

Immigration/Urban Growth in early 1900s

I. Immigration/Urban Growth

- Early 1900s, cities doubled in population
- Overcrowding was common
- Due to overcrowding, middle class citizens moved to suburbs

A. Who came to the cities?

1) Women and Farmers' children

- Improved technology meant less workers needed on farms
- Factories and mills needed workers
- "Big" city life and entertainment sounded exciting
- Women/children wanted independence

2) Immigrants came from Europe

- Wanted a better life
- Escape religious persecution
- Extremely poor in home country

II. Social Problems

A. Crime increased

- Due to low wages the following existed:
- Murder, robbery, drug abuse, prostitution

B. Poor Housing Conditions

- Overcrowding in apartment buildings
- Disease spread
- Pollution

C. Lack of government help

- Not many police = corruption
- Insufficient firefighting teams

III. Political Problems

A. Politicians controlled business contracts

- Politicians accepted bribes

B. Politicians did favors

- Favors = Votes
- The system of doing favors for votes were known as **Machines**

IV. Industrial/Business Disorder

A. Over time, wages rose slowly but workers could not afford to support their families/themselves

B. Businesses became monopolies (also called **Trusts**)

- Trusts reduce competition
- Reduction in competition generally lowers quality of goods made and prices for those goods can increase
- Trusts are bad for consumers