



AP[®] United States History 2002 Sample Student Responses Form B

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The second half of the 19th Century was a period of significant change in America's cities. Industrialism, growth of labor unions, changing immigration patterns, growing poverty, ~~political~~ development of political machines and bossism and significant changes in quality of life made the later half of the 19th Century a time of dramatic growth, diversification and transformation for American cities. This transformation is marked by three major trends: growth of industry and labor, changing lifestyles, and changing people.

The growth of industry and labor was the major force behind the development of American cities from 1850-1900. The theories of mass-production, industrial monopolies and maximum efficiency and productivity fundamentally changed the life of cities. US cities became the center of industrial activity, focussed around factories where workers performed ~~the~~ constant mundane tasks for wage pay. Industry thus made cities the ~~an~~ economic center of America, the production center of ~~the~~ goods and the absorption center for raw materials like steel. While the growth of industries such as the Steel industry monopolized by Andrew Carnegie allowed for the cheap production of goods and thus a higher quality of life for many city-dwellers and consumers, it also robbed laborers of independence and control over their work, by eliminating the need for skilled work. This growing displacement of laborers led to the emergence of labor unions, such

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as the American Federation of Labor (the AFL) and the Knights of Labor. These unions took on a large presence in cities, fighting for shorter hours, longer pay, and safety regulations. Nonetheless, the 2nd half of the 19th Century was a time of the industrialists' ascension, as the Federal government. Courts used things such as *Lochner vs. New York* (which struck down time regulations for bakers) and the Sherman Anti-Trust Act against unions themselves.

A second aspect of change in the cities was related to the change in lifestyle of many city-dwellers. Industrialization, while disenfranchising laborers, brought "luxuries" to the common man, such as electricity and water closets. With new technology and conveniences, the hygiene habits of city-dwellers began to change. Coupled with this was ~~state~~ city governments' attempts to introduce better sewer ~~and~~ systems in cities, to lessen disease. With industrialism, city culture became one of consumerism, a populace driven not only need, but desire. Nonetheless, the second half of the 19th century was also marked by growing poverty, especially as laborers (the majority of the city population) became susceptible to the flux of national and international economic ebb and flow. These unstable conditions led to another major development in the American city landscape: the presence of political machines and "Bossism". These corrupt politicians were

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able to receive public support by offering jobs and bribes, while using kickbacks and corruption for their own economic gain. An example of such a boss is Boss Tweed, head of the powerful and notorious Tammany Hall in New York. Indeed, the political machines that ran cities not only controlled local politics, but made significant impacts on national politics. These divergent forces — industrialism, consumerism, and political machines — all fundamentally altered the lifestyle of an American city-dweller in the 19th Century.

However, not only were ^{city} lifestyles different in the second half of the 19th Century, so too were the people themselves. After the end of the Civil War in 1865, many blacks left the South and entered the North. This not only changed labor competition, but represented the clash between ~~not~~ native city-dwellers and "outsiders" that marked this period. This ~~to~~ changing city population also stemmed from a significant change in migration patterns that occurred in this period. While the majority of immigrants previously were from Northern and Western Europe, Southern and Eastern Europeans ~~at~~ flooded ~~it~~ American cities. The addition of these new people to the ~~to~~ traditional city populace shaped cities into the divergent, multi-cultural places they are to this day.

In conclusion, the second half of the 19th Century

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witnessed dramatic changes in all aspects of American city life. these changes had many impetuses, among them ~~of~~ industrialism and labor, consumerism, political machines, and a diversifying populace. It is the amalgam of all these elements that made cities the vibrant, and diverse areas they came to be.

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In the second half of the nineteenth century America "moved to the cities". The people that moved to the cities were lured by the "big city" life, chance for prosperity and by employment opportunities. Immigrants, industry, labor unions, and political machines "changed the American city by affecting the way cities looked, ran politics, worked and their demographics."

Immigration in the late nineteenth century became a problem for many people. Nativists, those of favor "~~the~~" "Native" Americans (not the real Native Americans/Indians) became a strong force. Immigrants, they argued, only bring trouble to many areas of life. They saw immigrants as drunks who were dangers to society, this idea went hand in hand with the temperance movement became a very city oriented movement. Parties, such as the Know Nothing's, ~~accepted~~ focused on racist issues and wanted to slow or stop immigration. Immigrants also greatly angered the labor unions. Immigrants were often willing to work for cheap rates and avoid unions. Immigrants often took jobs that were essential to the running of the cities. The Irish mainly, took jobs as policemen and firemen, jobs that are very vital for big cities. Immigrants also changed the way the city looked. They often settled into ~~the~~ regions with their own ethnic groups creating the

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"Little Italys" and "Little Polands" that are still very visible today. In many ways they helped American cities become "tossed salads" ~~absorbing~~ adding their own flavor to American culture. Places such as Hull House were invented to help immigrants assimilate or accommodate to American life. Immigrants were taught English and how to survive in America. Immigrants ~~changed~~ clearly changed American cities by ~~take~~ filling needed occupations and adding to the variety of culture in American cities. They clearly ~~changed~~ American cities whether it was for the better or worse.

Industry changed American cities greatly. The invention of products such as steel allowed for the building of skyscrapers that would change city skylines forever. But along with industry and the workers they brought with them, the city became a dirty place. Garbage was thrown on the streets and dirty parts of the city developed a stench. Garbage collection and sewer systems allowed the city to become a cleaner and more attractive place. Factories, ~~print~~ employment opportunities, and employment opportunities meant a booming population. As industry boomed so did the population and the cities therefore expanded and grew to accommodate all the people. Service sectors grew to meet the needs of the population and

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added to the convenience of city life. Clearly industry changed the American city.

Political Machines changed the way cities were run. Immigrants right off the boat were given jobs by political machines in return voted for those who had helped them out. Political Machines began to control cities and client-patron relationships were very common. Policemen, firemen are all patron jobs and they were often held by immigrants. Political Machines meant corruption and that power was in the hands of a few. The city was divided between the haves who were in control of the haves nots. The most famous political machine was Boss Tweed's Tammany Hall. Clearly political machines changed the way cities were run.

As Americans moved to the city the city clearly changed. Immigrants, labor unions, industry and political machines all helped enlarge and shape the and ~~prepare~~ prepare the American cities for the twentieth century.

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The American city has undergone many periods of change in the past ~~226~~ 226 years. One important evolutionary period for the American city was the second half of the nineteenth century. (1850-1900) During these fifty years, the American city was shaped by both demographic and technological developments.

American cities were very influenced by demographic changes during the nineteenth century. The populations of cities in the industrial north increased as more Americans sought the comfort of city living. Another factor was the immigration of thousands of western Europeans sailed the Atlantic to the great United States. The immigrants, notably the Irish and Germans, established communities in crowded urban districts in the cities. Not only did such immigration provoke a rash of ~~anti-immigrant~~ nativist, anti-immigrant feelings, it also influenced politics and labor in the cities. Politicians began campaigning for specific ethnic groups. The Irish and Germans worked ~~down~~ their way up, following the American dream. On their way they made a lasting impact on American cities, including Catholicism, Judaism, St. Patrick's Day and beer.

Meanwhile, technological advances shaped cities in other important ways. Advances in architecture meant that office buildings could be build so tall they earned the name "skyscrapers". Electricity meant streetlights and streetcars for people to "go downtown" without

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walking. Inventions like the telegraph and the typewriter improved the quality of big city business. Technology made ^{even more} an ~~a~~ major influence ~~at~~ the cities of America when the assembly line made factory work more efficient and products could be produced for much less.

The American city developed dramatically over the last half of the nineteenth century, both demographically and through technologic advances.