

# Immigrants and Urbanization

Through the Golden Door

# Through the “Golden Door”

- ❖ Some immigrants seek better lives; others temporary jobs



# Europeans

- ❖ 1870-1920, about 20 million Europeans arrive in U.S.
- ❖ Many flee religious persecution: Jews driven from Russia by pogroms
- ❖ Population growth results in lack of farmland, industrial jobs
- ❖ Reform movements, revolts influence young who seek independent lives



# Chinese and Japanese

- ❖ About 300,000 Chinese arrive; earliest one attracted by gold rush
  - work in railroads, farms, mines, domestic service, business
- ❖ Japanese work on Hawaiian plantations, then go to the West Coast
  - by 1920, more than 200,000 are on the West Coast



# The West Indies and Mexico



- ❖ About 260,000 immigrants from West Indies; most seek industrial jobs
- ❖ Mexicans flee political turmoil; after 1910, 700,000 arrive
- ❖ National Reclamation Act creates farmland, draws Mexican farmers



# Life in a New Land

- ❖ The Journey:
  - Almost all immigrants travel by steamship, most in steerage



# Ellis Island

- ❖ Ellis Island—chief U.S. immigration station, in New York Harbor
- ❖ Immigrants given physical exam by doctor; seriously ill not admitted
- ❖ Inspector checks documents to see if meets legal requirements
- ❖ 1892-1924, about 17 million immigrants processed at Ellis Island

# Angel Island



❖ Angel Island—  
immigrant processing  
station in San  
Francisco Bay

❖ Immigrants endure  
harsh questioning,  
long detention for  
admission

# Cooperation for Survival

- ❖ Immigrants must create new life: find work, home, learn new ways
- ❖ Many seek people who share cultural values, religion, language; ethnic communities form
- ❖ Friction develops between “hyphenated” Americans, native born



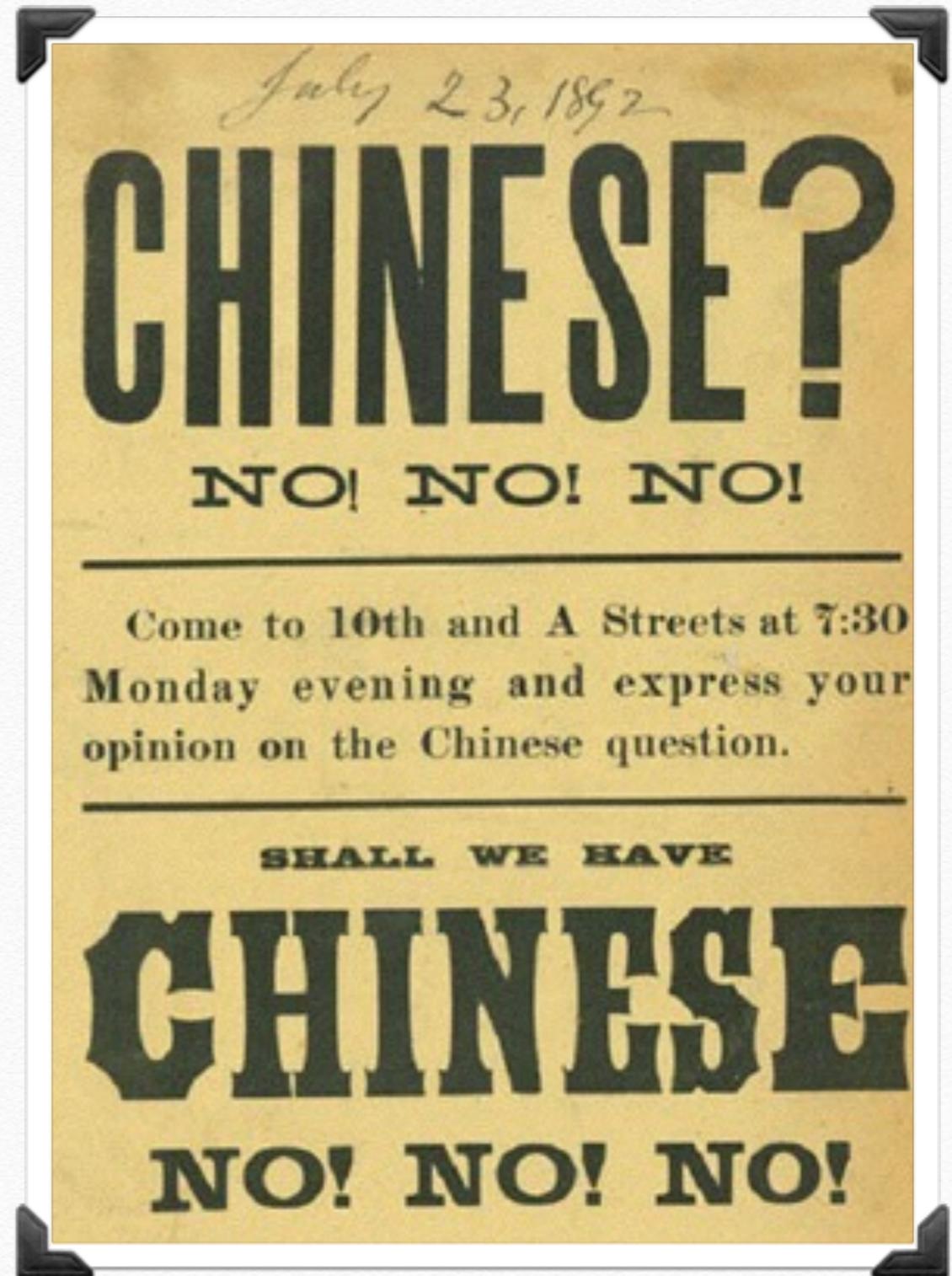
# The Rise of Nativism

- ❖ **Melting Pot**—in U.S. people blend by abandoning native culture -immigrants don't want to give up cultural identity
- ❖ Nativism—overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
- ❖ Nativists believe Anglo-Saxons superior to other ethnic groups
- ❖ Some object to immigrants' religion: many are Catholic, Jewish
- ❖ 1897, Congress passes literacy bill for immigrants; Cleveland vetoes  
-1917, similar bill passes over Wilson's veto



# Anti-Asian Sentiment

- ❖ Nativism finds foothold in labor movement, especially in West -fear Chinese immigrants who work for less
- ❖ Labor groups exert political pressure to restrict Asian immigration
- ❖ 1882, Chinese Exclusion Act bans entry to most Chinese



# The Gentlemen's Agreement

- ❖ Nativist fears extend to Japanese, most Asians in early 1900s
  - San Francisco segregates Japanese schoolchildren
- ❖ **Gentlemen's Agreement**—  
Japan limits emigration
  - in return, U.S. repeals segregation

