**Chapter 25: America Moves to the City**

**Overview:**

The United States moved from the country to the city in the post–Civil War decades. Mushrooming urban development was exciting but also created severe social problems, including overcrowding and slums. Attempts to remedy the growing problems of urbanization, such as the “City Beautiful” movement, were undertaken by people like Frederick Olmstead and Daniel Burnham.

After the 1880s, the cities were flooded with the New Immigrants from southern and eastern Europe. With their strange customs and non-Protestant religions, the newcomers sometimes met with nativist hostility and discrimination.

Religion had to adjust to social and cultural changes. Roman Catholicism and Judaism gained strength, while conflicts over evolution and biblical interpretation divided Protestant churches.

American education expanded rapidly, especially at the secondary and graduate levels. Blacks and immigrants tried, with limited success, to use education as a path to upward mobility.

Significant conflicts over moral values, especially relating to sexuality and the role of women, began to appear. The new urban environment provided expanded opportunities for women but also created difficulties for the family. Families grew more isolated from society, the divorce rate rose, and the average family size shrank.

American literature and art reflected a new realism and regionalism, while popular amusement became a big business. The art of Thomas Eakins and Winslow Homer moved away from romanticism toward a more realistic view of life. Similarly, literature began to focus on the “coarse comedy” of human life. The novels of Henry James and Edith Wharton explored the psychological themes of modern life with an eye toward scientific objectivity. Symphony orchestra, operas, and ragtime reflected musical appeals to different segments of society.

**Vocabulary Terms:**

New Immigrants

Settlement houses

Liberal Protestants

Tuskegee Institute

Land-grant colleges

Pragmatism

Yellow journalism

National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA)

Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)

World’s Columbian Exposition

**Reading Questions**

1. What were some of the reactions to the New Immigration? How were these immigrants different from the previous generations of American immigrants?
2. What were the major challenges faced by the increased urban population?
3. What were some of the challenges to traditional thought during the second half of the nineteenth century? How did the religious and secular elements in American society deal with those?
4. What were some of the major reform movements during the second half of the nineteenth century?
5. Who were some of the significant artistic and literary figures of the Gilded Age? What contributions did they make to American society?

**Reading Notes**

**(Vocabulary terms should be highlighted throughout outline AND you should write AT LEAST 5 important facts for EACH topic listed in the left.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Urban Frontier |  |
| The New Immigration |  |
| Southern Europe Uprooted |  |
| Reactions to the New Immigration |  |
| Narrowing the Welcome Mat |  |
| Churches Confront the Urban Challenge |  |
| Darwin Disrupts the Churches |  |
| The Lust for Learning |  |
| Booker T. Washington and Education for Black People |  |
| The Hallowed Halls of Ivy |  |
| The March of the Mind |  |
| The Appeal of the Press |  |
| Apostles of Reform |  |
| Postwar Writing |  |
| Literacy Landmarks |  |
| The New Morality |  |
| Families and Women in the City |  |
| Prohibiting Alcohol and Promoting Reform |  |
| Artistic Triumphs |  |
| The Business of Amusement |  |