



Who
doesn't do
their
homework?

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, featuring prominent skyscrapers like the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building, illuminated and reflected in the water. The image is framed by a golden-yellow border with a grid pattern and curved lines.

City Life

Humanity Compressed

Eric Langenderfer

The White City

Daniel Burnham



Frances Benjamin Johnston Collection at the Library of Congress



DEPT. OF HEALTH No 329 AUG 27 1914 PRICES LANE

Questions to Consider:

1. What key changes did urbanization bring to America?
2. How did technology change the characteristics of urban life between 1870 and 1910?

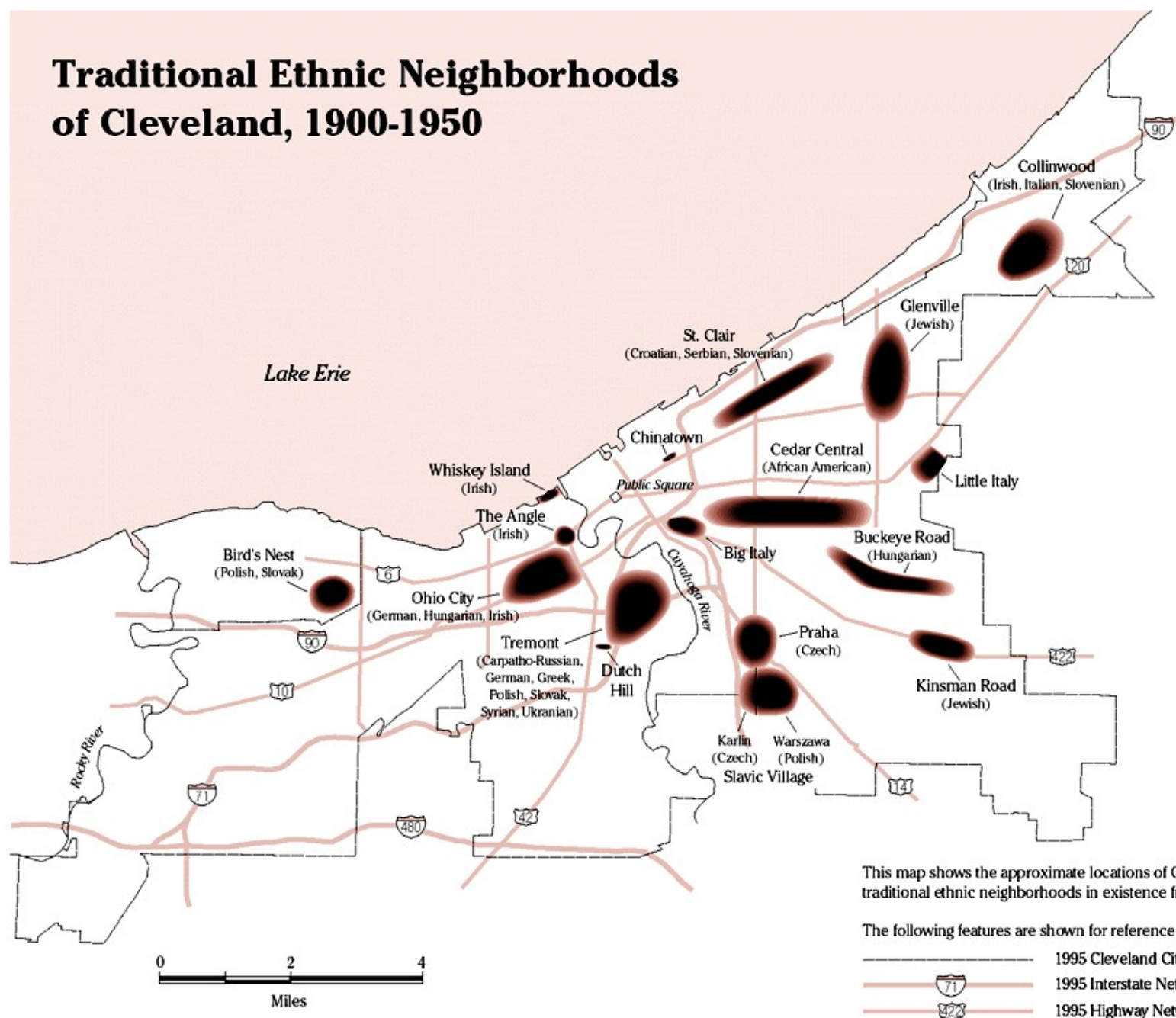
Life in the City

What was it like
environmentally?

Ethnic Enclaves

Immigrants would likely settle in areas populated by people from their home countries.

Traditional Ethnic Neighborhoods of Cleveland, 1900-1950



This map shows the approximate locations of Cleveland's major traditional ethnic neighborhoods in existence from 1900 to 1950.

The following features are shown for reference purposes:

- 1995 Cleveland City Boundary
- 1995 Interstate Network
- 1995 Highway Network

Many of these neighborhoods
still exist today.

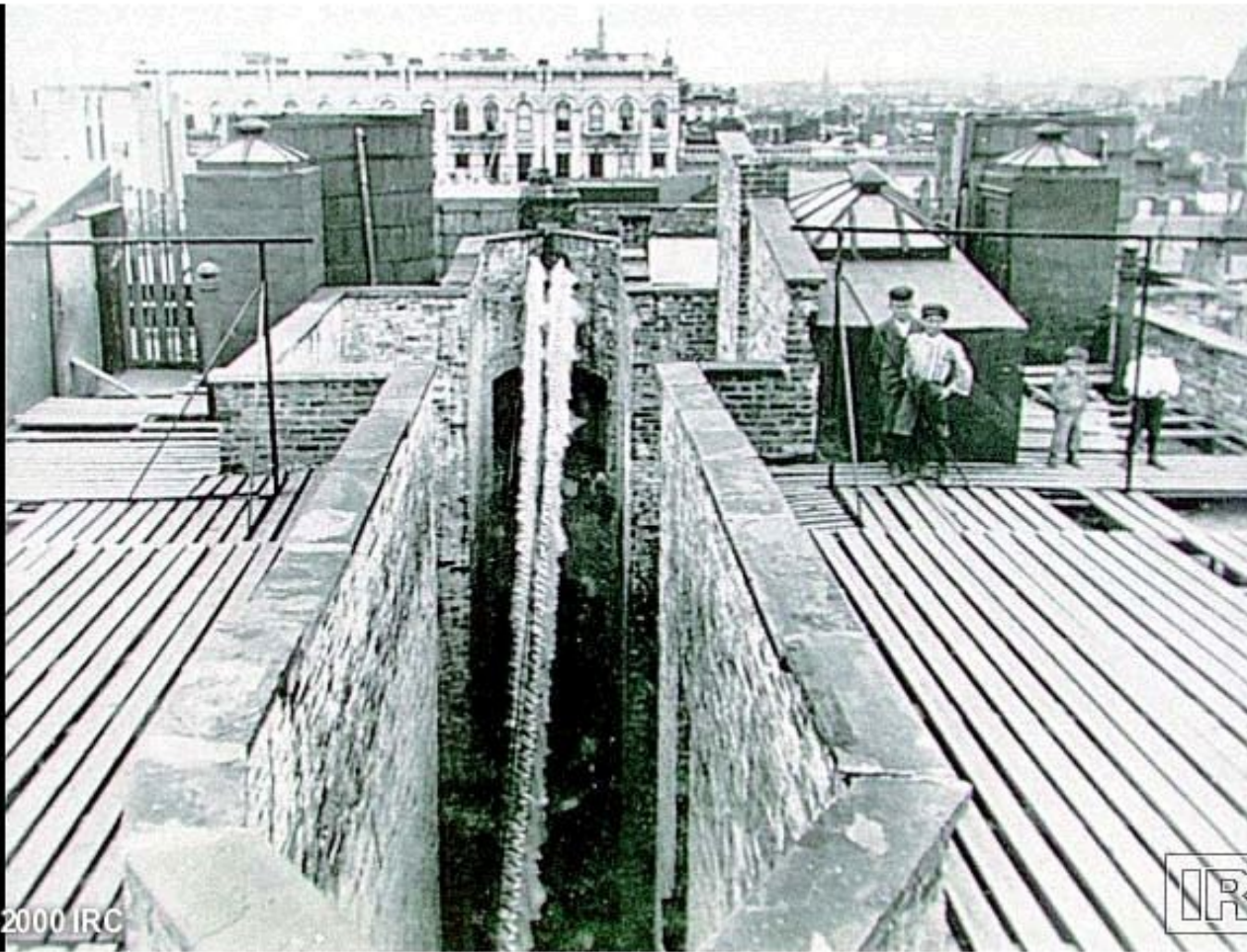


These ethnic enclaves made immigrants feel more “at home”

But they also kept them from assimilating into American culture.

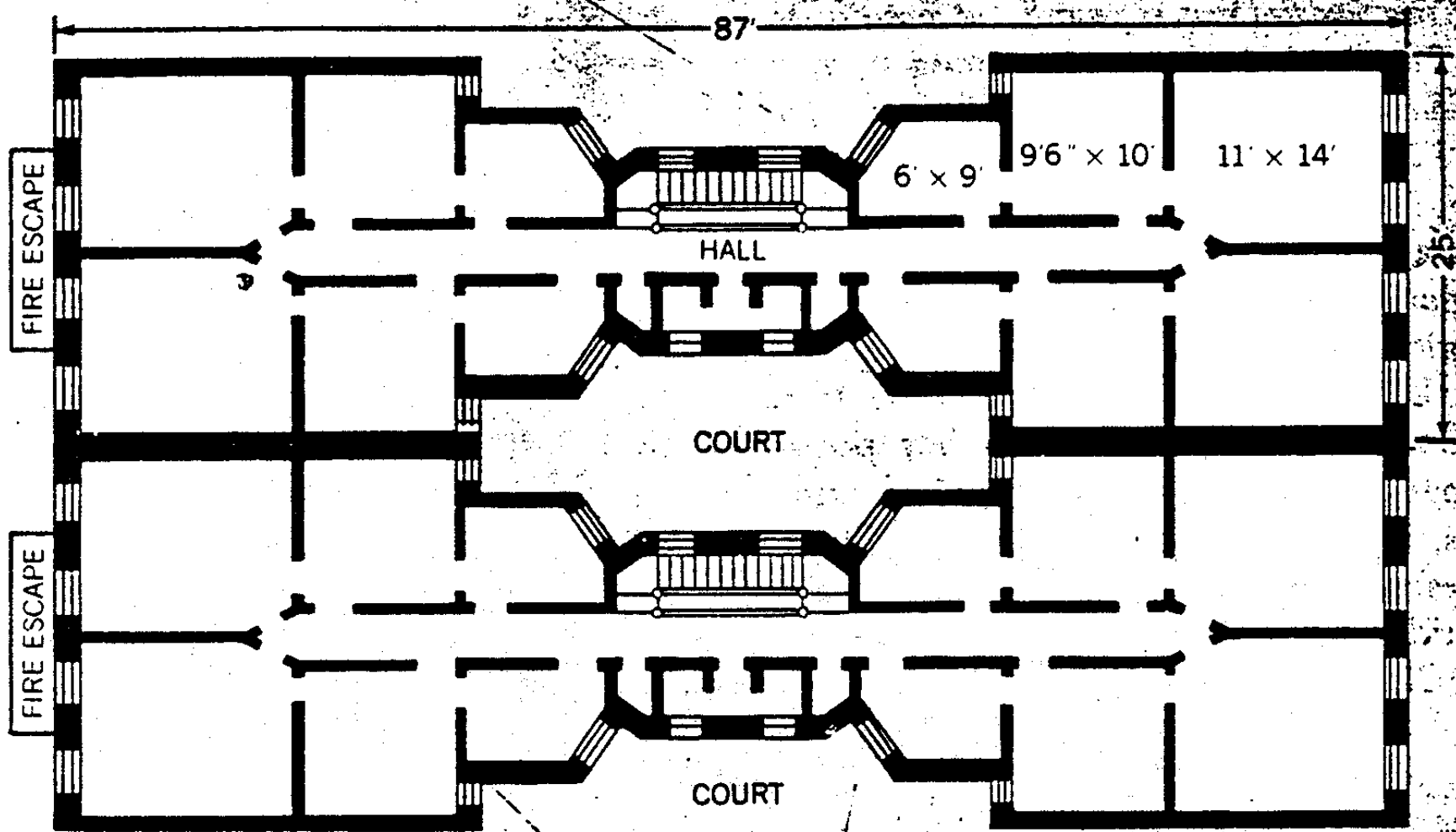


Overcrowding was common, especially in urban tenements See *American Pageant*, p. 568



Roof of a Dumbbell Tenement Building
New York City, 1890





Sometimes a whole family was crowded into a single room.



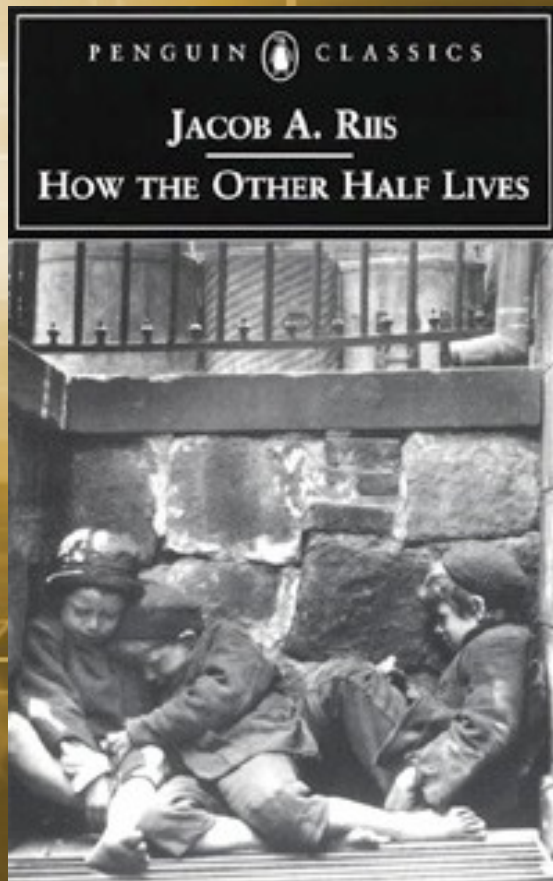
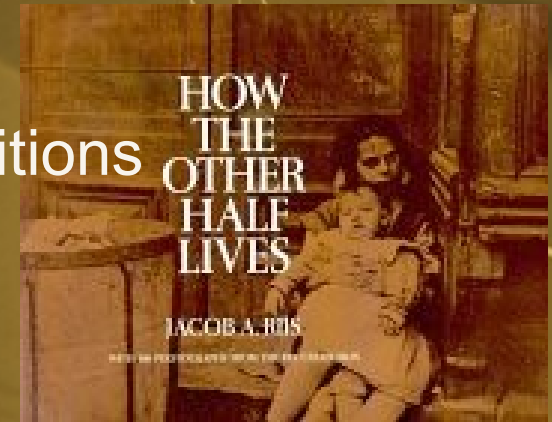


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Communal Toilet in a New York City Tenement

Jacob Riis documented deplorable living conditions in How the Other Half Lives (1890).





Riis photo of a Baxter Street courtyard, circa 1890



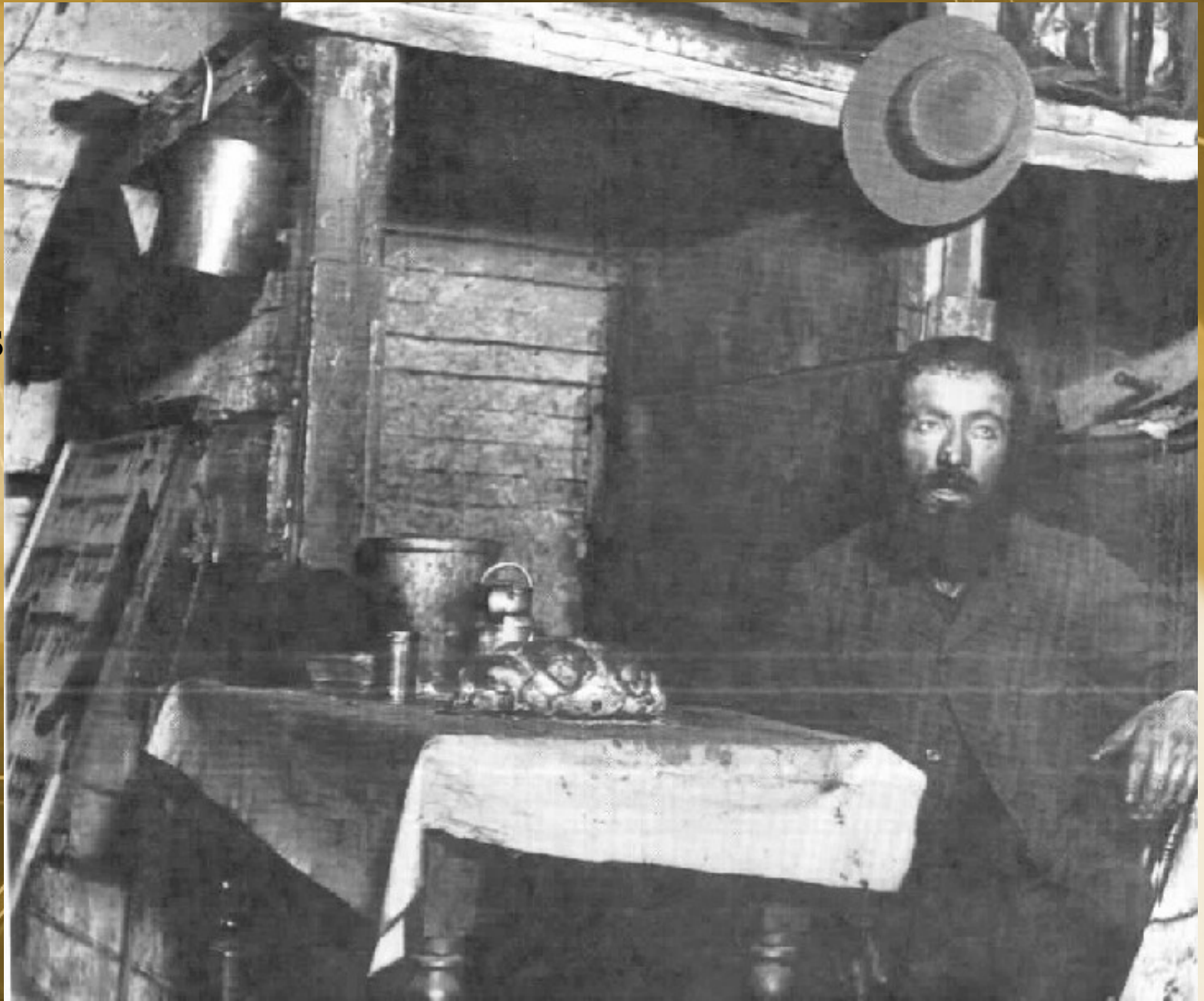


Riis photo of a baby in a tenement standing against a public sink



Riis photo of a man standing in the cellar where he has slept for four years

JACOB RIIS
"Ready for
Sabbath Eve
in a Coal
Cellar"
(c. 1895)



Come over here. Step carefully over this baby -- it is a baby, spite of its rags and dirt -- under these iron bridges called fire-escapes, but loaded down, despite the incessant watchfulness of the firemen, with broken household goods, with wash-tubs and barrels, over which no man could climb from a fire. This gap between dingy brick-walls is the yard. That strip of smoke-colored sky up there is the heaven of these people. Do you wonder the name does not attract them to the churches? That baby's parents live in the rear tenement here. She is at least as clean as the steps we are now climbing. There are plenty of houses with half a hundred such in. The tenement is much like the one in front we just left, only fouler, closer, darker -- we will not say more cheerless. The word is a mockery. A hundred thousand people lived in rear tenements in New York last year.

From [HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES](#), by Jacob Riis. (New York: 1890)

For additional information from How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis:
Go to www.authentichistory.com
Click Post-Civil War
Under Images click How the Other Half Lives



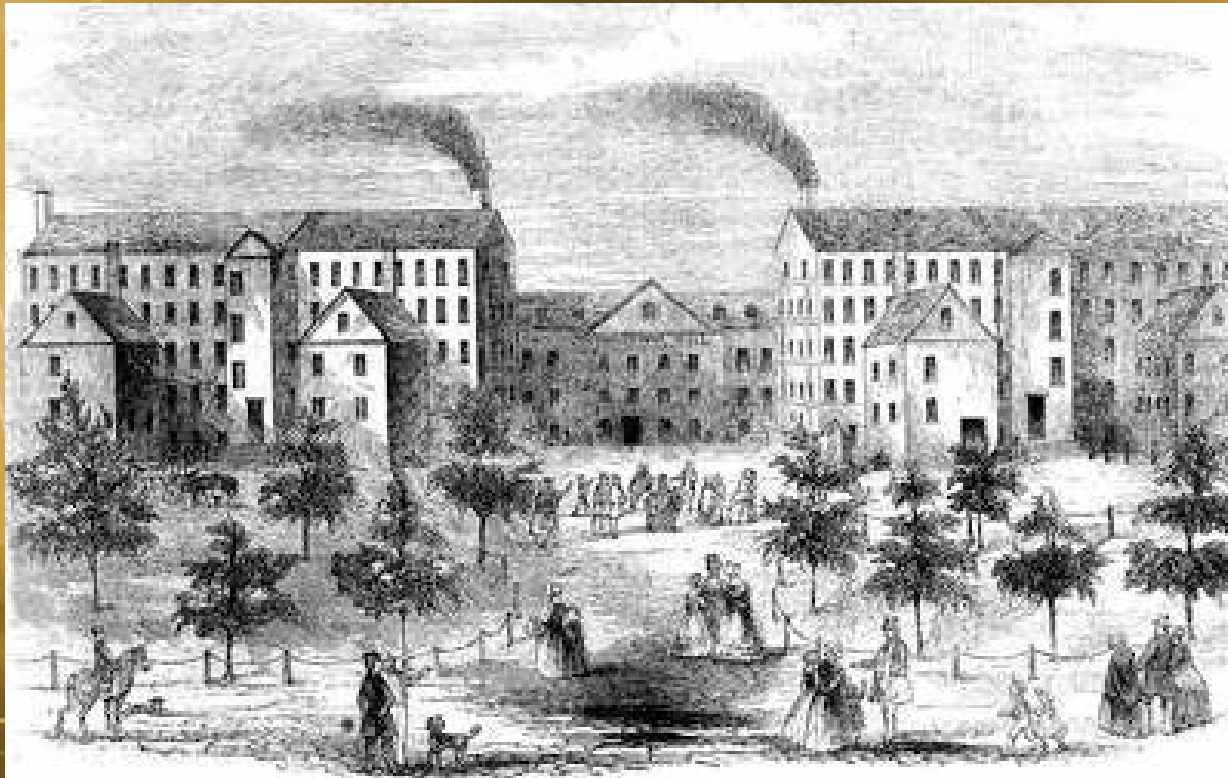
Bottle Alley, Mulberry
Bend
Page 128

A complete set of all pictures in the book can be found at
http://www.authentichistory.com/images/postcivilwar/jacob_riis/illustrations.html





Workers needed to live close to factories, often living in housing provided (for a rent) by their employers.



*Note how the wind blows before deciding where to build.

Adequate water supplies and sanitation were rare. In 1885, some cities such as Baltimore and New Orleans still had open sewers.



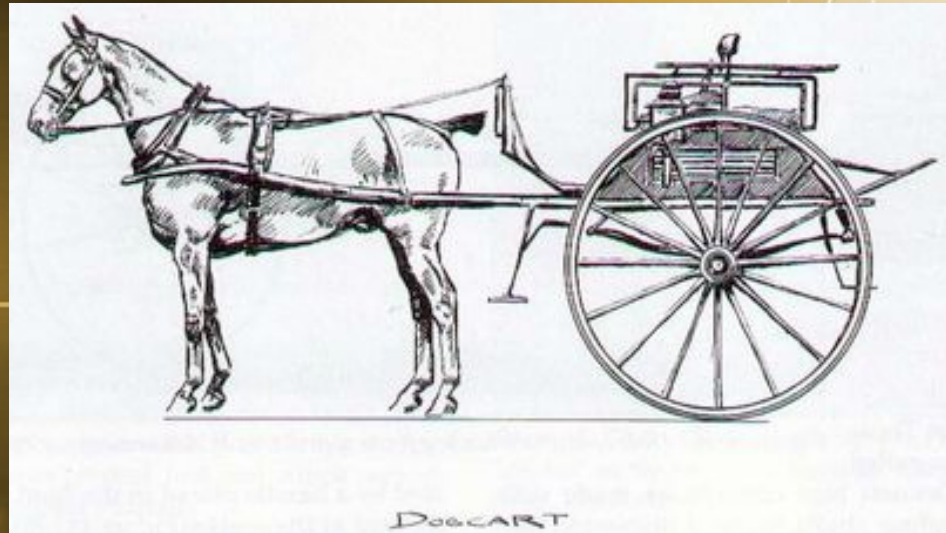
Industrial sources created high levels of air and water pollution.





Mulberry Street, New York City, ca. 1900

Epidemic disease was commonly spread by the many animals living in cities.



By the Numbers...

- ★ 3.5 million

- ★ 100,000 in NYC alone

- ★ 15-35

- ★ 2.5

- ★ 2

- ★ 15,000

- ★ Horses working in cities c. 1900

- ★ pounds of manure per horse each day!

- ★ Gallons of urine per day

- ★ In years, the average lifespan of a workhorse

- ★ Dead horses removed from NYC each year



Urban Children Play Next to a Horse Carcass

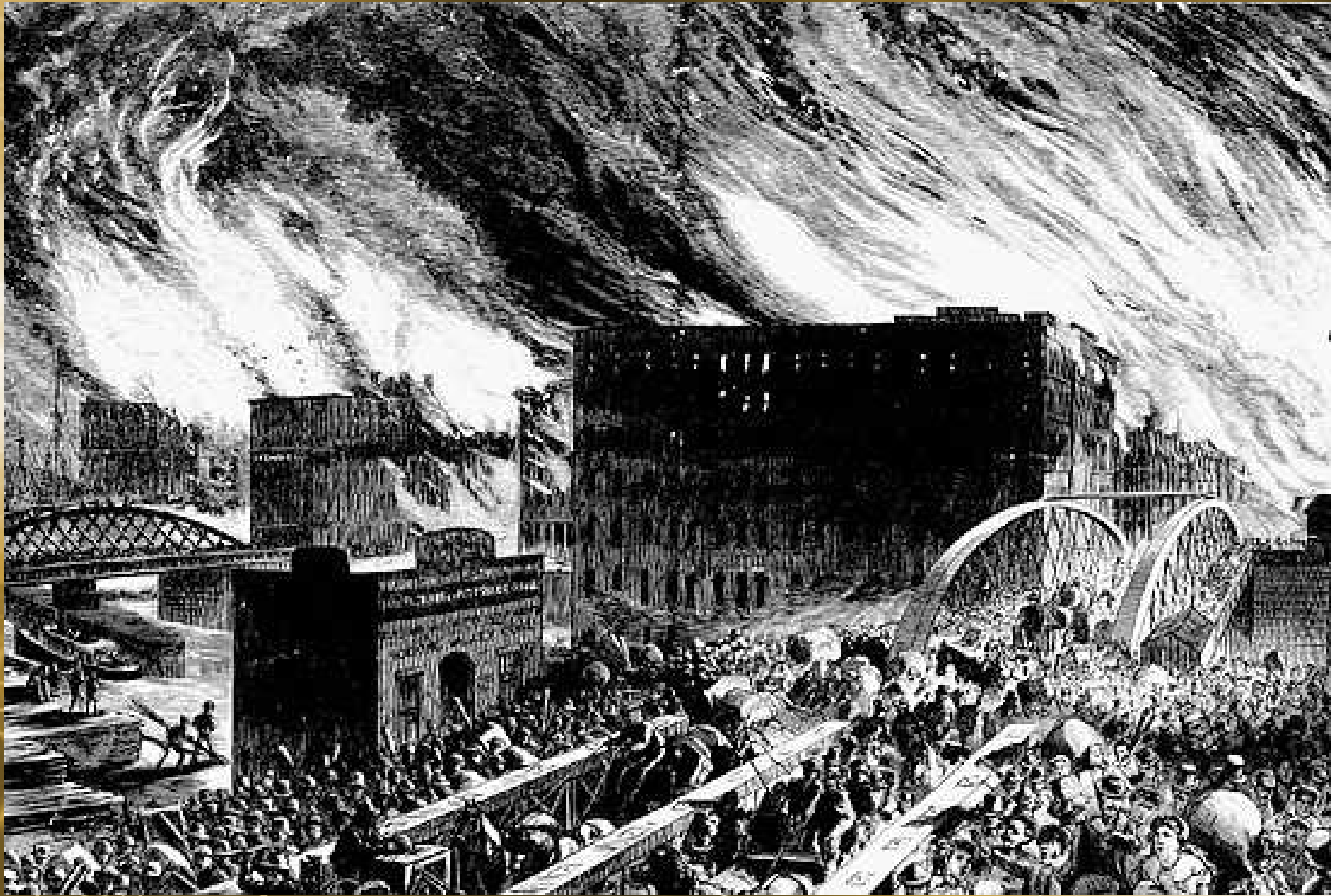


Fires were common, since fire was the main source of heat and light and could grow out of control easily.

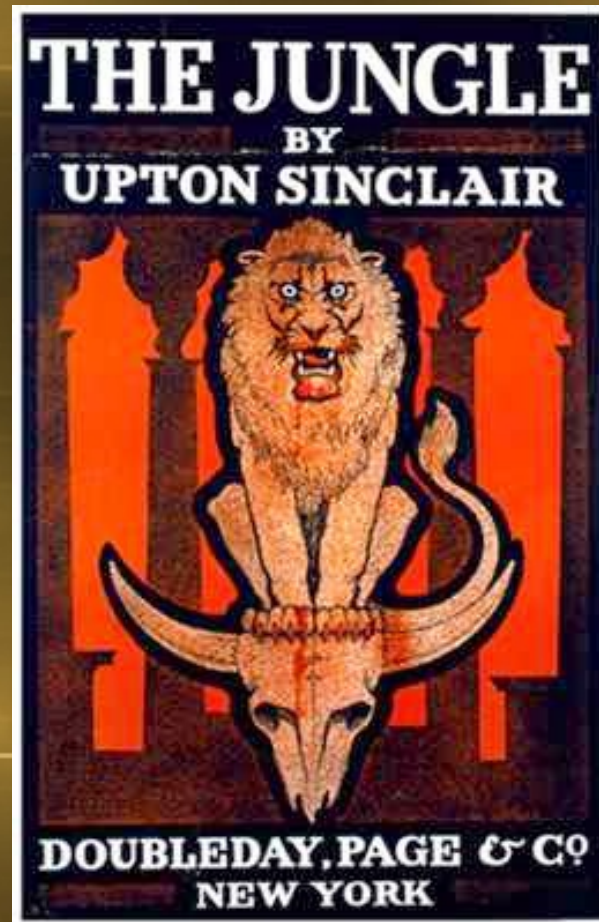


1871 Chicago Fire

Chicago Fire 1871



Upton Sinclair's The Jungle (1906) exposed the unsanitary meatpacking industry and prompted federal pure food legislation.





"Street Arabs"

Jacob Riis Photo of Boys Sleeping in the Streets

Machine Age

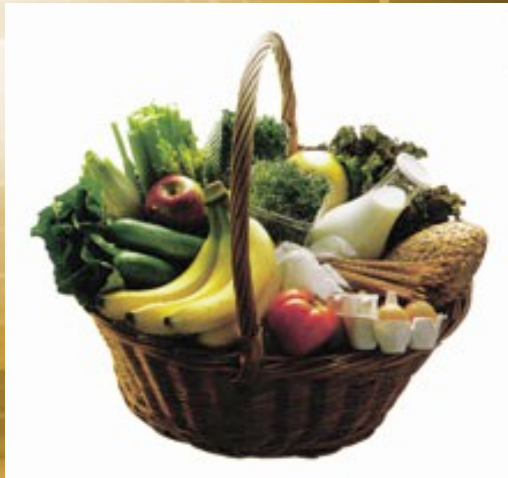
Politics in the City

Political Machines dominate cities, but what do they accomplish?

Urban Machines dominated city governments by influencing the votes of new immigrant populations. They traded goods and services for the immigrants' votes.

Some common aid provided by Urban Machines:

Groceries/Food



Coal



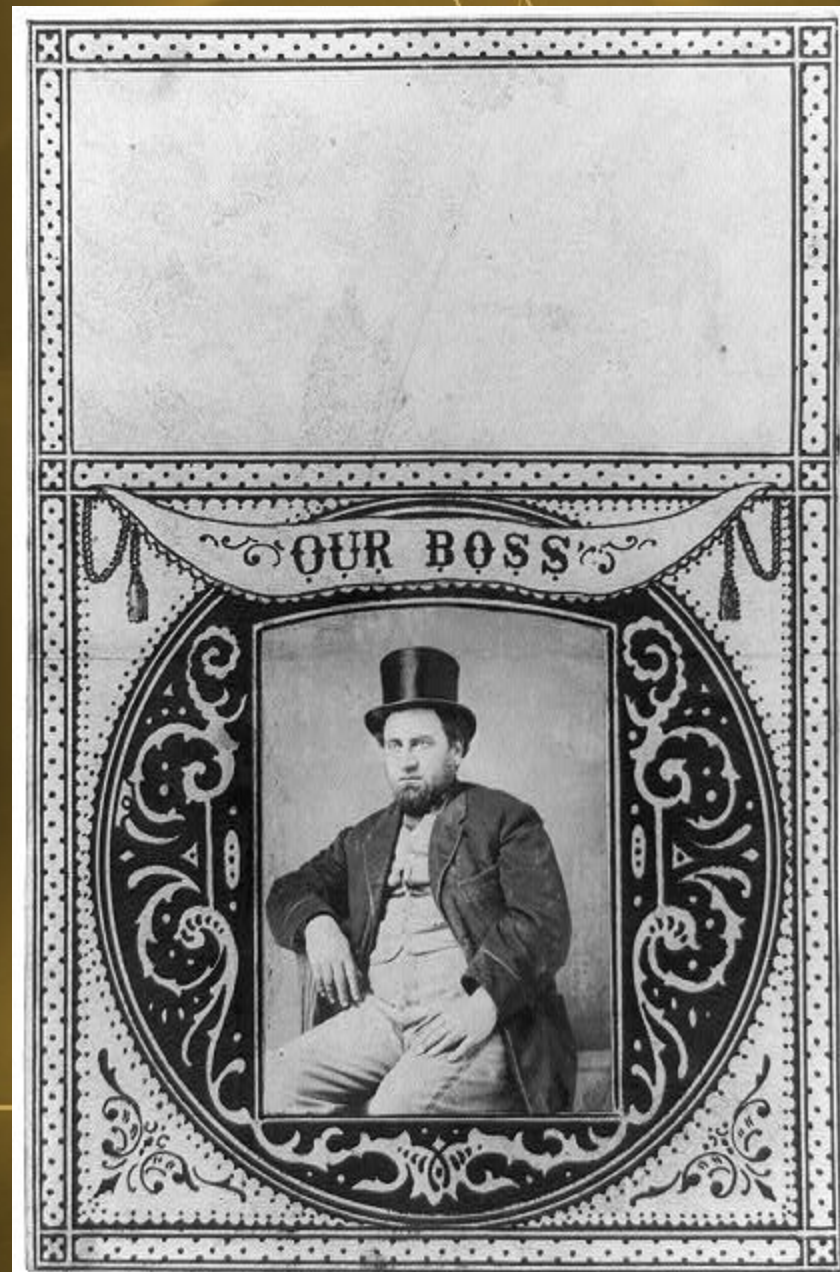
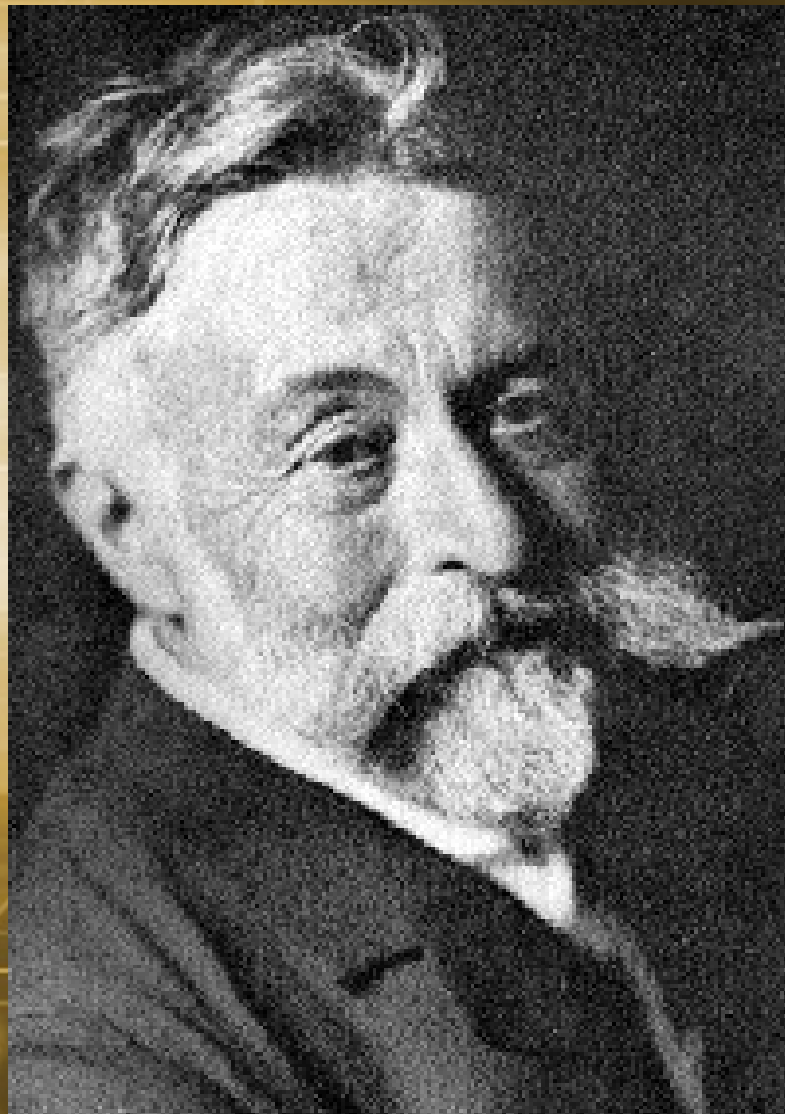
Find Jobs

Help keep out of jail



William M. Tweed of New York's Tammany Hall was famously corrupt in the 1860s and 1870s.





“Wardheelers” got to know every inhabitant of an area and served the poor immigrants’ needs.

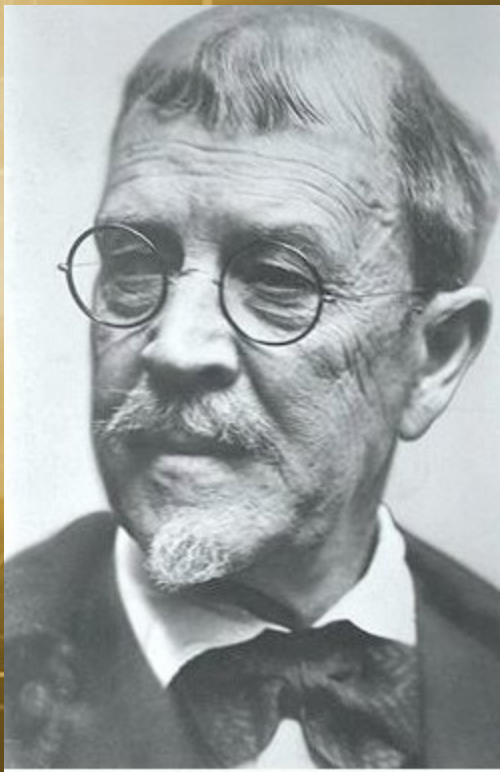


VIEW AT TAMMANY HALL (LATE MANSION HOUSE), SIR RICHARD CROKER'S HEADQUARTERS, SHEWING THE ELECTRIC CARS RUNNING UP BROADWAY (LATE CHEAPSIDE).

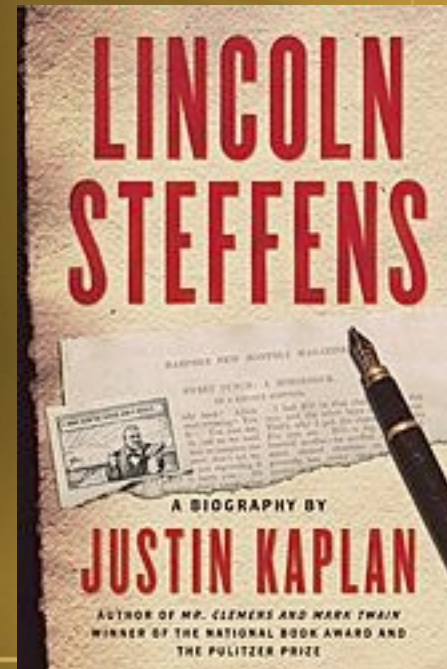
George Washington Plunkitt on “honest graft”

<http://www.panarchy.org/plunkitt/graft.1905.html>

Anglo-Saxon reformers tried to stop the corrupt machines by persuading voters not to accept favors and introducing civil service examinations as a condition of employment. Muckrakers like Lincoln Steffens exposed the problem in their articles.



Lincoln Steffens



And his biography

Accomplishments

- ✦ Despite graft and corruption, political machines were responsible for many improvements in the cities.
 - ✦ Mass transit
 - ✦ Sewers and Sanitation
 - ✦ Public Parks and Buildings
- ✦ Projects were completed, but at a higher price to the taxpayers.

What factors allowed for the continuing presence of corrupt machines?

- ✦ Immigrants willing to trade votes for goods and services.
- ✦ Wealthy business class who profited greatly from corruption of machines.
- ✦ Superbly organized system
- ✦ “Good Government” supporters who failed to deliver on election promises.

Innovation in the City



Electric Streetcars, Atlanta, Georgia, 1895

Modern innovations
allowed city
populations to
expand in dramatic
fashion.



© 2000 IRC



Building the New York City Subway, 1900-1904



© 2000 IRC



The Connecticut Bicycle Parade, Hartford, 1885

Many new inventions and ideas emerged between 1870 and 1910 that improved urban life.



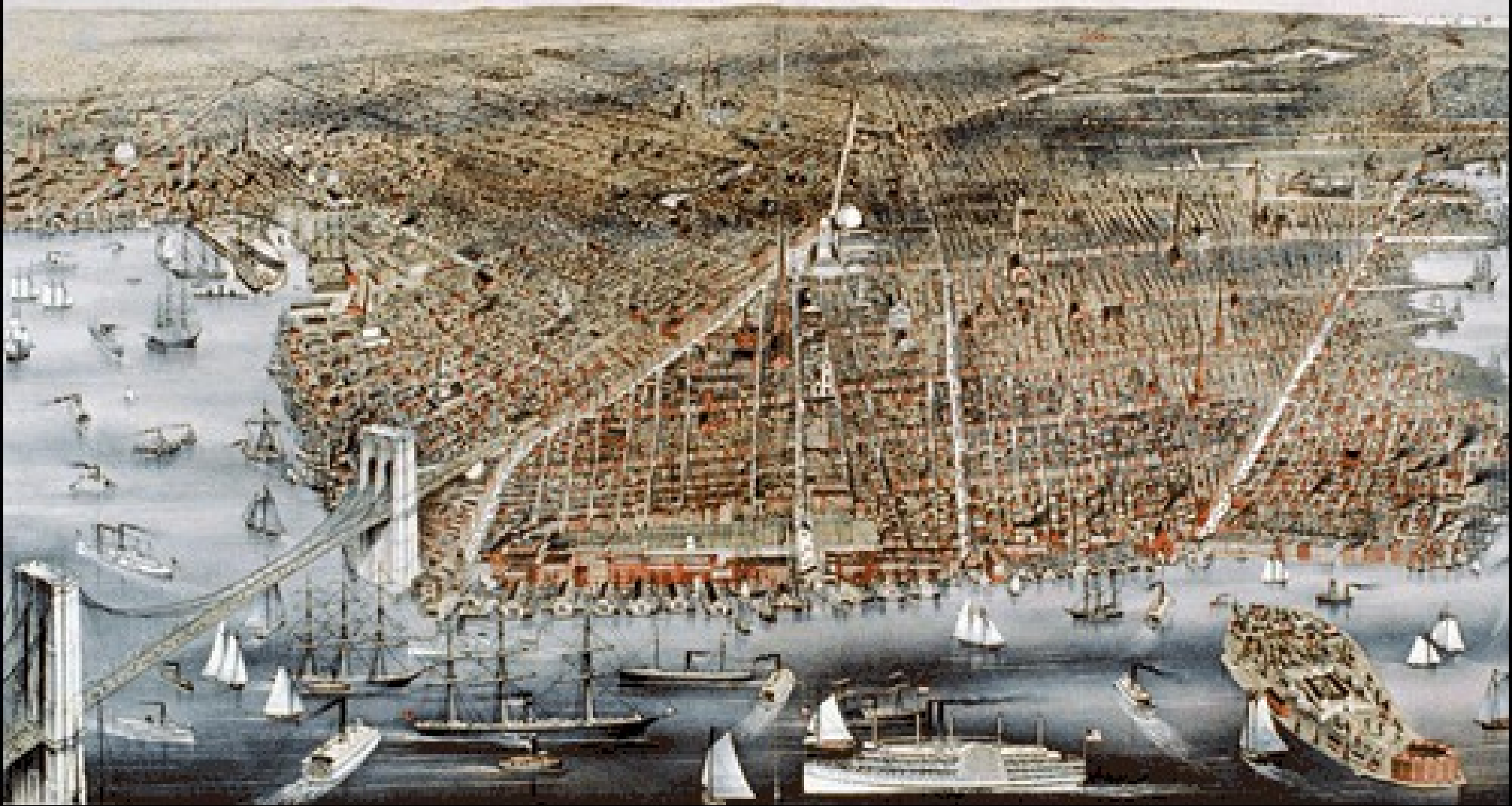
Streetcars enabled cities to spread out. Electrification from about 1890 increased the efficiency and cleanliness of cities and contributed to suburbanization.

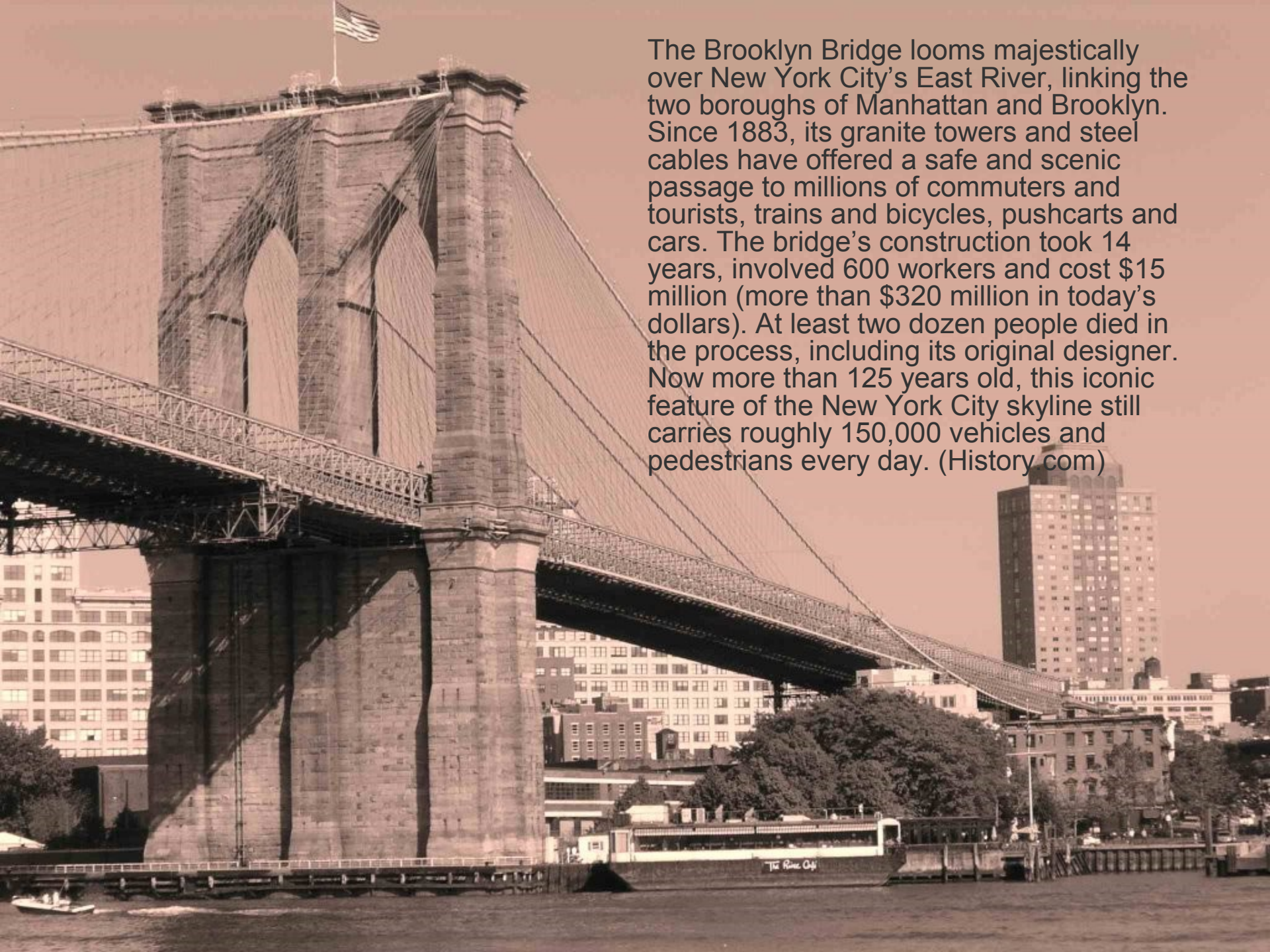


Streetcar in Atlanta, Georgia circa 1930.

After 1900 automobiles and bicycles complemented streetcars in urban transportation.

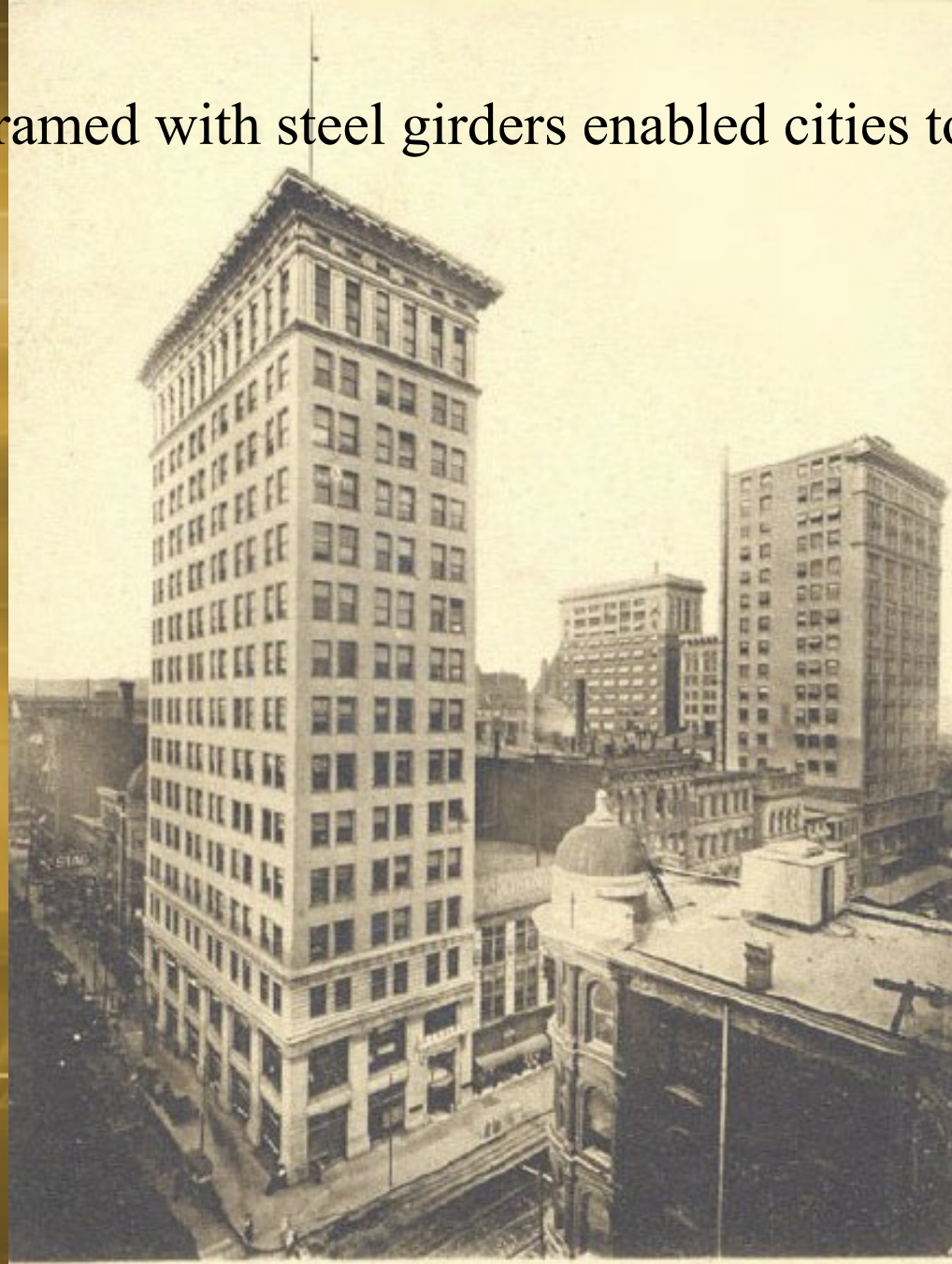
Brooklyn Bridge (Currier and Ives)





The Brooklyn Bridge looms majestically over New York City's East River, linking the two boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. Since 1883, its granite towers and steel cables have offered a safe and scenic passage to millions of commuters and tourists, trains and bicycles, pushcarts and cars. The bridge's construction took 14 years, involved 600 workers and cost \$15 million (more than \$320 million in today's dollars). At least two dozen people died in the process, including its original designer. Now more than 125 years old, this iconic feature of the New York City skyline still carries roughly 150,000 vehicles and pedestrians every day. (History.com)

Skyscrapers framed with steel girders enabled cities to grow upward.



- CINCINNATI (Ohio). - Business Center

Circa 1906

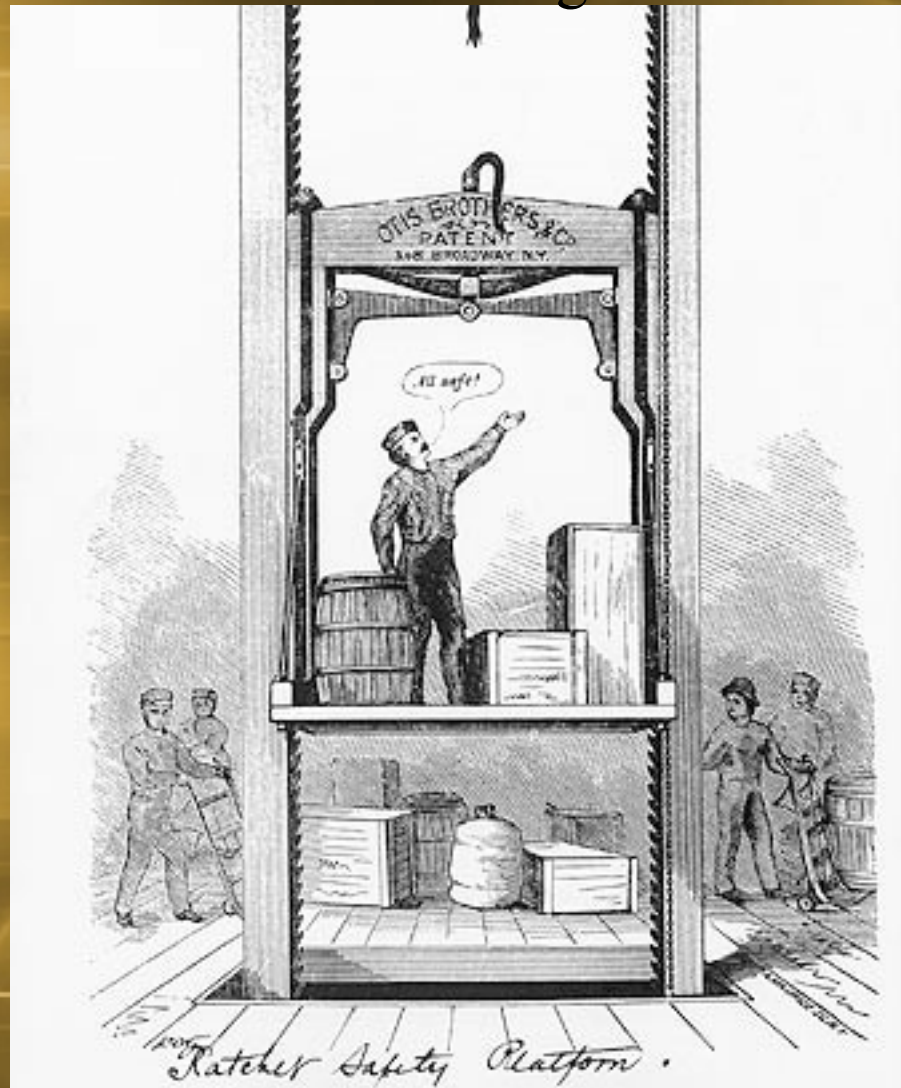


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Early New York City Skyscraper

Elisha Otis's safety elevator paved the way for taller buildings without the fear of having to climb countless flights of stairs.



Otis demonstrating his "safety elevator" at the 1854 New York Exposition.





First Leiter Building, Chicago, IL (1879)
William LeBaron Jenney



New Ideas

Reformers attempt to bring some relief for the urban poor through the Settlement House and Social Gospel Movements

The settlement-house movement brought urbanites the help of privileged, yet concerned, citizens. Jane Addam's Hull House in Chicago (1889) served as a model.



Hull House in Chicago, Illinois around the turn of the century.

Settlement houses offered child care and help for immigrants in adapting to American life. They also challenged the rule of the urban political machine.



Portrait of Jane and the children of Hull House by Robert Thom.

Early Progressive Impulses

□ Social Gospel

- Reaction to current middle class Protestantism
- Church realizes the need to reconnect to the working class
 - YMCA (English import in 1850's, growing in 1870's)
 - Salvation Army (London, 1876, U.S., 1880)
 - Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIII *Rerum Novarum*, 1891 (*Of Modern Things*)

Cultural Aspects of City Life

Advent of Leisure

Only in the City

A growing middle class
(with leisure time) needed
diversions.

Urban identity and loyalty developed through sports and the media.

The railroad network facilitated the rise of major league sports.





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Baseball Became an Urban Sport
Boston versus Baltimore



The Army Versus Navy Football Game, 1916



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Central Park, New York City, 1902

Newspapers helped create a sense of urban unity.

N COUNTRYMAN 17



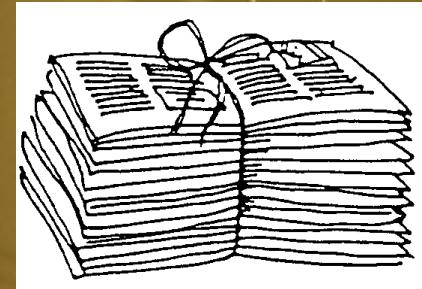
**Buy It Because
It's a Better Car**

Model T
Touring Car
f.o.b. Ford,
Ontario **\$650**

Get particulars from Ford Motor Co. of Canada, Ltd. Ford, Ont.



1914 Ford Newspaper ad



A WONDERFUL ANIMATED OR MOVING PICTURE EXHIBITION

ILLUSTRATING THE HIGHEST ATTAINMENT IN THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY,
SHOWING LIFE-SIZE VIEWS OF LIFE AND MOTION

AND A MAGNIFICENT
Stereopticon
Exhibition,
ILLUSTRATING

OUR NEW POSSESSIONS

AND
"FREE
CUBA"



THE GREATEST INVENTION OF THE AGE
Animated Pictures
LIFE-LIKE MOTION; LIFE SIZE.

THE WONDERFUL MOVING PICTURE MACHINE
WILL REPRESENT

Scenes and Incidents from the late War with Spain,
Railway Trains Going at Full Speed, Marching
Scenes, Comic Scenes, Bicycle Parades, etc.

**The Philippines, The Ladrões,
Hawaii and Porto Rico,**

ILLUSTRATED THROUGHOUT WITH

52 MAGNIFICENT VIEWS

PROJECTED FROM THE STEREOPTICON.

A Great Combination of Instructive Entertainment and Amusement!

MORE INFORMATION IN TWO HOURS' ENTERTAINMENT THAN IN MANY DAYS' READING.

A Most Interesting and Instructive Lecture will be given describing our "New Possessions" BEAUTIFUL HAWAII, THE PHILIPPINES, the Theatre of the Present War, PORTO RICO, the Pearl of the Americas, THE LADRÕES, etc., together with some entirely new scenes in the Island of Cuba, the natural resources and opportunities for improvement, development and civilization of these FRUITFUL AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRIES which have lately been acquired by the United States.



THE VIEWS WILL BE ILLUMINATED

By an intense light, magnified by powerful lenses and projected onto an enormous screen with 100 square feet of surface, making them so large that EVERYONE CAN SEE WHILE COMFORTABLY SEATED IN ANY PART OF THE HALL.

There has been a large amount of money spent in collecting authentic and reliable information in securing the

MAGNIFICENT PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS

WE PROMISE YOU A ROYAL ENTERTAINMENT. DON'T FAIL TO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

The Lecture and Entertainment will be given at

PRICES OF ADMISSION: ADULTS

CENTS

CHILDREN

CENTS

Entertainment begins at 8 P. M.

"Wonderful Animated Motion Picture" Ad, 1900

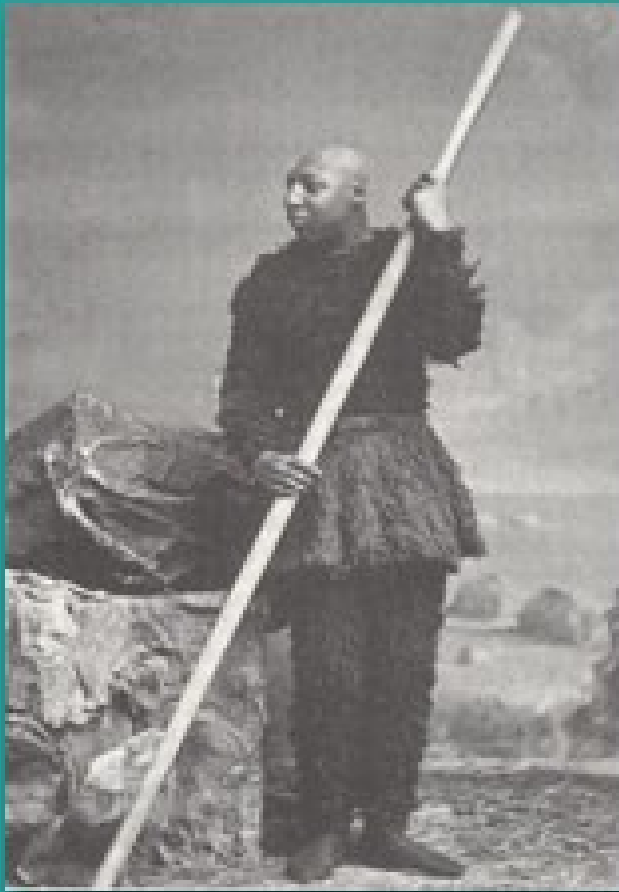
PT Barnum's Freak Show





PT Barnum's Freak Show

What Is It?



Barnum's Cast



Jo Jo The Dog-Faced Boy

"The most prodigious paragon of all prodigies secured by P.T. Barnum in 50 years. The human-skye terrier the crowning mystery of nature's contradictions."



Chang and Eng were Barnum's famous Siamese Twins. Born in 1811 in Siam, they arrived in the United States in 1829. The twins were extremely disagreeable with each other and with Barnum; they believed him to be quite stingy. Chang and Eng retired to a plantation in North Carolina where they also owned slaves. At age forty-two, Chang and Eng married sisters Addie and Sally Yates, and they fathered twenty-one children.





Link to more freaks

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA02/freed/Barnum/freaks.html>



Barnum

Questions to Consider:

1. Why did urban reform prove slow and difficult in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?
2. How did technology change the characteristics of urban life between 1870 and 1910?

