

AQA Specification 1K; The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865-1920

Revision Guide 2; SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS I

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

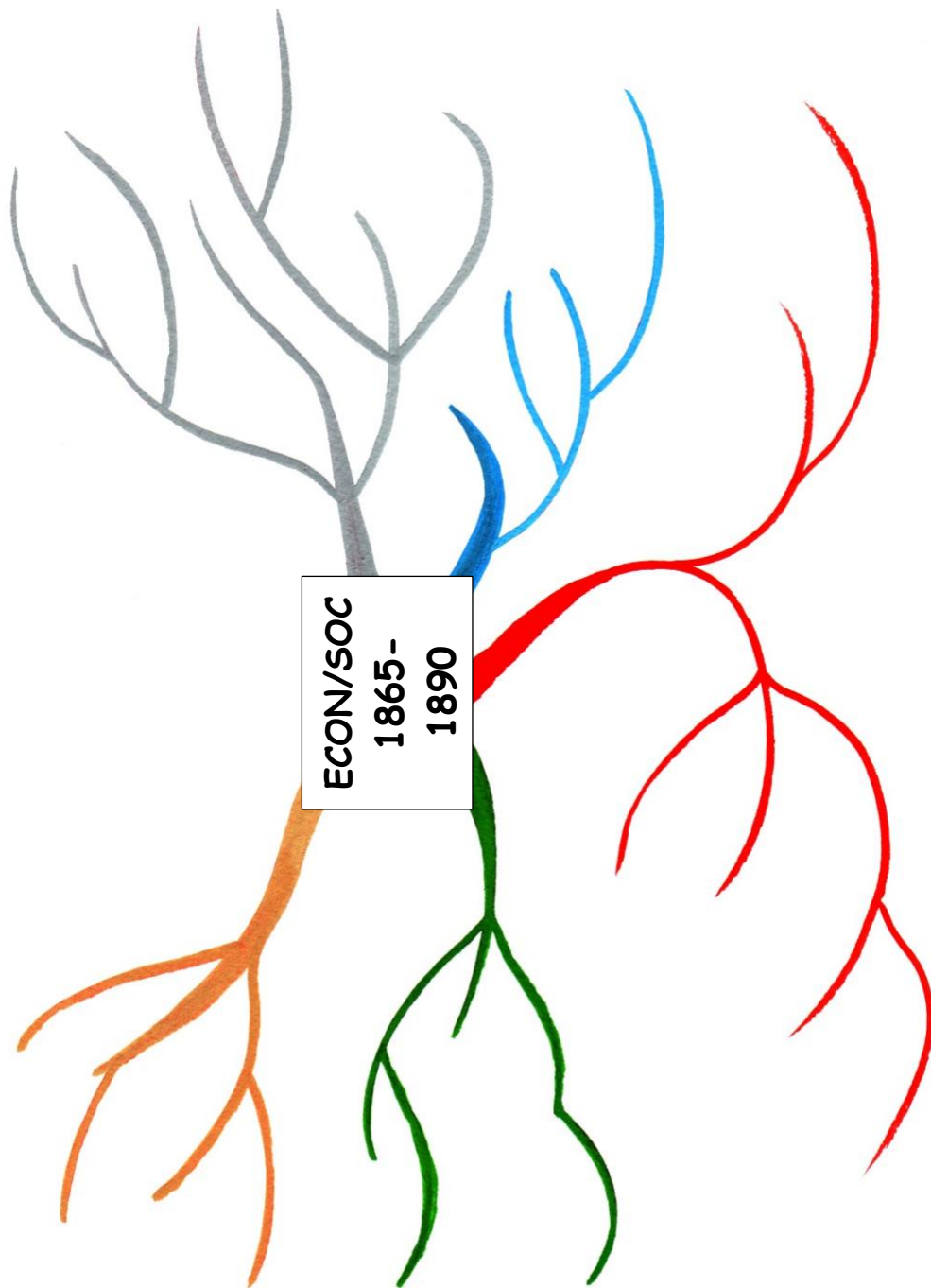
- In what ways did the economy and society of the USA change and develop?
- How did government, political authority and political parties change and develop?
- How united was the USA during this period?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

The Era of Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1890

- Social, regional and ethnic divisions: divisions within and between North, South and West; the position of African-Americans
- Economic growth and the rise of corporations: railways; oil; developments in agriculture; urbanisation

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC KEY ISSUES;

1. Mass immigration
2. Social/regional divisions
3. African Americans
4. Growth of the economy - urbanisation/agriculture
5. Rise of big business/cartels/trusts



American Society 1865-1890

1865-1890 = Expansion of US economically and population led to huge CHANGE, transforming US society and in some cases encouraging divisions.

1. **MASS IMMIGRATION:** The US was a nation of immigrants even before the Civil War; Germans, Swedes, Irish and Scots. **1860-1890s; 10 million immigrants arrived.**

Immigrants came to the US due to PUSH and PULL factors. 1886 Statue of Liberty was a symbol of the pull of the 'land of the free' ideal as well as shipping companies encouraging immigration. Scandinavian/Germans mostly went to RURAL areas. Irish = urban areas like NY, Boston. Urbanisation then attracted immigrants with the promise of work. The Chinese were recruited in to build railroads.

This was known as the '**melting pot**'.

Districts of large cities reflected influx of immigrants, i.e. 'Chinatown'.



2. **SOCIAL/REGIONAL DIVISIONS:** the speed and intensity of immigration and urbanisation created tensions and social/regional divisions.

Nativism grew (a belief that people whose parents were born in the US wanted to protect the US from 'alien' ways). There were tensions between 'new' and 'old' immigrants over jobs/housing etc.

There was a growth in anti-Chinese feeling, known as the '**Yellow Peril**' (encouraged by the media). 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act passed to stop the immigration of Chinese workers (prevented them from gaining citizenship). The Chinese had arrived since 1840s (gold rush), 1860s (railroads) and 1870s onwards (textiles, tobacco, shoes, farm workers etc). Cheap labour, good work ethic but resented by white workers.

Social divisions existed elsewhere. Farmers and workers set up their own organisation (Granger Movement, Knights of Labor). There was also a push for female suffrage and the temperance movement (anti-alcohol); many women were involved in temperance movements. Female suffrage movement split; radical's; Elizabeth Cady Stanton and more conservative wing BUT 1890 American Women's Suffrage Association established.

There were also regional divisions.

NORTH/EAST: hugely affected by industrialisation and urbanisation, booming cities/areas of NY, Chicago, Ohio. 1860-90 population NY X2. Railroads made huge impact also.

Clash in 1877, Great Railroad Strike, West Virginia (wage cuts) spread to Maryland, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia etc. Pres Hayes sent in troops.

Orange riots Irish Prots Vs Catholics New York 1870-71.

THE NEW SOUTH; dominated by divisions between African Americans and whites. Resentment among whites. AAs uncertain whether to push for more change. BUT, biggest gulf = South and the rest of the US. New South was actually just the Old South (11 old Confederate states felt alienated).

WILD WEST; rapid settlement due to government and ordinary people. Whites broke treaties made with Native Americans tribes. Life was fast-changing - i.e. sudden booms and then deserted. Railroads started to dominate. Wild West became more of a myth - deeply ingrained into US (rugged individualists who struggled to survive). In reality the land was scarred by the army - slaughtering buffalo etc.

Huge divisions between Native Americans and white settlers. Whites destroyed Indian way of life - open spaces fenced, Native Americans confined to reservations. Poor white farmers felt pushed out by the growing exploitation of the West. Often reliant upon railroads for supplies and exporting their produce. **Granger movement** sprang up 1867 as a cooperative to help farmers with land/loans etc and then put up candidates in elections.



3. AFRICAN -AMERICANS; after reconstruction white segregationists tried to regain their old social dominance over AAs. 1877 Compromise = Democrats have a stranglehold on 'Solid South' and when troops withdraw AA's disenfranchised/lose legal rights.

Many AAs simply became sharecroppers after emancipation. Politically Black Codes became Jim Crow Laws/Grandfather clauses and AAs lost the right to vote in many states and were segregated in all aspects of society. Lynchings were common.

On the other hand, there were advances; many AAs moved away, chose new surnames, married, set up new churches, founded new schools. Even some wealthy Northern philanthropists set up institutions. New public schools opened and 3 AA universities (Fisk, Howard and Hampton).

Booker T Washington headed the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama 1881-1915 - trained AA teachers, but was a moderate and accommodated white supremacy. Most AAs still rural (cotton), but many started the migration North.

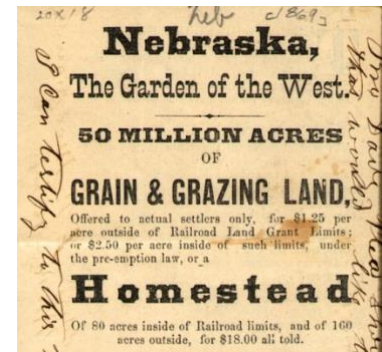
SUMMARY 1865-1890;

- Massive social and demographic change
- Rise in populations
- Social/regional/ethnic divisions growing
- But US also had growing living standards/opportunities

American Economy 1865-1890

4. **GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY:** the Civil war had stimulated business in the North and 'destroyed' aspects of the South.

AGRICULTURE still hugely influential - over $\frac{1}{2}$ population rural. Farm population increased 10m - 25 m 1865-1890. More land was cultivated; **Homestead Act 1862** made thousands of acres available as free land to settler. Railroads bought lots and sold on at a profit. Technological advances (reapers, threshers) encouraged larger-scale agriculture (and a rise in exports) but farmers were vulnerable (**Panic 1873** due to too much speculation and many banks failed).



NORTH EAST; Expanding markets/towns expanding. Larger hubs meant bigger distribution networks. Pittsburgh; shipping meat products, cereals and canned food to northeast, Wisconsin; dairy. Railroads hugely important - but had monopoly power and set their own freight prices.

SOUTH; King Cotton still ruled. Small farmers found it hard to buy land some fell back into being tenant farmers/sharecroppers. Struggled to access loans. Some economic development - railroad expansion, (exporting cotton, sugar and tobacco), but economy lagged behind rest of the country.

WEST; Homestead Act 1862 accelerated **migration to West**. Union Pacific railroad completed 1869. Native American lands colonised by 1877. West carved up by railroads, ranches, farms and mining towns. Vast amounts of land cultivated in places like Nebraska and Missouri. **1889 Oklahoma Land rush** - railroads transported thousands westward - lending money and taking crops as payment. **1860 population West 760,000 by 1890 6 million.**

STEEL very important; ploughs, barbed wire, railroads, rifles.

The West could be a difficult place to live; climate harsh and open to natural disasters 1870s and 1880s. Land marginal and dry. Prices for goods fluctuated. **Years of drought after 1887** marked the end of the previous good average annual rainfalls - rains failed to come - drought.

URBANISATION: 1865 US agricultural. But immigration, industrialisation and urbanisation changed the economy and society.

Larger towns and cities = located in region east of the Mississippi River and north of Ohio river. All cities grew creating new market forces and business/job opportunities.

5. **RISE OF BIG BUSINESS/CARTELS/TRUSTS:** Primary industries boomed firstly - extractive industries like coal, iron, copper and oil.

1859> oil wells developed in western Pennsylvania/Appalachian Basin. 1874> small companies merged into Standard Oil. Then manufacturing; Steel manufacture improved, rolling mills 1860>. Improvements in refrigeration 1867> assisted ice-cream making, breweries and meat-packing.

Late 1870s - development of giant business empires;
Andrew Carnegie US steel, John D Rockefeller
Standard Oil, H.J Heinz canned food.



Panic of 1873 slowed progress temporarily. 5 years recession followed; many firms bankrupted and bigger businessmen bought them up. By 1877 economy picking up.

RAILROADS were the powerhouse of US industry. 1865 35,000 miles track by 1893 200,000 miles. Vital trunk lines like New York Central developed, linking East Coast to Great Lakes/Chicago. First transcontinental - Union Pacific 1869, Northern Pacific 1883.

Railroad boom chaotic - fierce competition. Bigger companies swallowed up smaller ones. Could make/break a town. **Emerged as bullies of US business.** Established local monopolies, eliminated competition and bought up huge amounts of land. 'railroad barons' became wealthy and influential. Jay Gould. Jim Fisk. **CORNELIUS VANDERBILT** of NY Central and Hudson River Railroad.

STEEL/OIL also dominated industry 1880s. **1875 steel production 360,000 tonnes p.a., by 1900 60 million tonnes p.a. Annual growth rate 7%.** Technology helped; Bessemer process enabled mass production of good quality steel and discovery of high grade iron ore near Lake Superior. Western Pennsylvania became hub of industry. Bethlehem company became 2nd biggest in US.

Andrew Carnegie; first steelworks 1870s Pennsylvania. Bought out chain of others and by 1892 consolidated operation into Carnegie Steel Company - sold to US Steel in 1901.

Rise of oil also important. First oil hit Titusville, Pennsylvania 1859 then around Appalachian Basin area in 1860s and 1870s. Cleveland, Ohio = oil refining city. **John D. Rockefeller and partners founded Standard Oil Company 1870.** 1872 'Cleveland Massacre' Standard Oil bought up 22/26 main competitors.

Key terms;

Corporations - big business firms

Stock market - stocks and shares in companies sold to raise funds for the company

Bull market - share prices rising, confidence high

Bear market - share prices falling, confidence low

Pools/trusts/combinations/monopolies - enterprises join together (merge)

Cartelisation - cartels formed to dominate markets

Protective tariff - high customs duties on imported goods

'Robber barons' - super-rich who controlled business

Antitrust legislation - people who wanted to push the government to break monopolies

SUMMARY 1865-1890;

- Growth of economy not uniform
- Boom and bust
- Industrial unrest grew
- Power of big businessmen grew
- Dynamic growth and technological advances
- 1890 growing as world's leading economic power

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS II

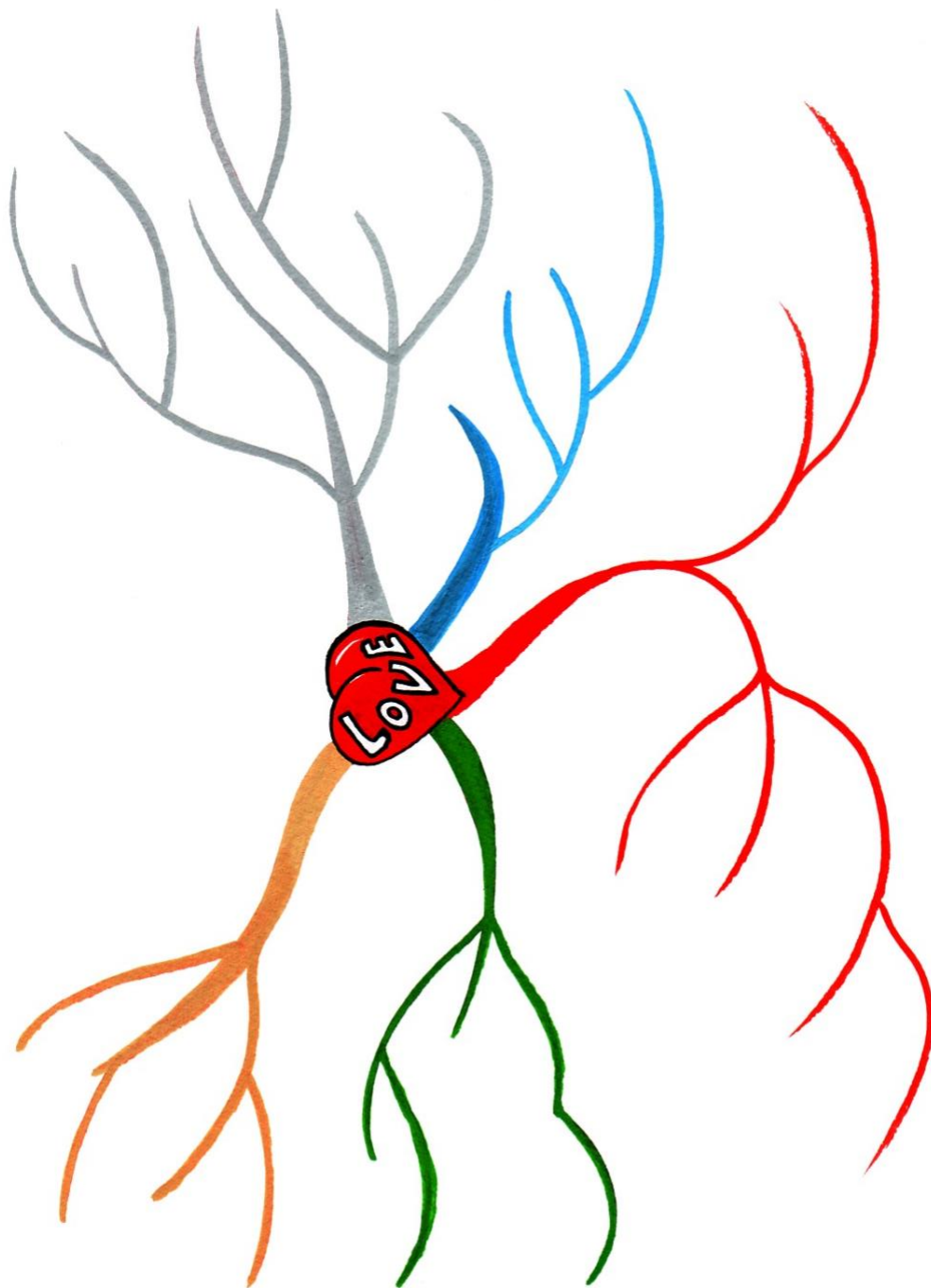
- How did government, political authority and political parties change and develop?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How united was the USA during this period?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Populism, progressivism and imperialism, 1890-1920

- Economic change and developments: the rise of US dominance as an economic and industrial power and the consequences of this
- Social developments: mass immigration and urbanisation and their consequences; the position of African-Americans

KEY ISSUES;

1. Rise of the US as an economic/industrial power
2. Divisions caused by economic change
3. Mass immigration and urbanisation
4. Divisions caused by immigration/urbanisation/Progressivism
5. Position of African-Americans



American Economy 1890-1917

1. Rise of the US as an economic/industrial power

1890-1914 = US became the world's leading economy due to mass industrialisation, and huge increases in output/productivity as well as the 'golden age of agriculture'.

BUT, it wasn't uniform growth; times of boom and bust, banking/finance industries struggled to modernise (Panic 1893 and 1897 - stock market crashes). Also, there was increasing resentment from farmers/industrial workers.

THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION; (1st = 18th century onwards), the second = 1880-1914 when there was a surge in technological developments.

The US' industrial revolution was 1895-1913, there were 2 major surges in exports - 1) 1895-1900, exports grew by 90% and 2) 1908-1913, exports grew by 77%.



ALL DUE TO;

- Efficient production/infrastructure
- Cheap labour (immigration)
- Vast natural resources, e.g. high grade iron ore in Messabe hills of Minnesota (US Steel bought land there and transported ore to steel mills in Ohio and Pennsylvania, so steel production grew 300% by 1913), and new oil fields of Oklahoma/California/Texas
- Technical innovations
- Electricity
- Political circumstances - Republicans mainly left business alone 1896-1912
- World shipping access
- Undersea telegraph network

AGRICULTURE; US was the world leader in production of wheat, corn and grains. Cotton.



1890s; agricultural crisis. 1893 panic caused a 3 year depression. Farmers in South and West faced difficulties with falling prices, credit hard to get, increasingly dependent upon railroads and bank (to buy seed etc).

Southern farmers reliant upon 'big agriculture' (tobacco, sugar, cotton). Most African American's in the south = sharecroppers, but so were many white farmers.

Many white farmers struggled in Trans-Mississippi Western areas in 1880s and 1890s. Influx of new homesteaders Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. But they had unrealistic expectations due to an early credit boom which then subsided (Populism did well in the West and the South). **Also the climate changed** - in the 1880s there had been unusually high rainfall but there was drought from 1887onwards = wind erosion.



By 1900 there had been improvements for farmers due to an expanding domestic economy = demand increased + increase in exports + success of farmers co-operatives + government help with the Reclamation Act 1902 (helped irrigation schemes). The War years increased demand for wheat/corn so farmers bought up more land.

2. Divisions caused by economic change

The US population continued to grow due to urbanisation, immigration and natural growth. By 1900 38 US cities had populations in excess of 100,000.



REGIONAL DIFFERENCES;

THE SOUTH; There was limited urbanisation (Texas, Louisiana) but the South was still mostly dependent upon cotton, sugar and tobacco.

WEST; distant, isolated, extractive industries dominated (prone to booms and busts), dependent upon Eastern financial investments.



Late 1890s; Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush 1896, gold discovered Klondike Creek near Alaskan border, thousands joined the rush. Dawson City sprang up 1899. Rush then moved to Nome, on Pacific coast Alaska = these stimulated the development of Alaska, cities like Seattle, San Francisco - boosted GOLD RESERVES - making dollar sound. 1900 McKinley put dollar on Gold Standard.



Big business dominated. Poverty remained. Industrial workers felt increasingly resentful and organised Trade Unions and strike action; calling for the regulation of banking etc.

Industrial unrest spread; e.g. Homestead, Pennsylvania, 1892 13 steelworkers were killed in a pitched battle between strikers and strike breakers (working for the Carnegie steel company). Great Northern American Railway Union strike 1894 (ARU), helped by Eugene Debs (Socialist). **Various strikes in early 1890s helped start the 1893 Panic as share prices dropped.**

- 1907; another Panic as banking was finding it difficult to keep up with economic development. 3rd largest Trust in New York collapsed (Knickerbocker Trust) and NY Stock Exchange prices fell by 50%.
- The industrialist J Pierpoint Morgan pumped millions into the US economy to restore business confidence. This forced the government to accept responsibility to help secure banking - Federal Reserve Central Bank 1913 established.



When WW1 broke out the US was in recession but colossal spending by GB and allies = economic boom. Firms like US Steel expanded to full production = farmers for food supplies. Unemployment fell. Industrial relations improved. Also, financial deals, e.g. J.P.Morgan made agreements with the Bank of England to underwrite war bonds. Reliance on US loans by the Allies GREW.

SUMMARY 1890-1917

- 1890s onwards = economic transformation
- Population growth
- Increasing exploitation of natural resources
- World leader in productivity
- WW1 speeded up economic development

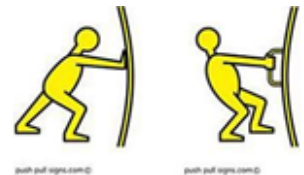
American society 1890-1917

3. Mass immigration and urbanisation; Between 1890-1914 American society was transformed by industrialisation, urbanisation and demographic change.

Social change was shaped by the great Atlantic Migration; 18.4 million European immigrants came to United States 1890-1914.

Immigration - economic migrants wanted a better life, provided vast pool cheap labour. Most went to urban areas - passively pushed into society but on the other hand helping to shape it; cities took on cultural identities of immigrants 'Little Italy' in New York. People came from Germany, Scandinavia and Britain, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Italy.

PUSH factors - poverty, hunger, persecution (Russification process by Alexander III of Russia 1881).



PULL factors - idealised belief in US as 'Land of the Free'.

Migration helped by improvements in transport. Departures from Bremen, Hamburg, Liverpool etc. Immigration centres in USA, e.g. Ellis Island, NY 1892.

One in three returned home. 60% of Italians; most were male and came to earn and then go home. Jewish migrants different; came in families to settle. 50% female, 25% children. 2/3 skilled workers (16% for Italians).

Urbanisation - Urban skyline ever-changing. Taller buildings. Construction boom. Housing. Elevated railways. Noise. Movement. Crowds. Advertising. Mass entertainment. Small cinemas 'nickelodeans'.

North/east = biggest growth. Urbanisation also in smaller towns - street-lighting, trams, paths, utilities, Population increasing also; naturally. 1900; 76 million, 1920; 100 million. Death rate very low. Internal migration from rural - urban increased.

4. Divisions caused by immigration/urbanisation/Progressivism



'Melting pot' = positives; many immigrants simply became new Americans and adopted American values. NOT IN ALL CASES. Ethnic communities stuck closely together; Irish, German, Polish, Jewish, esp in Northeast, e.g. Lower eastside of Manhattan in NY - densely populated Jewish Quarter next to Irish district.

This affected local politics;

People felt they needed protection against discrimination so open to help offers. Politicians offered this to secure patronage and VOTES, e.g. Tammany Hall, New York City; Democratic political machine. Populists reacted against this type of corruption.

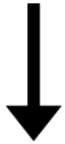
TRADE UNIONISM: many immigrants recruited by union leaders, e.g. Samuel Gompers of American Federation of Labor (AFL), but then older Trade Unionists saw immigrants

as a threat (cheap labour). New immigrants clashed with older immigrant groups; esp. Catholic Vs Protestants.



Regional divisions; marked differences between the regions.

Northeast; scale of modernisation largest. Region east of Mississippi and north of Ohio - powerhouse industries, booming cities, transport networks. Also more European, political, business, cultural elites.



The South; Very different from rest USA. Different view of History due to the Civil War. Politically separate, dominated by Democrats. 'King Cotton'. Not many European immigrants (11 Italian-Ams killed by lynch mob in New Orleans 1891). 1910 onwards AAs began to move away.

The West; patchy development. Some territories didn't receive full statehood until 1912. Some cities rapidly developed, Denver and West Coast ports. But boom/bust led to ghost towns (mining). Western society influenced by 'rugged individualism' ideals. Varied population; ranchers, drifters, AAs, Mexicans etc.



Social impact of Progressivism;

1900> Progressivism a major force in politics, society, culture and moral values. Age newspapers who had influence - Upton Sinclair, liked to expose corruption. 'Muck-raking' of 'kickbacks' or 'jobs for the boys'.

Progressivism also demanded social justice for immigrants - campaigning against unfair practices, i.e. child labor. Though Progressives also complained that immigrants were drinkers, smoked and had 'vices'. DIVIDE between middle-class Progressives and working classes.

The fight for Prohibition shows this;

- Temperance movement pushed by the Prohibition Party, Women's Christian Temperance Union and Anti-Saloon League - gained support from reaction against the rise of the cities
- Carrie Nation - direct action against alcohol, smashed up bars and frequently arrested
- Anti-Saloon League 1893, Ohio. Wayne Wheeler leader lobbied political parties for support - helped get supporters elected.



Women also fighting for right to vote. 1909; National American Woman Suffrage Association organising rallies - working with Suffragettes.

Overlapped with reactions against urbanisation - nativism grew; KKK reformed 1915.

5. Position of African-Americans

By 1890 clear that equality for AAs not going to happen. Jim Crow system established. Lynchings occurring; 1889-1929 3724 people lynched, 85% black, only 50 arrests, 4 people sentenced.

1901 AA Congressman George Henry White proposed anti-lynching Bill - defeated.

Ben Tillman; South Carolina Governor; encouraged lynch mobs. Had total dominance of local politics. Southern politicians took away AA voting rights.

Very difficult for AAs to fight back. Terrible violence 1900 AA Vs Irish-Ams New York, so was difficult in North also.

National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) set up 1909. Wanted to abolish segregation and enforce voting rights LEGALLY. Helped by white liberals. W.E.B. Du Bois also a leading member - criticised Booker T Washington for being too moderate. Booker T invited to Whitehouse by Theodore Roosevelt. But Taft and even Wilson constrained by popular voters.



Ku Klux Klan revived 1915 by D.W.Griffith.

SUMMARY 1890-1917

- Immense social and demographic change
- Rural and urban USA changed
- Winners and losers
- Tensions grew
- Progressivism grew