs were created from the burning of soft coal and air pollution from factories, stoves, and furnaces
* By 1910, American cities has constructed sewage disposal systems, to protect the drinking water of their inhabitants and to prevent the great bacterial plagues that impure water such as the 1873 yellow fever in Memphis
* Alice Hamilton: pioneer of identify. Of pollution in the workplace
* 1912: federal gov’t created the Public Health Service which was charge d to prevent diseases and health standards for factories; limited impact

-Occupational Health and Safety Admin. Was created and gave gov’t authority in 1970 to require all employers to create safe and healthy workplaces

Urban Poverty:

* Salvation Army: 1879 concentrated more on religious revivalism than on the relief of the homeless and hungry; tensions arose between Protestant philan. And Catholic immigrants over religious doctrine
* Street Arabs that searched for food in the street attracted more attention from reformers

Crime and Violence:

* American murder rose in the late 19th century and in some nonurban areas where rates of lynching and homicides were high
* Native born Americans believed that crime was a result of the violent proclivities of immigrant groups and rose up gangs and criminal org.
* Police forces were both private and informal organizations; public police depts. Were a part of the life of virtually every city/town
* Urban national guard groups manned by middle class elite built armories on the outskirts of affluent neighborhoods and stored large supplies of weapons and ammunition in preparation for uprisings that never occurred

The Machine and the Boss:

* Primary function of the boss was to win votes for his organization and to win loyalty from his constituents; rewarded many with patronage; jobs in gov’t, transit systems, or political organizations
* Honest graft and covert graft: kickbacks from contractors in exchange for contracts to build streets, sewers, public buildings, and other projects
* Corrupt city boss: William Tweed of Tammany Hall in the 1860s and 1870s, who got arrested in 1872
* Power of immigrant voters and wealthy citizens who profited from their dealings with the bosses and weakness of city governments
* Many critics of machines began to argue for city governments

IV. Rise of Mass Consumption:

* Patterns of Income: rising almost for everyone and creation of vast fortunes; workers incomes were rising slower than the middle class
* New merchandising techniques: emergence of ready made clothing: affluent people had tailors and created industries to make ready made garments
* Women became more interested in fashion and Americans bought and prepared food; tin cans in the 1880s created a large new food packaging and canned food industries
* Refrigerated cars could transport food and improved diets and life expect. Rose

Chain Stores and Mail Order Houses:

* The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company began creating a national network of grocery stores as early as the 1850s
* F.W. Woolworth opened his first “Five and Ten Cent Store” in NY and chain stores could sell goods for lower prices
* Ward and Sears changed the lives of isolated people by introducing them to new trends and home décor and making available new tools for home

Department Stores:

* Marshall Field in Chicago was one of the first; Macys in NY, Wanamaker in Philly
* Various products in one ship and great luxury and elegance
* Like mail order houses, took advantage of economies of scale to sell merchandise at lower prices than many of the indiv. Shops

Women as Consumers:

* National Consumers League in 1890s led by Kelley attempted to mobilize the power of women as consumers to force retailers and manuf. To improve wages and working conditions for women
* Mobilization of women behind consumer caused was one of the polit. Devel.

V. Leisure in the Consumer Society:

* Patten tied the new view of leisure to the rising interest in consumption and should have an abundance of goods and pursuit of pleasure
* Public leisure: amusement park at Coney Island, Central Park, saloons, shopping, theaters, pubs

-Even divided by class, ethnicity, and gender, leisure and popular entertainment did help sustain a public culture

Spectator sports: interest in baseball like Cartwright in the NYC baseball club in 1840s; first salaried team was the red Stockings

* Major League Baseball: Albert Spalding and first World Series was played in 1903 red sox won
* Growth of college football and gambling

Music and theater:

* Italian and Yiddish theaters were built and Cohan wrote patriotic songs like Yankee Doodle, You’re A Grand Old Flag, Over There
* Vaudeville: form of theater from French models was the most popular urban entertainment and Ziegfeld staged much elaborate spectacles; one of the media open to black performers
* The movies: Edison created motion picture and silent films were created; mass entertainment medium

Working Class Leisure:

* Saloons were ethnically specific; Anti-Saloon League attacked and opponents stated that they were places of crime, violence, and prost.
* Boxing was a popular sport like John Sullivan and Corbett
* The 4th of July: highlights of the year for working people; city’s middle class stayed away remained indoors or family picnics in areas outside the city
* Mass communication: between 1870 and 1910, circulation of newspapers increased and journalism emerged

-Hearst and rival Pulitzer popularized yellow journalism that was designed to reach a mass audience

VI. High Culture in The Age of The City:

* Literature of Urban America: to recreate urban social reality like Dreiser
* Frank Norris followed and Sinclair with oppression of the American poor; Chopin wrote the Awakening to show the corruption of wealth
* Network of clubs, most with women, to bring people together to talk about books
* Art in the Age of the city: Winslow Homer, Whistler: turning away from traditional academic style by Singer
* Exploring grim aspects of modern life; members of the Ashcan School produced work startling in its naturalism and stark in its portrayal of the social realities of the era like Sloan, Bellows, Hopper
* Armory show in NYC: displayed works of French postimpressionists and of some American moderns; artistic movement known as modernism that rejected the reliance on est. forms that was the genteel tradition of the 19th century art world; modernism looked to the future and glorified the new

The Impact of Darwinism:

* Protestant relig. Adopted and evolution became enshrined in schools and universities and few questioned its validity
* Contributed to deep schism between the new culture of the city and a more trad. Province. Culture in rural areas
* Rise of liberal protest. With organized fundamentalism that rejected evolution
* William Graham Sumner and others advocated Darwinism in justification for their position in urban life
* Pragmatism: William James, Perice, and Dewey said to rely for guidance not on inherited ideals and moral principles but on the test of scientific inquiry; no idea or inst. Was valid, they claimed, unless it worked and unless it stood the test of experience
* Economists like Ely and Patten argued for a more active and pragmatic use of scientific discipline and to apply scientific method to the solution of social and polit. Problems
* Anthropology: to begin examining other cultures like the American Indians

Toward Universal Schooling:

* Free public primary and secondary education; benefited from the morill land grant act
* Education for women: Cornell and Wesleyan began to admit women and Mount Holyoke became a college