

Ch 15 Section 2 The Challenges of Urbanization

Urban Opportunities

Immigrants Settle in Cities

- Industrialization leads to **urbanization**, or growth of cities
- Most immigrants settle in cities; get cheap housing, factory jobs
- **Americanization movement**—assimilate people into main culture

Migration from Country to City

- Farm technology decreases need for laborers; people move to cities
- Many African Americans in South lose their livelihood
- 1890–1910, move to cities in North, West to escape racial violence
- Find segregation, discrimination in North too
- Competition for jobs between blacks, white immigrants causes tension

Urban Problems

Housing

- Working-class families live in houses on outskirts or boardinghouses
- Later, row houses built for single families
- Immigrants take over row houses, 2–3 families per house
- **Tenements**—multifamily urban dwellings, are overcrowded, unsanitary

Transportation

- **Mass transit**—move large numbers of people along fixed routes
- By 20th century, transit systems link city to suburbs

Water

- 1860s cities have inadequate or no piped water, indoor plumbing rare

Sanitation

- Streets: manure, open gutters, factory smoke, poor trash collection
- Contractors hired to sweep streets, collect garbage, clean outhouses
 - often do not do job properly
- By 1900, cities develop sewer lines, create sanitation departments

Crime

- As population grows, thieves flourish, early police forces too small to be effective

Fire

- Fire hazards: limited water, wood houses, candles, kerosene heaters
- Most firefighters volunteers, not always available
- 1900, most cities have full-time, professional fire departments
- Fire sprinklers, non-flammable building materials make cities safer

Reformers Mobilize

The Settlement House Movement

- Social welfare reformers work to relieve urban poverty
- **Social Gospel movement**—preaches salvation through service to poor
- **Settlement houses**—community centers in slums, help immigrants
- Run by college-educated women, they:
 - provide educational, cultural, social services
 - send visiting nurses to the sick
 - help with personal, job, financial problems
- **Jane Addams** founds Hull House with Ellen Gates Starr in 1889