

The student will demonstrate knowledge of how the nation grew and changed from the end of Reconstruction through the early twentieth century by a) explaining the relationship among territorial expansion, westward movement of the population, new immigration, growth of cities, and the admission of new states to the Union.

Immigrants flock to America

Immigrants began the process of assimilation into what was termed the American “melting pot.”

While often settling in ethnic neighborhoods in the growing cities, they and their children worked hard to learn English, adopt American customs, and become American citizens.

The public schools served an essential role in the process of assimilating immigrants into American society.

Growth of Cities

Chicago **Manufacturing**
Detroit **& transportation**
Cleveland **centers**
Pittsburgh
New York

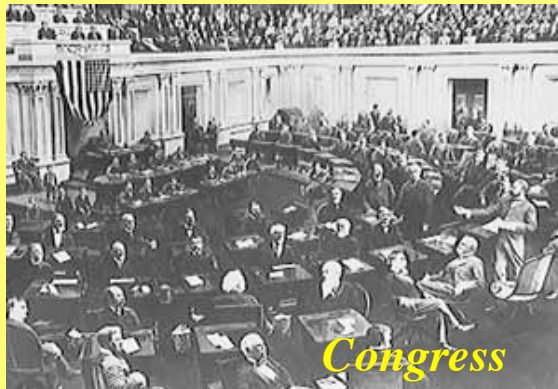
In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, economic opportunity, industrialization, technological change, and immigration fueled American growth and expansion.

Fear and resentment that immigrants would take jobs for lower pay than American workers.

Immigrants often faced hardship and hostility.

There was prejudice based on religious and cultural differences.

Problems
Housing shortages
Workers’ lived in harsh conditions crowded into tenements and slums.
The need for new public services, such as sewage and water systems and public transportation.
New York City began construction of the world’s first subway system around the turn of the 20th century, and many cities built trolley or streetcar lines.



Mounting resentment led Congress to limit immigration, through the **Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882** and **Immigration Restriction Act of 1921**. These laws effectively cut off most immigration to America for the next several decades; however, the immigrants of this period and their descendants continued to contribute immeasurably to American society.