Chapter 15 Section 2

People on the Move

Immigrants’ Hopes and Dreams

- Between 1865 and 1920, close to 20 million people entered the country.
- Some dreamed of getting rich or securing free land through the Homestead Act; others wanted personal freedoms.

Crossing the Ocean

- By 1900, steamships could cross the Atlantic in one week.
- Most immigrants travelled in steerage, which was relatively cheap.
- Crossing the Pacific took longer, but most still travelled in steerage.

Arriving in America

- In Italy, and economic decline and a parasite that destroyed crops caused many to move to America.
- In Russia, pogroms killed many Jews, causing the czar to limit the rights of Jews. Many immigrated to America.

- About 10 million immigrants arrived between 1865 and 1890 from northwestern and central European countries (Great Britain, Germany, Ireland)
- In the late 1890’s, most immigrants came from central, southern, and eastern Europe and the Middle East.

- Between 1890 and 1920 another 10 million immigrants arrived in the U.S.
- Until the 1880’s, states decided whom to let into the country.
- In 1891, the Office of Superintendent of Immigration was formed to determine who was fit to settle in America.
- More than 70% of all immigrants came through New York City.
**Review**

- How many people immigrated to the U.S between 1865 and 1920?
- What were some reasons why they came here?
- Where did most of the immigrants come from in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s?

**Imigrants From Europe**

- In 1892, the federal government opened a huge reception center for steerage passengers on Ellis Island in New York Harbor.

**Physical Exams**

- In 1892, all new immigrants were required to undergo a physical
- Those who were found to have a contagious disease were quarantined or deported.
- After completing their physical, immigrants showed their documents to officials and collected their baggage.

**Where Immigrants Settled**

- Immigrants often sought to live in communities established by previous settlers from their homelands.
- Employers often took advantage of the newcomers, paying them less than other workers.

**Ghettoes**

- Some urban neighborhoods became ghettos.
- Newly arrived immigrants chose to live near others of their ethnic group because of the comfort of familiar languages and traditions
- Others formed when ethnic groups isolated themselves, in part because of threats from white Americans; still others formed due to restrictive covenants.

**Review**

- Where did most steerage passengers from Europe arrive in America?
- What process did immigrants go through upon their arrival?
- Where did immigrants settle when they came to America?
- Why were ghettos formed?
**Immigrants From Asia**

- Most immigrants who entered on the west coast came from Asia, especially China or Japan.

**Chinese Excluded**

- In the mid 1800's, American railroad companies recruited about a quarter of a million Chinese workers.
- They had to work for their companies until they paid the cost of their passage and upkeep.
- Many tended to live in their own communities.

**Japanese Restricted**

- Labor unions fought to exclude Chinese immigrants because they accepted low wages.
- Some groups claimed that Asians were physically and mentally inferior to white Americans.

- Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, prohibiting Chinese laborers from entering the country.
- In 1910, the federal government built an immigration center on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay.

**Japanese Restricted**

- Most early Japanese immigrants came from Hawaii.
- By 1920, 200,000 Japanese had arrived in the U.S.

- In 1906, San Francisco's school board ruled that all Chinese, Japanese, and Korean children should go to separate schools.
- The Japanese government claimed this violated a treaty.
- In 1907, Theodore Roosevelt reached a compromise called the Gentlemen's Agreement, calling on San Francisco to end its policy and Japan to not give passports to laborers.
Immigrants From Mexico

- In 1902, Congress passed the Newlands National Reclamation Act, turning millions of acres of desert into farmland.
- Employers hired Mexicans to work on farms and ranches.
- About 50,000 Mexicans headed north between 1900 and 1910.
- During the Mexican Revolution and civil war, thousands more came to the U.S.

Review

- What was the Chinese Exclusion Act? Why was it passed?
- What was the Gentlemen’s Agreement?
- Why did many Mexicans come to the United States?