

American History 11 – Mr. Ruppert

Chapter 14/16: The Expansion of American Industry and Immigration / City Life

Video Assignment: New York: A Documentary Film by Ken Burns (70 points total)

Introduction:

As we have done earlier in the course, we will be using this Ken Burns' documentary as a **“case study”** to accompany your textbook. Nowhere in America did the “Expansion of American Industry” take place on such a vast scale than in “the dominant American city,” the Big Apple. Everything that was part of the rise of industrial America (the birth of new technologies, electrification, engineering feats, the activities of “captains of industry” and “robber barons,” the grinding poverty and squalor of the lives of new immigrants, industrial warfare, “machine” politics,) and everything else under the sun took place in New York City more often and on a greater scale than any other place in the nation. In short, it was **THE PLACE** where the human drama of industrialization / immigration and all the good and bad that came with it in the late 1800s and early 1900s was played out.

We will be viewing two episodes of the documentary:

Episode 3: Sunshine and Shadow (1865 – 1898)

Episode 4: The Power and the People (1898 – 1918)

In these episodes, we will be learning about the history of NYC from the end of the Civil War up to the awful tragedy at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire in 1911.

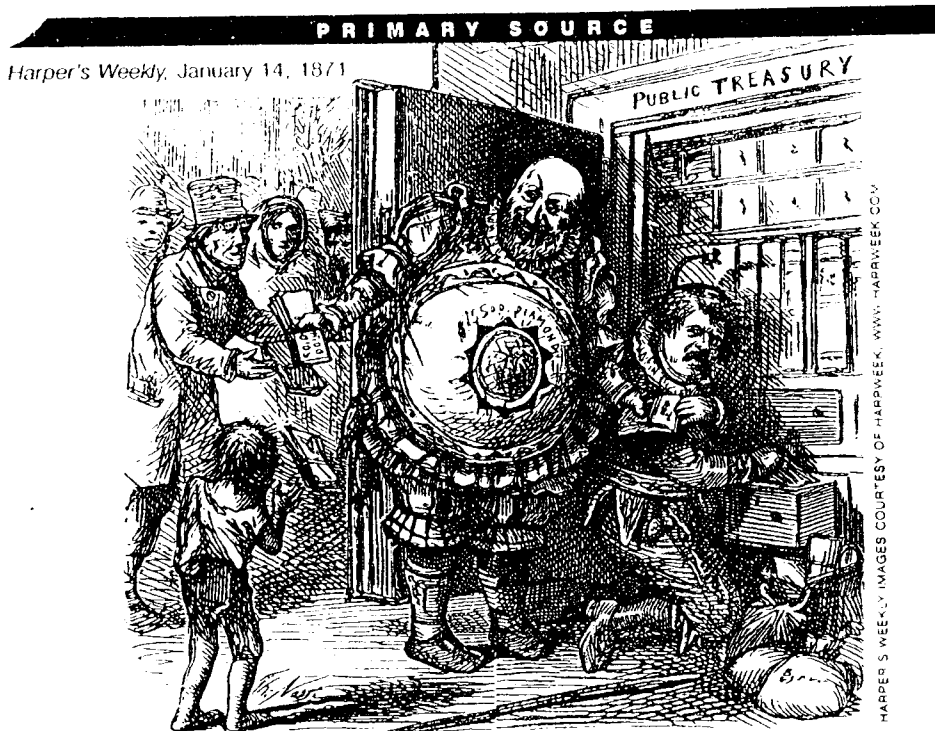
Your assignment:

1. Preview the “overview” summary of the episode. View the documentary in class.
2. Take mental notes on information and facts from both episodes that are related to the concept of “Immigrant expectations of America versus reality”. You will ultimately have an assignment related to this theme.
3. Nightly, go to “Mr. Ruppert’s History Pages” online. Click on “My American History Links.” Explore the following, as instructed by Mr. Ruppert:
 - [Ellis Island Online Database 1892-1924](#) - This site contains directions for searching the microfilm records of American immigrants who arrived here between 1892-1924. You can also find information on U.S. census records and U.S. Naturalization records.
 - [Ellis Island Interactive Experience](#) -- From the History Channel / Will you be allowed to enter through the Golden Door?
 - [Lower East Side Tenement Museum](#) - Experience life as a recent 19th-early 20th century immigrant to New York City living in a tenement. Incredible virtual reality tour of 97 Orchard St. tenement complete with audio tour. Online history at its best!

- New York: A Documentary Film -- PBS Companion Site to Episode 3: Sunshine and Shadow (1865 - 1898)
 - New York: A Documentary Film -- PBS Companion Site to Episode 4: The Power and the People (1898 - 1918)
 - Hidden New York -- A Virtual Reality Tour of 12 Little Known Locations Throughout the City
4. Complete the activities / answer the questions on the following pages that accompany each episode. Your responses are due when we test on Chapter 14/16.

Episode 3: Sunshine and Shadow (1865 – 1898)

1. Answer the following in a well organized ½ to ¾ page response which includes supporting examples / details from this episode. **Explain why “Sunshine and Shadow” is an appropriate name for a documentary that covers the history of New York City during this period (1865 – 1898) / (10 points)**
2. Use the cartoon below, episode 3, and a little research (web site link for Ep. 3) to answer questions 1 – 4. (10 points)



1. Who are William M. "Boss" Tweed (Tweedledee) and Peter Sweeny (Sweedledum)? What is Fammany Hall?
2. What social class are the people receiving the money? How can you tell? Where is the money coming from? At what time of year is this cartoon taking place? Does it matter? Why?
3. What is the Clown (Tweed) suggesting when he says, "Let's blind them with *this*, and then take some more?"
4. What was the cartoonist, Thomas Nast, suggesting about the real financial winners in the public treasury raid?

TWEEDLEDEE AND SWEEDLEDUM.

(A new Christmas Pantomime at the Tammany Hall.)

CLOWN (to PANTALOON) "Let's Blind them with *this*, and then take *some more*."

3. The following individuals all greatly influenced life in New York in the 19th and early 20th centuries (not always for the better): (20 points)

Joshua Beal

Jim Fisk

J.P. Morgan

Jacob Riis

Washington Roebling

William M. Tweed

Russell H. Conwell

Henry George

Thomas Nast

John Augustus Roebling

Al Smith

Cornelius Vanderbilt,

Thomas Alva Edison

Jay Gould

Frederick Law Olmstead

Emily Roebling

Emma Stebbins

Walt Whitman.

It is the year 1898, and you are the president of a brand new **totally fictional** college, the University of New York. You have been asked to serve on its admissions committee.

You must choose 5 of the above 18 individuals to be admitted to your college. **In making your selections, you should consider all the applicant's accomplishments as adults up to and including 1898.**

In a solid paragraph, sum up, for each of the five you choose, why you think that they are the most worthy of admittance to your university. In a solid paragraph, sum up, for ANY three who were rejected, why it was that you saw them as unfit for admittance.

STAY TUNED FOR THE EPISODE 4 ASSIGNMENT

NEW YORK: A Documentary Film



Sunshine and Shadow (1865-1898)

Overview

In the 33 years covered by this episode, New York City changed more dramatically than in any period in its history. From a merchant city to the second largest metropolis in the world, New York took center stage.

Central Park, begun before the Civil War, was supposed to bring peace and breathing space to New York. Instead, the area around it was occupied within decades, as the "Gilded Age" brought stunning wealth to J.P. Morgan, Jay Gould, and Jim Fisk, who built mansions on the park's eastern border, Fifth Avenue. At the same time, legions of new immigrants arrived, most squeezed into tenements in the older corners of the city far from the park that had been promoted as beneficial

to them. The bosses of Tammany Hall and the photographs of Jacob Riis served these new poor in different ways, but by the turn of the century, the gap between rich and poor had never been greater.

New Yorkers also tackled tremendous projects during these years. They raised the money to put together the Statue of Liberty and raised her to her feet in New York Harbor. They built the Brooklyn Bridge, an engineering marvel that cost the lives of many and connected Brooklyn, America's first suburb, to Manhattan. And, in the most extraordinary "structure" of all, by a vote of all New Yorkers in December, 1897, Brooklyn joined Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens, and the Bronx to become part of New York City.

Assignment: Episode 4: The Power and the People (1898-1918)

Instructions: You have already completed the assignment for Episode 3 (Sunshine and Shadow) for 40 points. The following assignment, which accompanies Episode 4, is a two part assignment. Part 1 is required and worth 30 points. Part 2 is optional, and worth up to +15 points extra credit.

1. Read the overview of Episode 4 of the New York documentary
2. Complete the following:

Overview

As the twentieth century dawned, New York underwent extraordinary transformations that made the city the social, cultural, and economic center of the United States. Skyscrapers, such as the Flatiron Building, changed both Manhattan's skyline and the lives of its people; the subways opened a new world beneath the city. In one generation, Greater New York's population more than doubled — from 1.91 million in 1880 to 4.77 million in 1910 — as an endless wave of immigrants made its way across the Atlantic, the newcomers displacing earlier arrivals in the teeming slums of lower Manhattan and in the needle and construction trades. One hundred forty-two of them (mostly teenaged girls) died in the Triangle Fire in 1911, a preventable tragedy that renewed the efforts of progressive reformers and political figures like Al Smith to improve urban housing, public health, and working conditions. In seeking governmental solutions to urban ills, New York again set the agenda for change nationwide.

Theme: Immigrants Expectation of America versus Reality

Part 1 (required) → Immigrant Rap Song / Poem

Directions

1. Your poem / rap song must

- a) Have an appropriate title based on this theme (ex, Gilded America)
- b) Consist of 3 stanzas, each with 8-10 lines (24-30 lines total) minimum.
- c) If a "rap song", you should also include a refrain (repeated after each stanza)
- d) It should "flow" and may be in rhyme, although this is not required (not all poems rhyme!)

2. The content of the poem / rap song must take the following format

-- Stanza 1 should focus on your pre-immigration hopes and dreams... America as the Land of Opportunity... The Golden Door to a Better Future... How do you think it will compare to the land of your birth. What future do you see in America for yourself? (In class 1st person immigrant readings)

-- Stanza 2 should focus on the immigration experience from the trans-Atlantic crossing in steerage, through your first sighting of the Statue of Liberty, and finally to your experience on Ellis Island. You will be making it "through the Golden Door" but maybe friends of yours did not. Why? Was it a frightening process for you anyhow? Why? This Stanza must use as much specific content and terminology from the New York Video as possible. (and text 16-2)

Ep 3 and 4 → -- Stanza 3 should focus on life on the other side of the "Golden Door" as a newly arrived immigrant. Use content and terminology from **your text (16-3 and 14-3)** and "New York" (video) as much as possible in this stanza (for ex; tenements, ethnic neighborhoods – ghettos, sweatshops, specialization, etc)

YOU MAY BE "CREATIVE IN YOUR LANGUAGE AS TENEMENTS MAY BECOME "TENNIES" OR THE STATUE OF LIBERTY MAY BECOME "LADY LIB", ETC – OBVIOUSLY NO PROFANITY WILL BE TOLERATED IN THIS ASSIGNMENT!

-- You may also include an optional Stanza 4 which reflects on whether, if you had the choice to make again, would you have chosen to immigrate to the United States, having experienced life on the "other side of the Golden Door" as an immigrant

Part 2 of the assignment – SEE THE BACK OF THIS SHEET

Optional

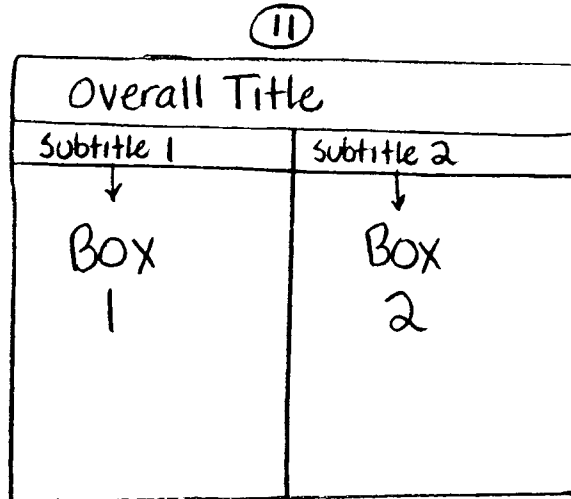
Part 2

Visually depict the contrast between what immigrants expected to find in America before immigrating versus the reality of life for many after they arrived

Your visual page **MUST BE ON 8.5 X 11 PAPER** and should take the following format

Revision:
you may use a larger format if you wish (Poster board, etc)

8.5



Landscape Orientation of Paper

1. The overall title you give your mini-poster (at the very top) should reflect this difference / gap which often existed between an immigrants hopes of opportunity in America versus the reality of the industrial and urban world he / she worked and lived after arrival to America.
2. Subtitle #1 (on the left) should reflect immigrants seeing America as the "golden door of opportunity"
3. Subtitle #2 (on the right) should reflect the immigrant "meeting city and industry American style"
4. **YOU MUST ILLUSTRATE THESE TWO CONTRASTING VISIONS OF AMERICA IN BOX 1 AND BOX 2.** You may use crayons, markers, charcoal, sketch pencils, colored pencils, computer generated graphics, and / or any combination of these.
4. It is **NOT REQUIRED** but you may add "real visual content" to Box 1 and Box 2. For instance, maybe you use a photo of the statue of liberty in box 1 instead of drawing it. Or maybe you find a photo of a tenement or a child working in a sweatshop for Box 2