

Topic #17 Overview

Main Themes:

1. How the social and economic lure of the city attracted foreign and domestic migrants, and how these newcomers adjusted to urban life.
2. How rapid urban growth forced adaptations to severe problems of government mismanagement, poverty, inadequate housing, and precarious health and safety conditions.
3. How the urban environment served as the locus for new philosophical ideas, fresh approaches to education, rapid expansion in journalism, and a new consumerism.
4. How the new order of urban culture inspired serious writers and artists to render realistic portrayals of the seamy side of city life, while many middle- and upper-class Americans were engaging in expanded forms of leisure and entertainment.

Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. The patterns and processes of urbanization in late-nineteenth-century America.
2. The changes in the pattern of immigration in the late nineteenth century and the impact of global migration.
3. The new economic and social problems created by urbanization.
4. The relationship of both urbanization and immigration to the rise of boss rule.
5. The early rise of mass consumption and its impact on American life, especially for women.
6. The changes in leisure and entertainment opportunities, including organized sports, vaudeville, movies, and other activities.
7. The main trends in literature and art during the Gilded Age and early twentieth century.
8. The impact of Darwinian evolution on the intellectual life of America.
9. The profound new developments in American educational opportunities.