**Chapter 18**

The Age of the City

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Eighteen should enable the student to understand:**

1. The patterns and process of urbanization in late-nineteenth-century America.
2. The changes in the pattern of immigration in the late nineteenth century.
3. The new economic and social problems created by urbanization.
4. The relationships of both urbanization and immigration to the ri99se 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 and the growth of mass-culture opportunities including organized sports, vaudeville, movies, and other activities.
7. The main trends in literature and art during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
8. The impact of the Darwinian theory of evolution on the intellectual life of America.
9. The profound new developments in America education opportunities.

**Chapter 18**

**Pertinent Questions**

**The Urbanization of America**

1. What were the attractions of the city that led to population expansion? What were the main sources of urban growth?

2. What were the factors that inspired the exodus of southern African Americans into cities, especially northern cities, that began in the late nineteenth century?

3. How did the foreign immigrants of the 1890s and later differ from most of the earlier immigrants? What attracted them to the United States? (See Chapter Seventeen also.)

4. What social institutions and community actions helped facilitate immigrant adjustment to urban life in America? What were the barriers? Which groups seemed to adapt better than most others?

5. Describe the desire for assimilation and the strains it often caused. In general, how did native-born Americans regard assimilation?

6. What efforts were made to restrict immigration in the late nineteenth century? What ethnic group and other types of immigrants were specifically restricted?

**The Urban Landscape**

7. What inspired the move toward the creation of expanded public spaces and public buildings in large American cities? What were the lasting legacies of this impulse?

8. What led to the development of residential suburbs around big cities?

9. Contrast the residential pattern of the working class and the poor with that of the wealthy and moderately well-to-do. What was big city life like for the poor?

10. How did urban mass transit technology evolve from the Civil War ear to the turn of the century?

11. What technological innovations made the development of the skyscraper possible and desirable?

**Strains of Urban Life**

12. How did big cities cope with the urban hazards of fire, disease, and sanitation? What were the environmental implications of dense urban development?

13. What was the typical middle-class attitude toward the problem of widespread urban poverty?

14. How prevalent was violent crime in turn-of the century America? How did cities respond?

15. Explain the factors that contributed to the rise of political machines and their bosses, and describe the typical operation of a political machine. What were the positive as well as the negative aspects of boss rule in large cities?

**The Rise of Mass Consumption**

16. Describe the changes in income and purchasing power of the urban middle and working classes. Who made the greater gains?

17. How did the emergence of mass-market products along with chain stores, mail-order outlets, and large department stores impact the lives of American families, especially women?

**Leisure in the Consumer Society**

18. How did Americans begin to change their attitudes toward leisure and consumption? What factors contributed to this new view? How did the approaches to leisure vary by class?

19. Compare and contrast the rise of baseball with that of football. What other spectator sports became popular as Americans came to enjoy leisure time?

20. What changes were beginning to emerge in women’s sports?

21. What were the main sorts of popular entertainment activities available to urban dwellers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? How did class considerations shape the types of activities enjoyed?

22. Why was the Fourth of July such an important holiday? How was it different in the South?

23. What important changes occurred in journalism and publishing in the decades after the Civil War?

**High Culture in the Age of the City**

24. What issues did the realist novelists explore, and how did they approach them?

25. By the early 1900s what movements in American visual art were becoming evident? How did these movements reflect the contrast between the genteel and modern approaches?

26. How did Darwinism challenge traditional American faith and contribute to the growing schism between cosmopolitan, mostly urban, and traditional, mainly rural, values? (see also Chapter Seventeen on Social Darwinism.)

27. How did the new social science disciplines of economics, sociology, and anthropology impact the intellectual view of contemporary and historic America?

28. Describe the evolution of free public schooling in the United States. What parts of the nation lagged in education?

29. What government and private actions combined to lead to the establishment or significant expansion of universities and colleges after the Civil War?

30. What opportunities for higher education were available to women in this era? What were the distinctive characteristics of the women’s colleges?

# Summary

In the years after the Civil War, America's cities boomed as people left the rural areas of Europe and the United States to seek the jobs and other attractions offered by American cities. The cities' rapid growth caused many problems in housing, transportation, and health. Technological attacks on these problems barely kept pace, and city governments often resorted to boss rule to cope. The booming cities were places of intellectual ferment and cultural change. Urban dwellers found many ways to enjoy increased leisure time. Many Americans wanted to prove to skeptical Europeans that the nation had cultural as well as economic accomplishments to admire. American culture became more uniform through free public education, mass-market journalism, and standardized sports. Higher education, especially new state universities, reached out to a wider market. More and more women attended college in coeducational and single sex institutions.

**The above material was taken from the following McGraw-Hill website: http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/history/usa/brink/solc/index.htm**