

Chapter 25:

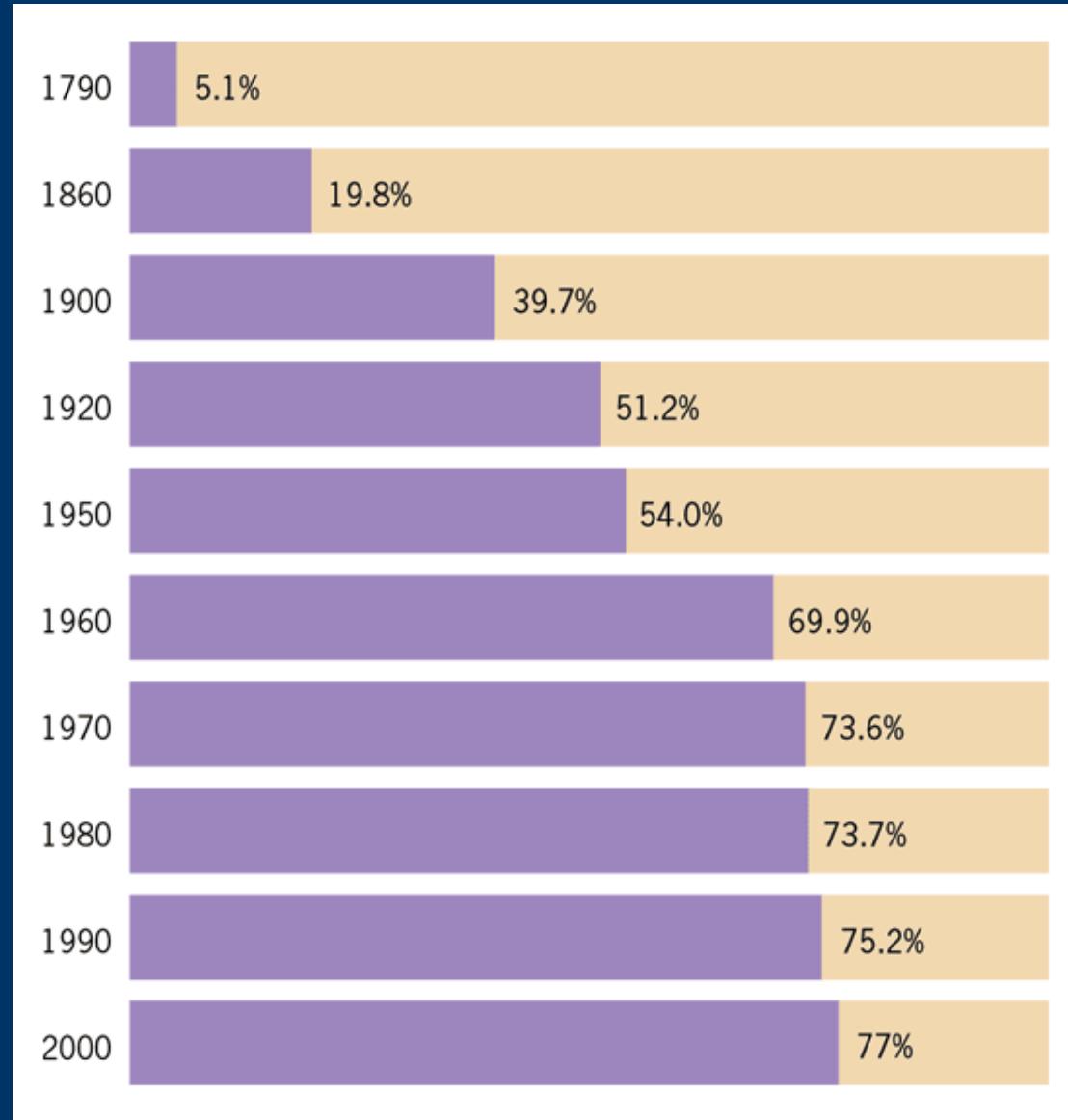
**“America Moves to
the City”**

1865 - 1900

The Move to the Cities

- After Civil War, Americans moved to the city in huge numbers
 - New industrial jobs
 - Immigration from Europe
 - New agricultural technology that pushed people off farms

The Shift to the City



The Urban Frontier

- Huge cities grew up in US
 - New York, Chicago, Philadelphia with over 1 million people
 - New York 2nd largest city in world (behind London)

Urban Growth, 1870 – 1900

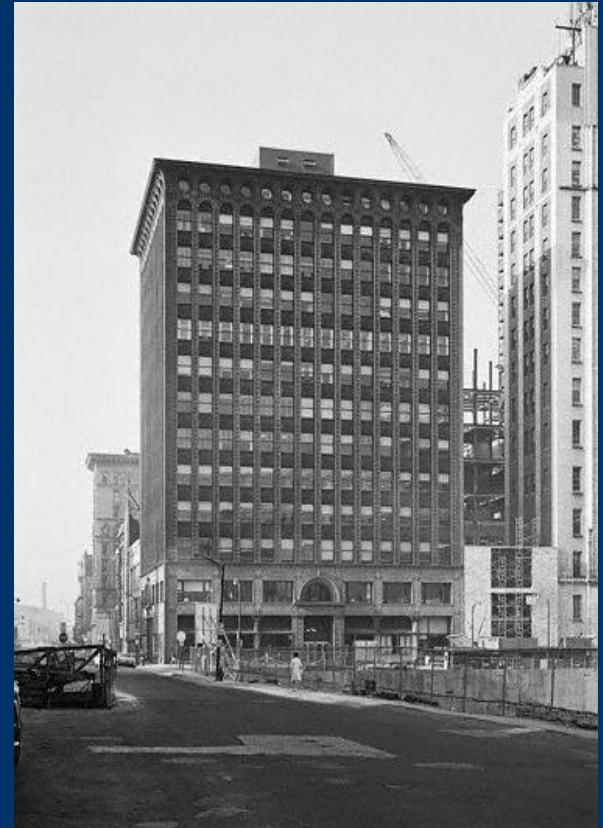
TABLE. 19-1 Urban Growth: 1870-1900

<i>City</i>	<i>1870 Population</i>	<i>1900 Population</i>	<i>Percent Increase</i>
Boston	250,525	560,892	123.88
Chicago	298,977	1,698,575	468.12
Cincinnati	216,239	325,902	50.71
Los Angeles	5,728	102,479	1,689.08
Milwaukee	74,440	285,315	299.37
New Orleans	191,418	287,104	49.98
New York	1,478,103	3,437,202	132.54
Philadelphia	1,293,697	647,022	99.94
Pittsburgh	321,616	86,075	273.64
Portland	90,426	8,293	990.38
Richmond	51,038	85,050	66.64
San Francisco	149,473	342,782	129.32
Seattle	1,107	237,194	21,326.73

Source: *Thirteenth Census of the United States* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1913).

The Urban Frontier

- Skyscrapers allowed more people to pack into cities
 - Perfected by architect ***Louis Sullivan***, using steel-framed construction
 - Invention of elevators allowed skyscrapers to become practical



The Urban Frontier

- City was broken into radiating circles
 - Center of city – business district
 - Next ring – workers housing around factories and warehouses
 - Outer ring – suburban housing for wealthy
 - Rings connected by mass-transit streetcars and railroads
 - Large cities replaced “walking city” where boundaries set by how far commuter could walk

The Urban Frontier

- Many people from rural America drawn into cities
 - Not only for jobs, but for the more glamorous and technological city lifestyle
 - Huge department stores (Macy's, Marshall Field's) attracted middle-class shoppers and gave lower-class jobs (mainly to women)

The Urban Frontier

- **New problem of waste disposal**
 - Rural Americans threw little away
 - Reused products; animals (like hogs) ate what little waste there was on the farm
 - Urban Americans generated huge amounts of waste
 - Products came in throw-away containers
 - Clothing went out of fashion quickly, necessitating new clothes

The Urban Frontier

- **The dark side of cities**
 - Criminals flourished
 - Sanitary facilities did not keep pace with need
 - Dirty water, uncollected garbage, dirty people, waste from animals led to horrible stench

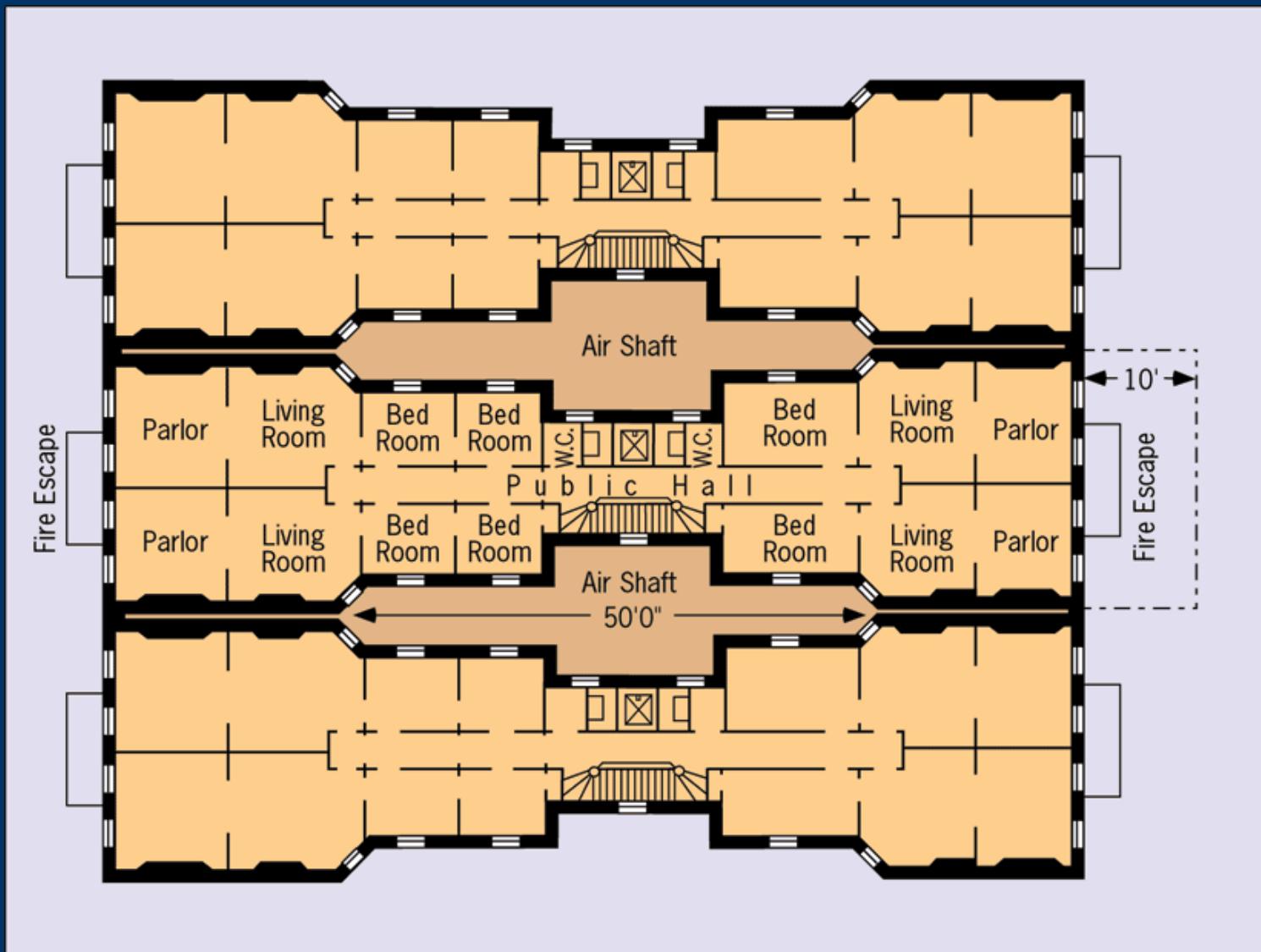
The Urban Slum



The Urban Frontier

- **City slums**
 - Crowded, filthy, rat-infested section of cities where poorest people lived
 - ***Dumbbell tenements***
 - 7 – 8 stories high, with air shaft in middle providing ventilation of filthy air
 - Families crammed into each floor
 - Many died of contagious diseases from the cramped, unhealthy conditions

Dumbbell Tenement



Overcrowding In New York City



A Typical Tenement



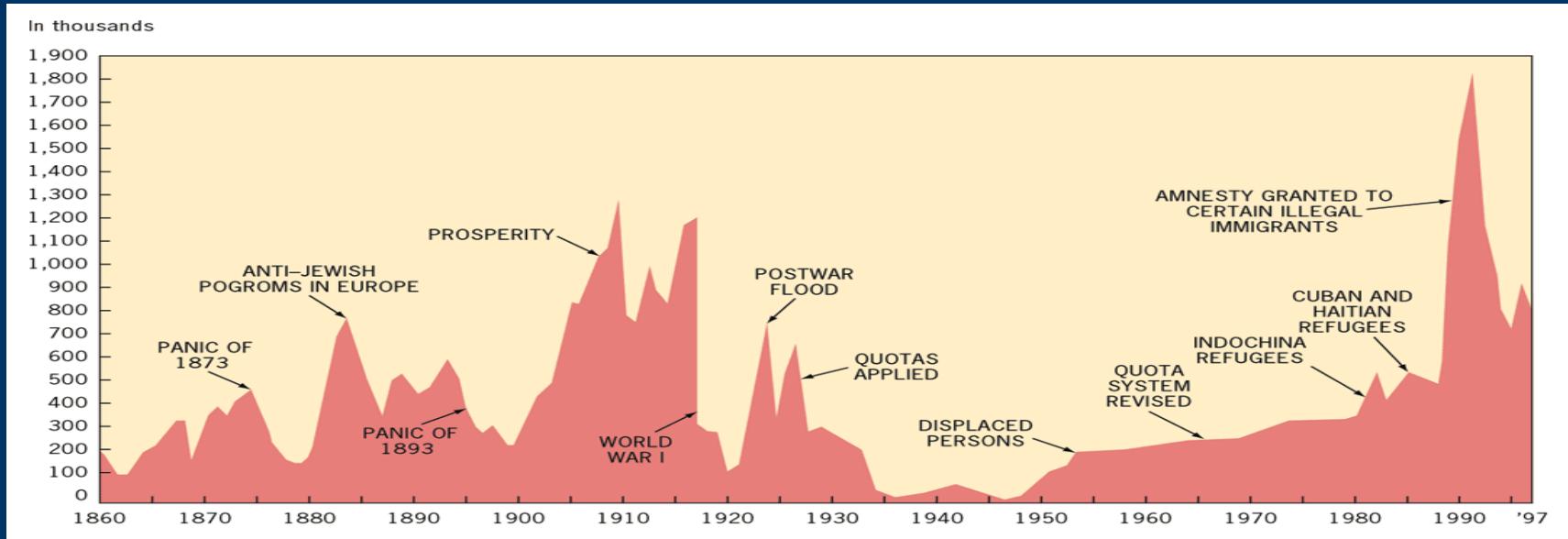
The Urban Frontier

- **Escaping the slums**
 - Slums were reserved for newcomers (immigrants) to US
 - Most hard-working people were able to escape slums
 - Immigrants moved into neighborhoods with people of their ethnicity or religion
 - Wealthy people left the cities and moved to suburbs



The New Immigration

- Immigrants from Europe poured into US
 - 1850s to 1870s – about 2 million per decade
 - By 1880s – about 5 million per decade entered US



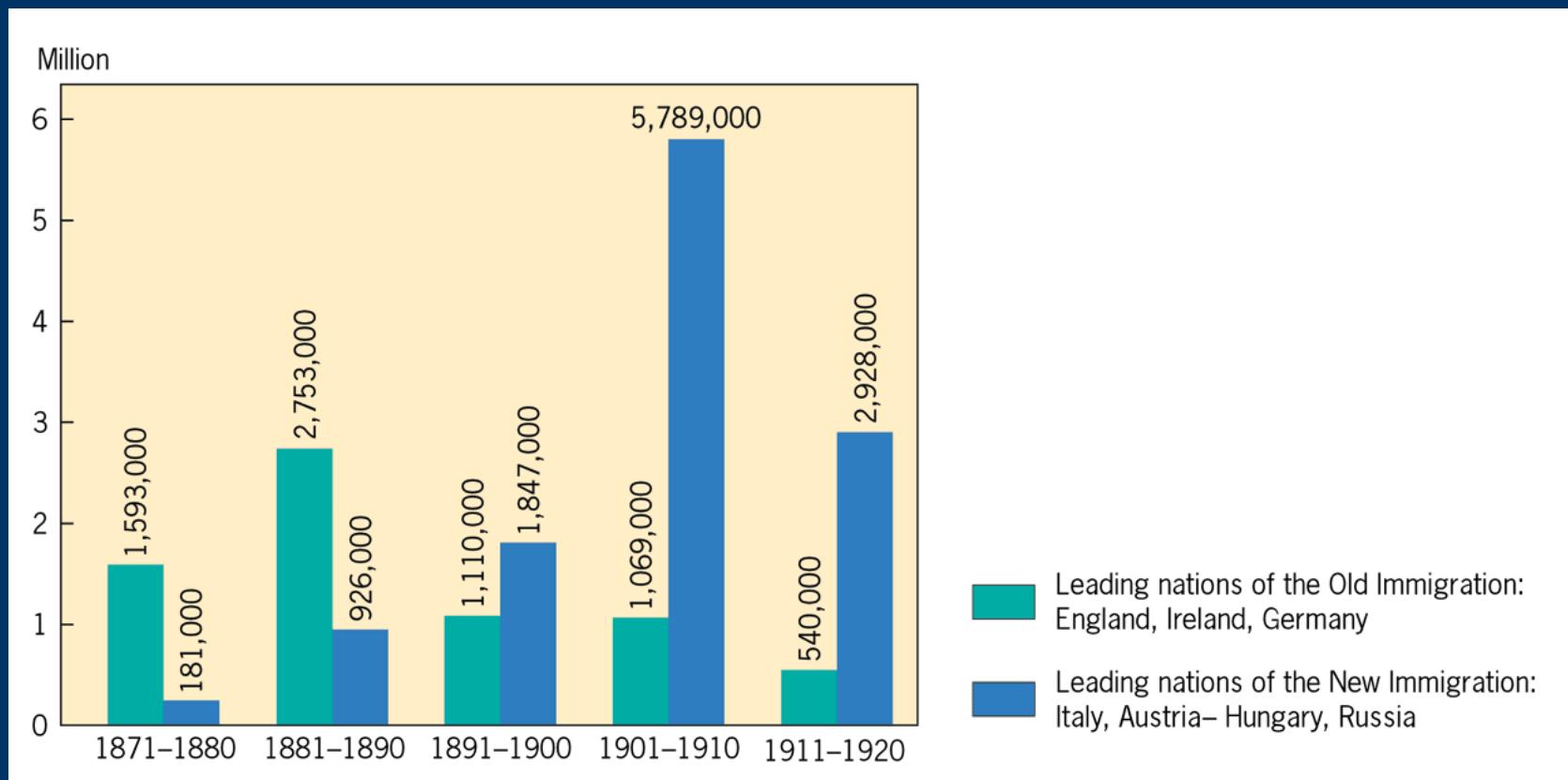
The New Immigration

- Through 1870s – most immigrants came from Britain and Western Europe (mainly Germany and Scandinavia)
 - Usually white Anglo-Saxons, Protestant (except for Catholic Irish and some Catholic Germans)
 - Generally had high literacy rates and experience with democratic government
 - Fit well into American society as farmers

The New Immigration

- After 1880s – New Immigrants came from southern and eastern Europe
 - Italians, Croats, Slovaks, Greeks, Poles
 - Mainly Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and Jewish
 - Came from autocratic countries, so they were unused to democracy
 - Poor and illiterate peasants who worked in low-skill, low-wage industrial jobs
 - Crowded into poor, ethnic neighborhoods in major eastern cities like New York and Chicago
 - Had much more difficult time assimilating into US

Old and New Immigration (by Decade)



Southern Europe Uprooted

- **Pushes**
 - Rapid population growth in Europe because of food imports from US and cultivation of potato
 - Poverty of displaced farm workers driven from the land by mechanization and food imports from US
 - Overcrowding and joblessness in European cities because of population boom
 - Religious persecution, especially in Russia against the Jews

Southern Europe Uprooted

- Pulls
 - “America letters” sent by immigrants already in US back home, telling of the abundant opportunity
 - US had reputation for political and religious freedom, including freedom from military conscription (forced service)
 - Economic opportunities advertised by American interests
 - Industrialist wanted low-wage labor, railroads wanted buyers for their land grants, states wanted more population, steamship lines wanted people to carry
 - Large steamships and relatively inexpensive one-way passage

Southern Europe Uprooted

- Birds of passage
 - 25% of the immigrants came to work for a few years, save money, and return to Europe

Southern Europe Uprooted

- Europeans who stayed struggled to keep their culture alive
 - Some established separate schools for their children (Catholics and Jews)
 - Foreign-language newspapers
 - Theaters, stores, churches, restaurants serving specific ethnicities
 - Most children eventually rejected their parents' traditions and cultures, becoming part of mainstream America

Reactions to the New Immigration

- Government did little to help new immigrants
 - Federal government weeded out criminals and insane
 - State governments (dominated by rural interests) did even less
 - City governments overwhelmed by job of assimilating huge number of immigrants

Reactions to the New Immigration

- Job of taking care of immigrants went to bosses and political machines
 - In return for immigrants' votes, boss provided jobs on city payroll, housing for newly arrived, gave food and clothes to poor, helped fix small problems with law, and got parks and schools built in immigrant neighborhoods
 - In spite of corruption, bosses gave immigrants needed assistance that no one else did

The City Boss

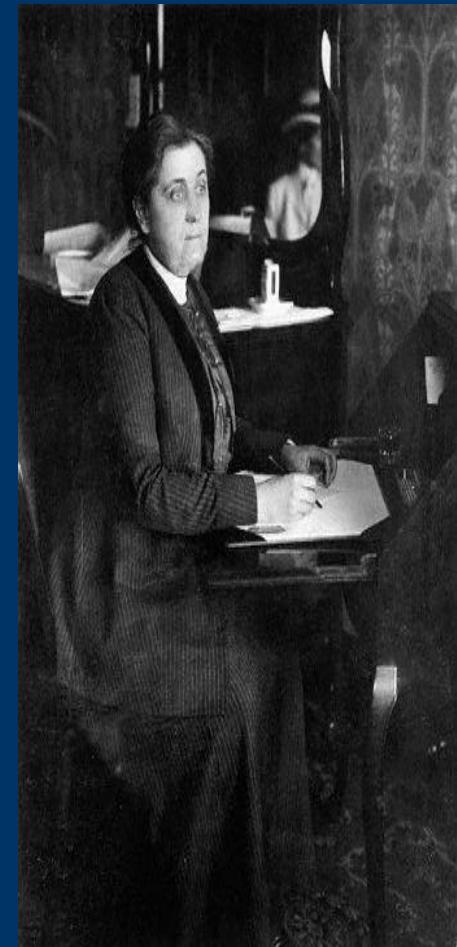


Reactions to the New Immigration

- Social reformers gradually worked to help fix urban problems, including those of immigrants

Reactions to the New Immigration

- *Jane Addams*
 - Born in wealthy Illinois family
 - One of first women to get college education
 - Obtained Hull mansion in Chicago in 1889
 - Established Hull House, most famous of the settlement houses



Reactions to the New Immigration

- **The settlement house movement**
 - Located in poor, ethnic neighborhoods in big cities
 - Provided instruction in English
 - Taught immigrants how to survive in US
 - Provided child care for working mothers
 - Hosted cultural activities

Reactions to the New Immigration

- Other women followed Addams' lead, forming settlement houses in big cities
- Settlement houses became centers of women's activism for social reform
 - For instance, women lobbied for laws protecting women and children workers
- Some women entered into careers in social work after working in settlement houses

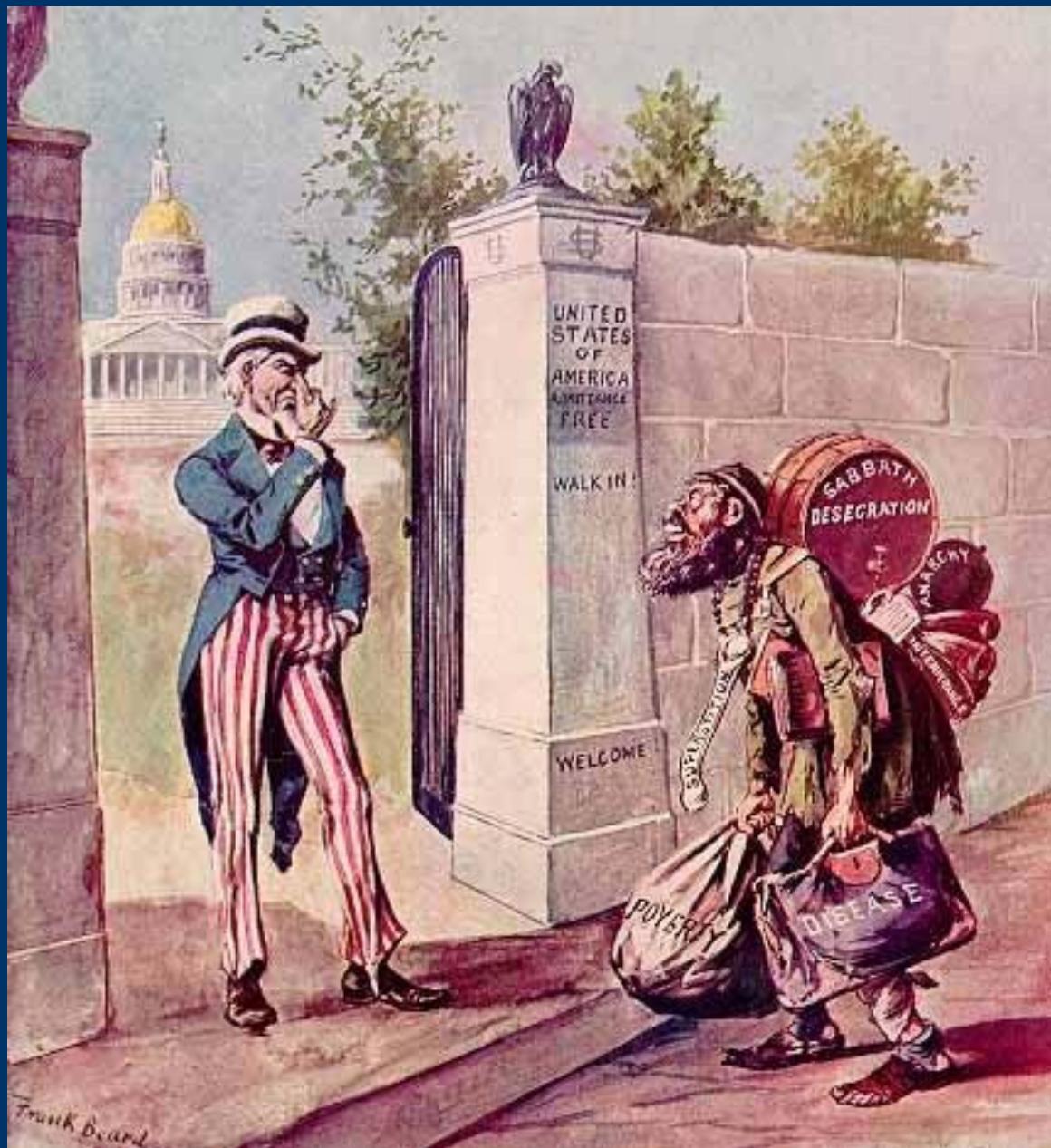
Reactions to the New Immigration

- Opportunities for women in the cities
 - 1 million women joined workforce
 - Mostly single women because of taboo against married women working
 - Women's jobs depended on race, ethnicity, class
 - Black women worked as domestic servants
 - Native-born women worked as social workers, secretaries, department store clerks, telephone operators
 - Immigrant women worked in particular industries (depending on ethnicity of women)
 - Long hours, low pay, limited advancement
 - Most women gave most of their earnings to help support their family
 - Kept some spending money that gave them some independence

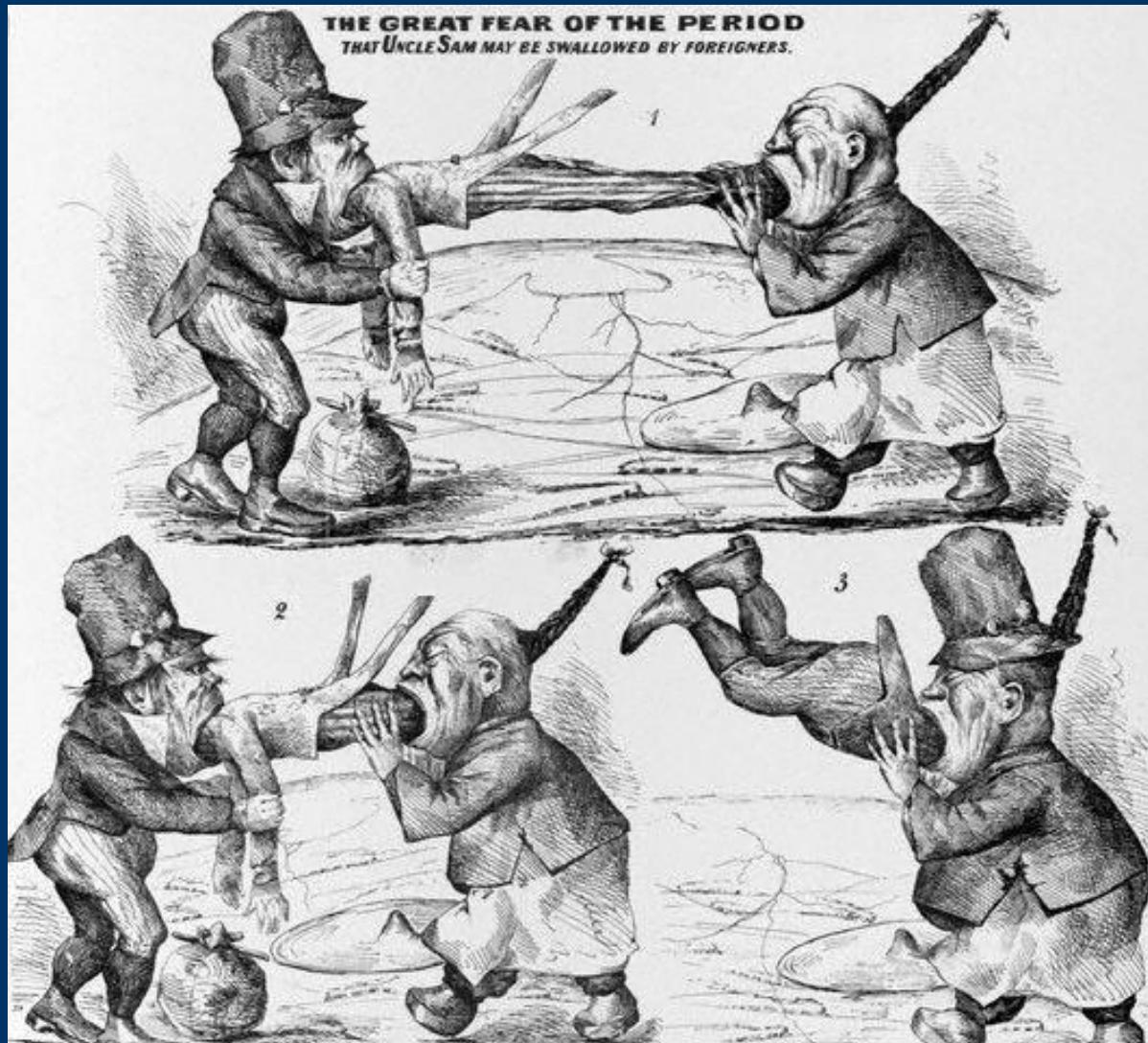
Narrowing the Welcome Mat

- Nativism had been aroused in 1840s and 1850s against Irish and German
- 1880s – stronger anti-foreignism against New Immigrants aroused
 - Feared foreigners (with a higher birthrate than native-born Americans) would outbreed them
 - Feared mixture of foreigners with Anglos, “mongrelizing” American race
 - Blamed immigrants for corruption of city governments
 - Workers in unions attacked immigrants’ willingness to work for “starvation” wages
 - Immigrants blamed for radical ideas (socialism, communism, anarchism)

Uncle Sam Refuses Entrance to a Foreign “Radical”



The Great Fear of the Period That Uncle Sam May be Swallowed by Foreigners



Narrowing the Welcome Mat

- New anti-foreign organizations formed
 - American Protective Association (APA)
 - Formed in 1887; over 1 million members
 - Urged voting against Catholic candidates

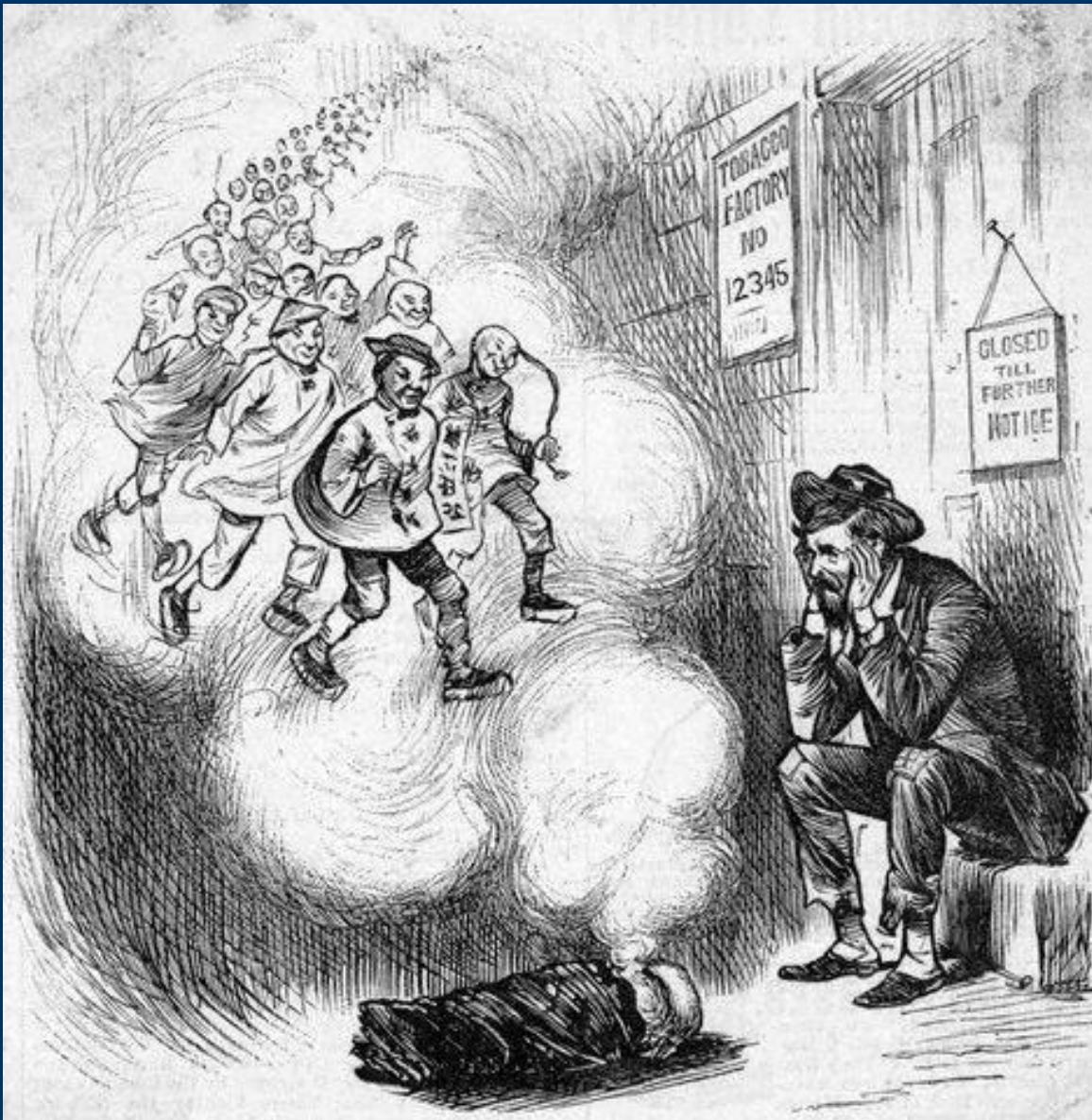
Narrowing the Welcome Mat

- **Unions supported anti-immigrant causes**
 - Immigrants used as strikebreakers
 - Immigrants pushed wages down
 - Immigrants difficult to unionize because of language barrier
 - If American business got protection (through tariffs), American workers should get protection (through immigration restrictions)

Narrowing the Welcome Mat

- 1882 – poor, criminals, convicts banned
 - 1882 – Chinese (as a race) completely banned by Congress
- 1885 – importation of foreign workers under contract (with US businesses who would pay them much less than American workers) banned

Workers Feared that Chinese Immigrants Would Steal Their Jobs

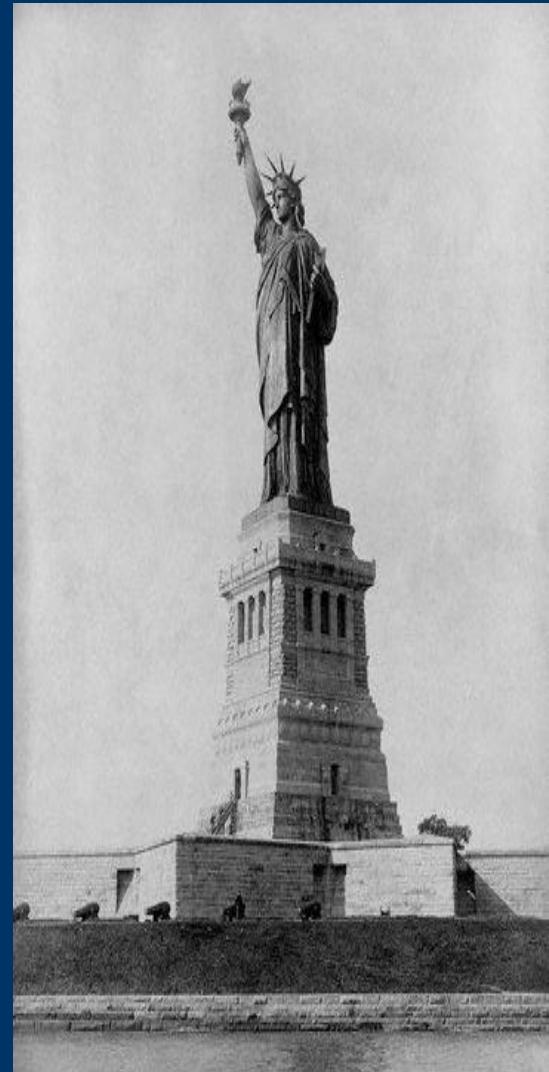


Narrowing the Welcome Mat

- Further laws in late 1880s banned insane, polygamists, prostitutes, alcoholics, anarchists, those carrying contagious diseases
- Literacy test passed in 1917
 - Supported by nativists because it favored Old Immigrants over New
 - Had been vetoed by 3 previous presidents because literacy was test of opportunity, not intelligence

Narrowing the Welcome Mat

- 1886 – Statue of Liberty erected in New York Harbor
 - Poem by ***Emma Lazarus*** on base:
 - “Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free, The wretched
refuse of your teeming shore.”
 - Nativists wanted to ban the kinds of people described in the poem



Looking Backward



Churches Confront the Urban Challenge

- Older Protestant churches (and leaders) responded slowly (or not at all) to new challenges in cities
 - Churches did not have answers for rampant corruption, greed, and economic injustice
 - Cynicism among poor caused by fact that the big industrialists (Rockefeller, Morgan) were religious, while they abused the poor

Churches Confront the Urban Challenge

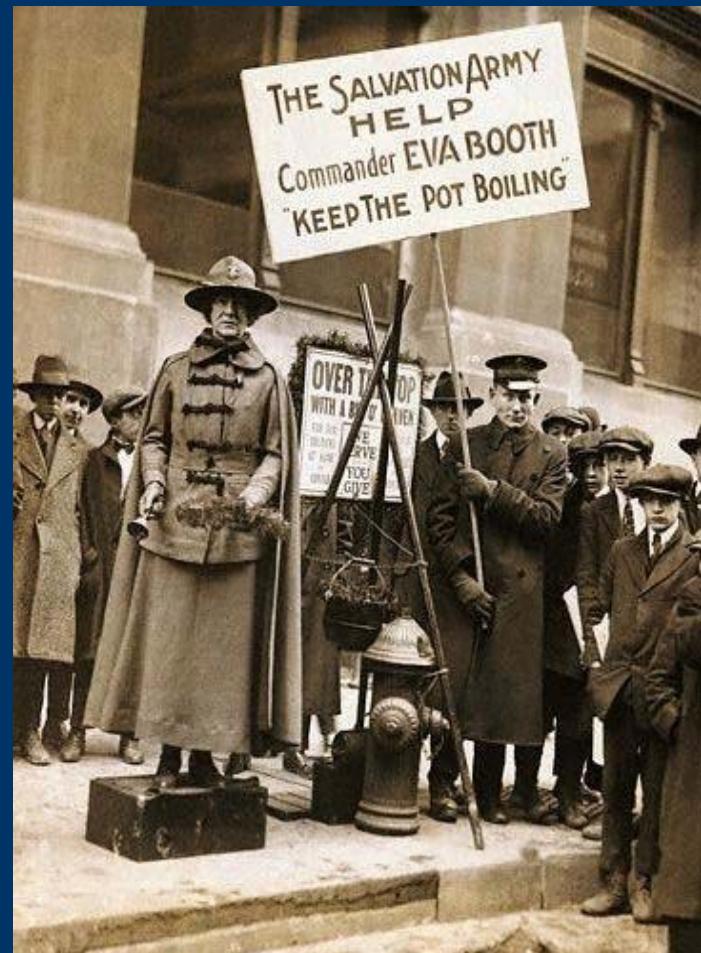
- Roman Catholicism and Jewish faiths gained strength from New Immigration
 - 1900 – Roman Catholic became largest single denomination

Churches Confront the Urban Challenge

- 2 new faiths emerged in late 1800s
 - Salvation Army
 - Church of Christ, Scientist (Christian Science)

Churches Confront the Urban Challenge

- **Salvation Army**
 - Came to US in 1879 from England
 - Practical religion that gave much to poor



Churches Confront the Urban Challenge

- Church of Christ, Scientist
(Christian Science)
 - 1879 – founded by *Mary Baker Eddy*
 - Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures
 - Book in which Eddy (after her own sickness) preached practice of true Christianity would cure illness

Churches Confront the Urban Challenge

- Young Men's (Women's) Christian Associations (YMCA / YWCA)
 - Combination of physical education with religious instruction

Darwin Disrupts the Churches

- Late 1800s – many blows to traditional Christianity
 - Books on comparative religion and historical criticism of Bible
 - *On the Origin of Species* (1859) by Charles Darwin

Darwin Disrupts the Churches

- Darwinism
 - Idea that higher forms of life had evolved from lower forms, through random biological mutation and adaptation
 - “*natural selection*”
 - Nature selected organisms for survival or death based on inheritable traits
 - Some traits gave advantages in struggle for life, and therefore better chance to pass those traits on to offspring
 - Explicit rejection of “special creations”, design of each fixed species by divine (supernatural) agency

Darwin Disrupts the Churches

- **Scientists' reaction to Darwinism**
 - Some scientists continued to believe in special creation (by God)
 - By 1875, most scientists came to believe in evolution, although there was disagreement over Darwinism
 - Some believed in Lamarckian evolution (traits developed during life could influence the development of a species)
 - By the 1920s – most scientists had come to accept Darwinism

Darwin Disrupts the Churches

- Religion's reaction to Darwinism
 - At first, many scientists and religionists united in opposing Darwinism
 - After 1875 (when most scientists accepted evolution) churches split into 2 groups
 - Conservative minority firmly behind literal interpretation of Bible (leading to fundamentalism)
 - “**Accommodationists**” did not want to alienate educated believers; reconciled Darwinism with Christianity; did not accept Bible (in its entirety) as history or science

Darwin Disrupts the Churches

- Impact of Darwinism
 - Religious foundations of Americans shaken
 - Efforts of accommodationists kept many Americans in churches
 - Science explained external world instead of religion

The Lust for Learning

- Elementary schools
 - After Civil War, more states made grade school education compulsory
 - Helped also stop some of the worst abuses of child labor, since small children (by law) were to be in school, not factories
 - *Kindergartens* (borrowed from Germany) became more prevalent

A School In New York, 1886



The Lust for Learning

- High schools
 - Before 1880s – public high schools rare; most were private college-prep schools for upper class
 - 1880s to 1900s – free public high schools established, along with free books

The Lust for Learning

- Catholic and parochial (religious) schools
 - Supported by New Immigrants who did not want their children indoctrinated by Protestantism and wanted to preserve their native culture and language

Booker T. Washington and Education for Black People

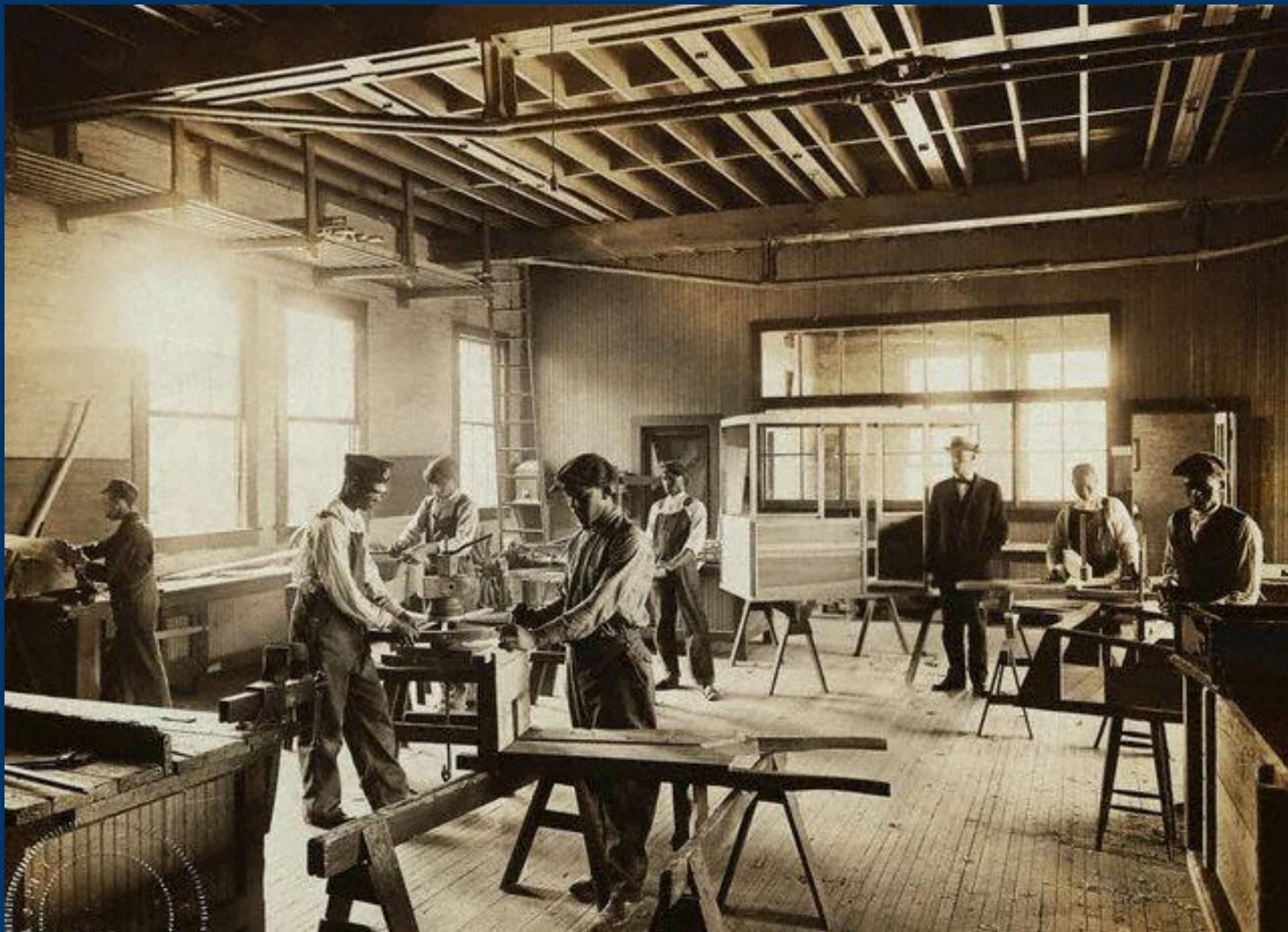
- The problem of education in the South
 - South was far behind rest of US in education
 - Blacks were worst off of all in education
 - 44% illiterate (1900)

Booker T. Washington and Education for Black People

- *Booker T. Washington*
 - 1881 – took lead at industrial and normal school in Tuskegee, Alabama
 - Taught blacks useful trades so that they could gain economic security and self-respect
 - “accommodationist” because he did not challenge white supremacy or racism; accepted lack of social equality with whites
 - Believed social equality (with political and civil rights) would come after achieving economic security



Students Learning Trades at Tuskegee Institute



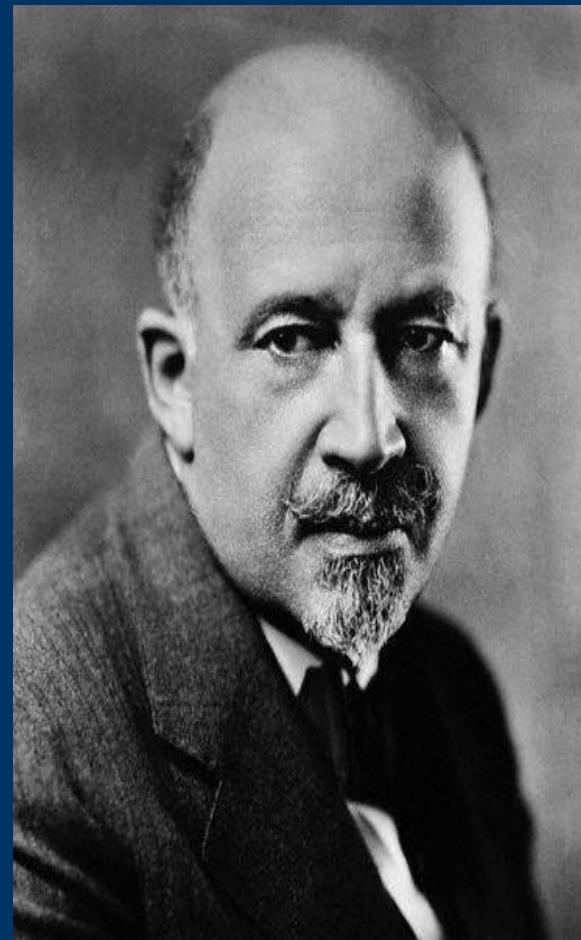
Booker T. Washington and Education for Black People

- *George Washington Carver*
 - Important teacher and researcher at Tuskegee Institute
 - Important agricultural chemist who discovered new uses for peanut (shampoo, axle grease), sweet potato (vinegar), and soybean (paint)



Booker T. Washington and Education for Black People

- *W. E. B. DuBois*
 - Northern black who earned Ph.D. from Harvard (first black to do so)
 - Helped found NAACP in 1910
 - Demanded complete equality for blacks (social and economic), rejecting Washington's gradualism
 - Called for “talented tenth” of blacks to lead



Booker T. Washington and Education for Black People

- Differences between DuBois and Washington can be found in different experiences as Northerner and Southerner
 - Washington saw firsthand the depths and violence of Southern racism
 - DuBois, as Northerner, had experience with racism, but not the bitter hatred and violence of South

The Hallowed Halls of Ivy

- Numbers of colleges and college education increased after Civil War
- **Women's education**
 - Women's colleges built
 - Some colleges open to both genders, especially in Midwest
 - By 1880, every 3rd graduate was a woman
- **Black education**
 - Black colleges built, especially in South
 - Barred from most white schools until 1960s

Degrees Earned by Women, 1890 - 1920

Degrees Earned by Women			
Year	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate
1890	2,682	0	2
1900	5,237	303	23
1910	8,437	558	44
1920	16,642	1,294	93

The Hallowed Halls of Ivy

- ***Morrill Act of 1862***
 - Gave large grants of public land to states for public education
 - Land-grant colleges committed to provide some services to federal government, including military training
- ***Hatch Act of 1887***
 - Extended Morrill Act to provide federal funds for agricultural experiment stations at land-grant colleges
- Morrill and Hatch Acts helped create over 100 colleges and universities in US

The March of the Mind

- Before the Civil War, colleges stressed unity between rational knowledge and (religious) morality
- After the challenge of Darwinism, colleges were forced to separate rational truth (“facts”) from morality (“values”)
 - Colleges only taught knowledge; left morality to religions

The March of the Mind

- Needs of industrialism changed college education
 - Brought out need for practical education
 - Elective system allowed students to choose courses they took

The Appeal of the Press

- **Changes in journalism**
 - *Linotype* (invented 1885)
 - Machine that replaced labor-intensive typesetting by hand
 - Led to more newspapers being printed, but at higher costs (to buy the Linotype machines)
 - Newspapers have to rely on advertising, making them write tamer articles to not offend advertisers
 - Appeal to immigrants and masses (both semiliterate, less educated)
 - Stories about sex, scandal to catch and keep their attention

Postwar Popular Fiction

- “*dime novels*”
 - Cheap books read by millions of Americans
 - Stories about cowboys fighting Indians

Postwar Popular Fiction

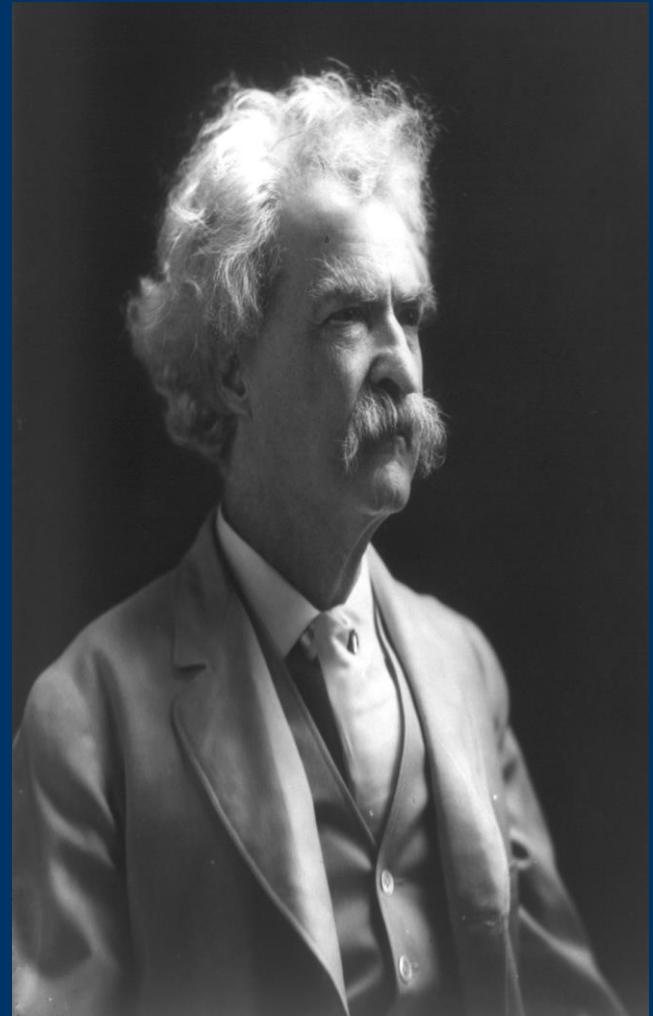
- *Horatio Alger*
 - Sold millions of books with stock formula of the hero triumphantly overcoming obstacles with honesty, virtue, work
- *Walt Whitman*
- *Emily Dickinson*

Literary Landmarks

- Novels changing from romanticism to realism
 - Influenced by industrialism and materialism

Literary Landmarks

- *Mark Twain*
 - Wrote in rough vernacular; revolt against refined New England school of writing
 - *Tom Sawyer* (1876);
Huckleberry Finn (1884)
 - Two very important books about realities of life and racism in the South



Families and Women in the City

- New urban environment was hard on families
 - Divorce rate increased
 - Families became only area where members could go for psychological and emotional satisfaction; some families cracked
 - Birth rate decreased
 - Having many children on farms was good (for more helpers); having many children in cities was bad (too many people to feed, not enough space in tenements)
 - Marriage delayed; birth control practiced

Families and Women in the City

- **Women and the vote**
 - Older generation of feminists had stopped calling for vote while working for black rights
 - 1890 – began work for female suffrage with formation of **National American Woman Suffrage Association**

Families and Women in the City

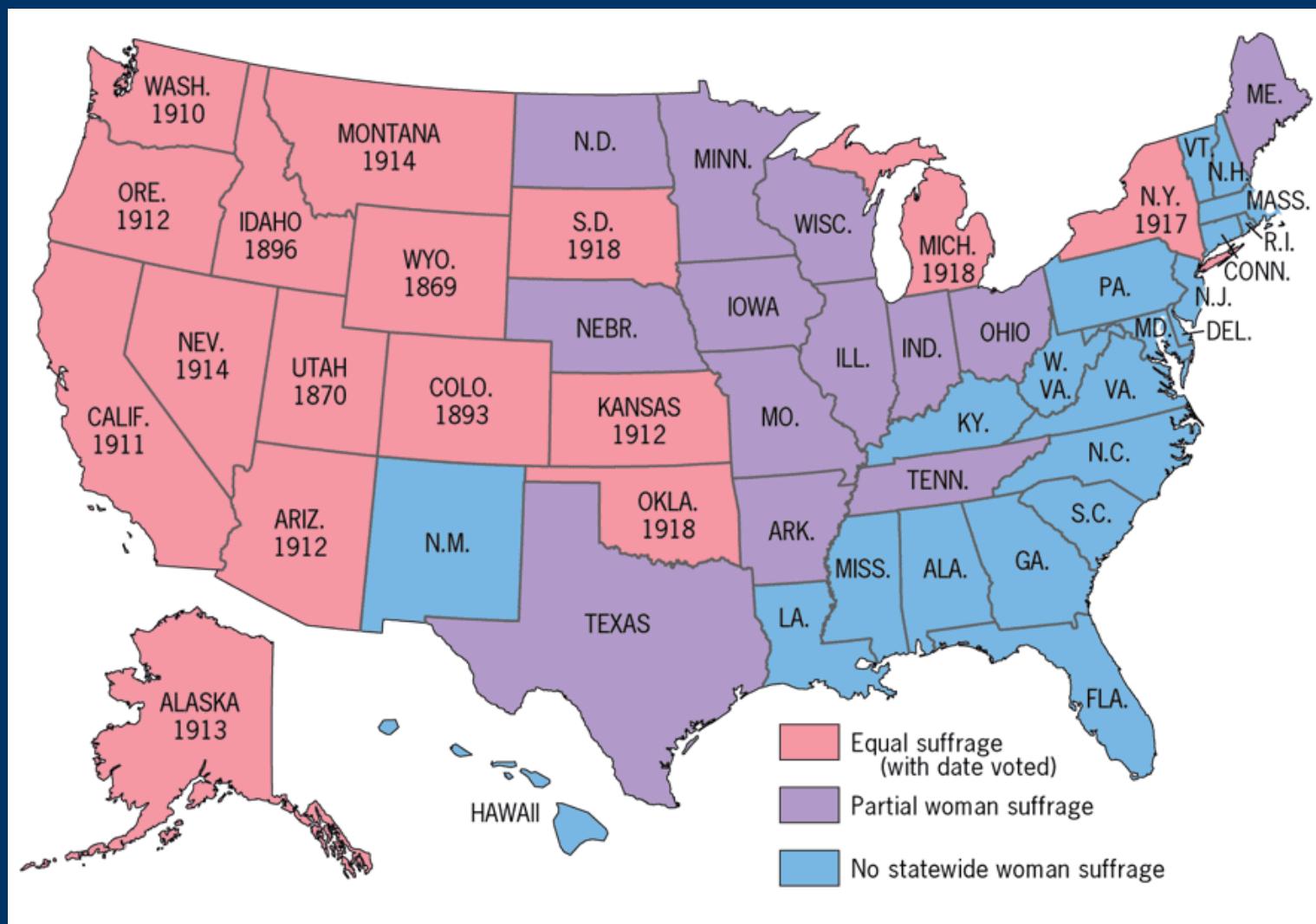
- 1900 – new generation of feminists took lead
 - Carrie Chapman Catt
 - De-emphasized argument that women deserved vote as a right
 - Instead, argued that vote was important to allow women to perform duties as mothers and homemakers



Families and Women in the City

- **Women's gains toward suffrage**
 - States began allowing women to vote in local and sometimes state elections
 - 1869 – Wyoming granted women first unrestricted suffrage right
 - Other states followed
 - Women also gained right to own property and formed women's organizations at the same time

Woman Suffrage Before the Nineteenth Amendment



Prohibition of Alcohol and Social Progress

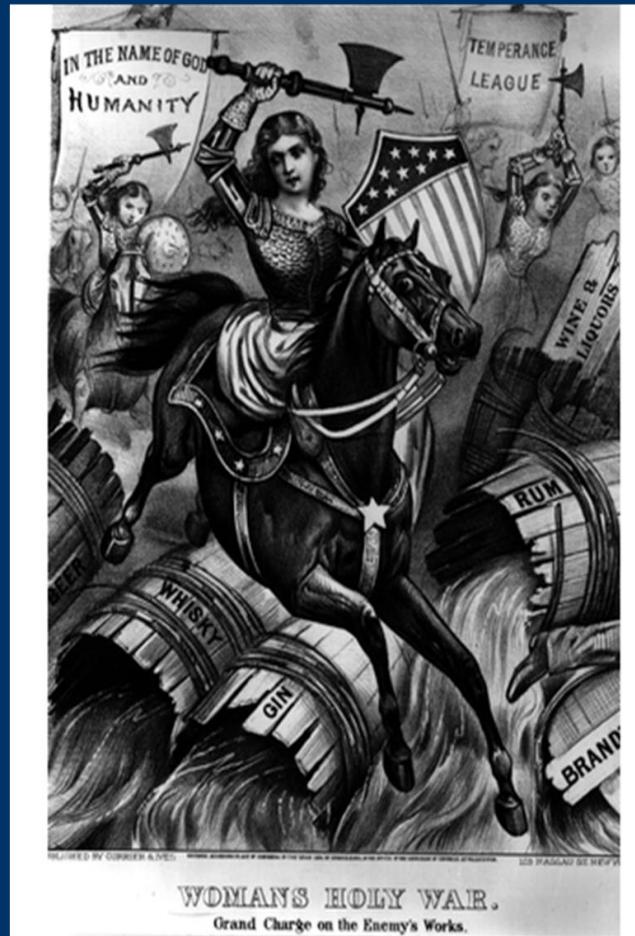
- Alcohol consumption increased after Civil War
 - Immigrant groups and working class accustomed to drinking
 - Anti-prohibitionists charged that prohibition was attack by middle class on the lifestyle of the working class
- Alcohol caused many social problems
 - Families kept poor as father drank away his paycheck

Prohibition of Alcohol and Social Progress

- 1869 – *National Prohibition Party formed*
 - Won a few votes in some presidential elections

Prohibition of Alcohol and Social Progress

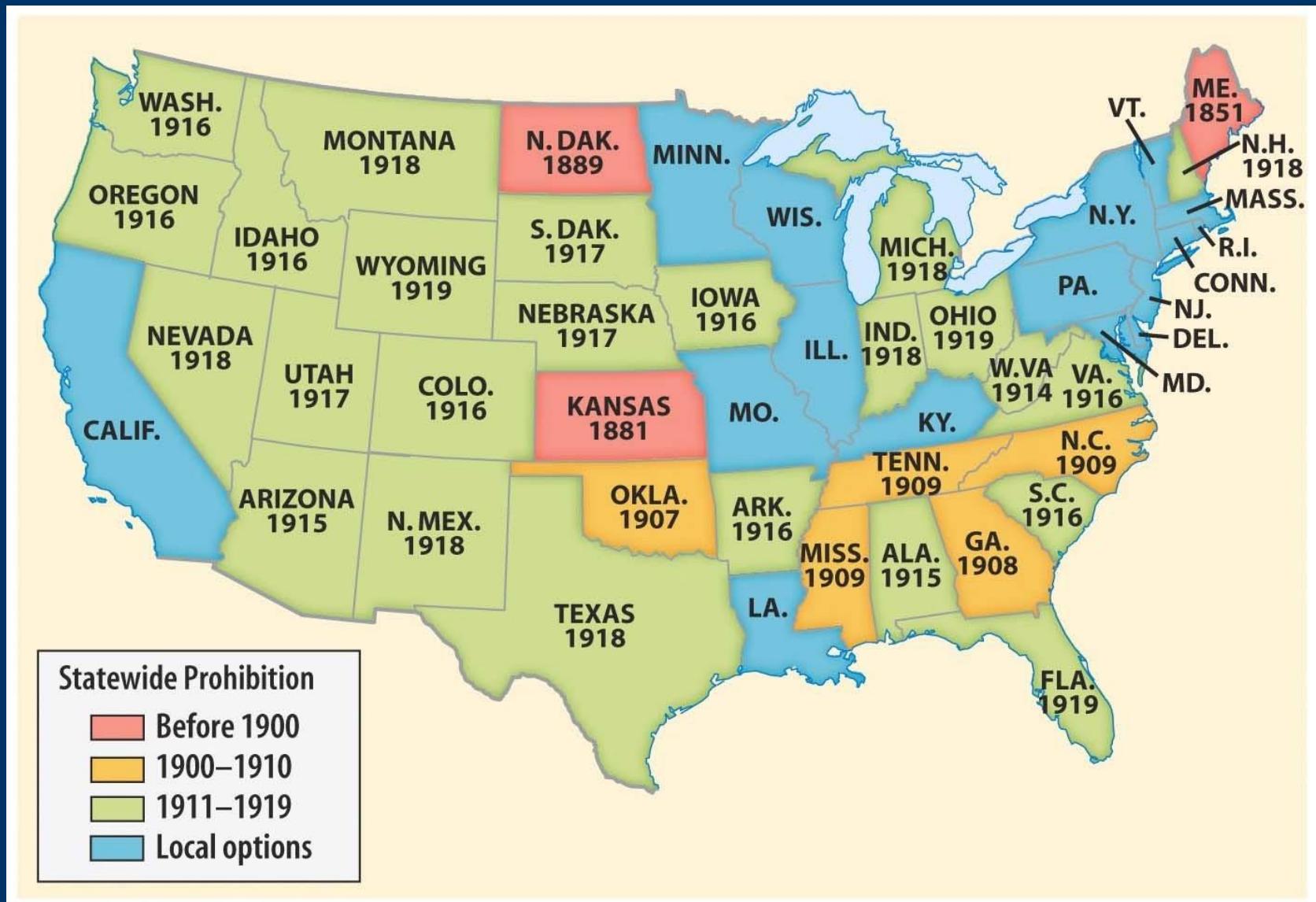
- 1874 – radical *Woman's Christian Temperance Union* (WCTU) formed
 - Led by *Frances E. Willard* and *Carrie A. Nation*
 - Nation's 1st husband had died of alcoholism; used hatchet to smash bottles in saloons
 - Nation's violent tactics brought prohibition into disrepute



Prohibition of Alcohol and Social Progress

- 1893 – *Anti-Saloon League* formed
 - Made important gains in states, banning alcohol
- 1919 – *18th Amendment* banned alcohol nationally
 - Repealed in 1933 after it proved unenforceable

Statewide Prohibition Before 1919



Prohibition of Alcohol and Social Progress

- Other reform societies
 - 1866 – *American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*
 - 1881 – *American Red Cross*
 - Led by **Clara Barton**, nurse from Civil War

The Business of Amusement

- Post Civil War – Americans had more free time with which to pursue recreation

The Business of Amusement

- **Amusement in America**
 - Stage productions
 - Vaudeville
 - Circus (Barnum & Bailey formed in 1881)
 - Wild West shows (headed by “Buffalo Bill” Cody, with Indians, buffalo, cowboys)

The Business of Amusement

- **Sports in America**
 - Baseball became national pastime, with professional leagues
 - Basketball (invented in 1891 by a YMCA instructor)
 - Football became first big spectator sport
 - Boxing (pugilism) gained some respectability