

The Challenges of Urbanization

Immigrants Settle in Cities

- Industrialization led to **urbanization**, or growth of cities
- Most immigrants settle in cities because of get cheap housing and factory jobs
- By 1910, immigrant families made up more than half of the total population in 18 cities.
- **Americanization Movement** – purpose was to assimilate people into main culture
- Campaign was sponsored by the government and concerned citizens.
- Schools, voluntary groups teach citizenship skills
 - English, American history, cooking, etiquette
- Many immigrants refused to Americanize and abandon their traditions. Ethnic communities provide social support and a sense of home.

Migration from Country to City

- Farm technology (like McCormick reaper and steel plow) decreased need for laborers so people moved to the cities
- About 200,000 African-Americans in South moved to cities in the North and West to find jobs and escape racial violence
- But African-Americans find segregation and discrimination in North too
- Competition for jobs between African-Americans and white immigrants cause tension

Urban Problems

Housing

- Working-class families lived in houses on outskirts or boarding houses
- Later row houses are built for single families
- Immigrants eventually took over row houses, 2–3 families per house
- **Tenements**—multifamily urban dwellings were very overcrowded and unsanitary
- In 1879, NYC passed laws that set minimum standard for plumbing and ventilation in tenements.
- **Jacob Riis** left Denmark in 1870 at age 21 and found work as a police reporter - his job took him to some of the worst tenements in NYC.
- In 1887, Riis started using flash photography to expose the hardships of NYC's poor.
- In 1890, Riis published *How the Other Half Lives* - a book of photographs and articles on the conditions in NYC's tenements.

JACOB A. RIIS

HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES

WITH 100 PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE RIIS COLLECTION









Transportation

- **Mass transit**—made it possible to move large numbers of people along fixed routes
- Street cars were introduced in San Francisco in 1873 and electric subways in Boston in 1897.
- By the 20th century transit systems linked cities to suburbs



**53 miles
of track
were built
in San
Francisco**

Urban Problems {continued}

Water

- Cities had inadequate or no piped water and indoor plumbing was rare
- In places like NYC residents had to collect water in pails from faucets on the street and heat it for bathing.
- Diseases like cholera and typhoid fever were common because of
- Filtration was introduced in the 1870s and chlorination in 1908

Sanitation

- Streets were full of manure, open gutters, factory smoke, and trash
- Contractors were hired to sweep streets, collect garbage, and clean outhouses
 - often do not do job properly
- By 1900 cities had developed sewer lines and created sanitation departments



Urban Problems {continued}

Crime

- As population grew thieves flourished
- NYC organized the first full-time, salaried police force in 1844.
- But early police forces too small to be effective

Fire

- Cities were full of fire hazards: limited water, wood houses, candles, kerosene heaters
- Most firefighters were volunteers and not always available
- Cincinnati, Ohio established the first the nation's first paid fire department in 1853.
- By 1900 most cities had full-time, professional fire departments
- Fire sprinklers (1874), non-flammable building materials, like brick, stone, or concrete made cities safer

Fire - Enemy of the City

The Great Chicago Fire – October 7 - 10, 1871

- The fire burned for over 24 hours
- An estimated 300 people died.
- 100,000 were left homeless
- More than 3 square miles of the city center was destroyed
- Property loss was estimated at \$200 million
- 17,500 buildings were destroyed

San Francisco Earthquake – April 1906

- Magnitude was 7.9 and lasted 28 seconds; fire burned for 4 days
- An estimated 1,000 people died
- Over 200,000 were left homeless
- Fire swept through 5 square miles of the city
- Property loss was at \$500 million
- 28,000 buildings were destroyed



SUPPOSED CAUSE OF THE CHICAGO FIRE. MRS. O'LEARY AND HER COW.





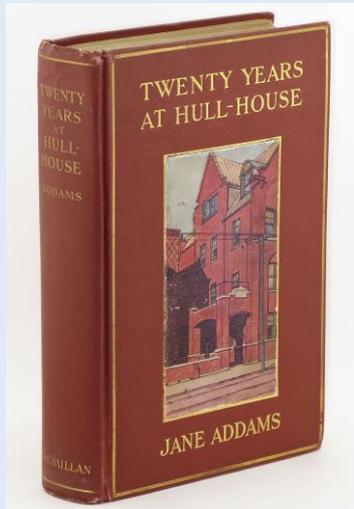


**80% of
San Francisco
was
destroyed**

The Settlement House Movement

- Social welfare reformers worked to relieve urban poverty
- **Social Gospel Movement**— preached salvation through service to poor
- **Settlement Houses** were community centers in slums that aimed to help immigrants
- Run by middle-class-college-educated women, they:
 - provide educational classes (English, health, painting), cultural, and social services
 - sent visiting nurses to the sick
 - helped with personal, job, and financial problems
- **Jane Addams** founded Hull House with Ellen Gates Starr in 1889 in Chicago
- By 1910 about 400 settlement houses were operating across the country.

- During a trip to England, Jane Addams visited Toynbee Hall, the first Settlement House.
- Addams was also an antiwar activist, a spokesperson for racial justice, and issues like infant mortality and better care for the aged,
- In 1933 she was a co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize



Published in 1910





**Hull
House
Museum**