

# Ch 15 Immigrants and Urbanization

## Section 1 The New Immigrants

### Through the “Golden Door”

#### Millions of Immigrants

- Some immigrants seek better lives; others temporary jobs

#### Europeans

- 1870–1920, about 20 million Europeans arrive in U.S.
- Many flee religious persecution: Jews driven from Russia by pogroms
- Population growth results in lack of farmland, industrial jobs
- Reform movements, revolts influence young who seek independent lives

#### Chinese and Japanese

- About 300,000 Chinese arrive; earliest one attracted by gold rush
  - work in railroads, farms, mines, domestic service, business
- Japanese work on Hawaiian plantations, then go to West Coast
  - by 1920, more than 200,000 on West Coast

#### The West Indies and Mexico

- About 260,000 immigrants from West Indies; most seek industrial jobs
- Mexicans flee political turmoil; after 1910, 700,000 arrive
- National Reclamation Act creates farmland, draws Mexican farmers

#### Life in the New Land

##### A Difficult Journey

- Almost all immigrants travel by steamship, most in steerage

##### Ellis Island

- **Ellis Island**—chief U.S. immigration station, in New York Harbor
- Immigrants given physical exam by doctor; seriously ill not admitted
- Inspector checks documents to see if meets legal requirements
- 1892–1924, about 17 million immigrants processed at Ellis Island

##### Angel Island

- **Angel Island**—immigrant processing station in San Francisco Bay
- Immigrants endure harsh questioning, long detention for admission

##### Cooperation for Survival

- Immigrants must create new life: find work, home, learn new ways
- Many seek people who share cultural values, religion, language
  - ethnic communities form
- Friction develops between “hyphenated” Americans, native-born

##### Immigration Restrictions

##### The Rise of Nativism

- **Melting pot**—in U.S. people blend by abandoning native culture
  - immigrants don’t want to give up cultural identity
- **Nativism**—overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
- Nativists believe Anglo-Saxons superior to other ethnic groups
- Some object to immigrants’ religion: many are Catholics, Jews
- 1897, Congress passes literacy bill for immigrants; Cleveland vetoes
  - 1917, similar bill passes over Wilson’s veto

##### Anti-Asian Sentiment

- Nativism finds foothold in labor movement, especially in West

- fear Chinese immigrants who work for less
- Labor groups exert political pressure to restrict Asian immigration
- 1882, **Chinese Exclusion Act** bans entry to most Chinese

#### **The Gentlemen's Agreement**

- Nativist fears extend to Japanese, most Asians in early 1900s
  - San Francisco segregates Japanese schoolchildren
- **Gentlemen's Agreement**—Japan limits emigration
  - in return, U.S. repeals segregation