

- AMH 2010 & AMH 2020: AMERICAN HISTORY
- DR. ANDREW GOTTLIEB

The Rise of the American City



Miami Dade
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The Rise of the American City

"What shall we do with our great cities?
What will our great cities do with us?"

Lyman Abbott, 1891

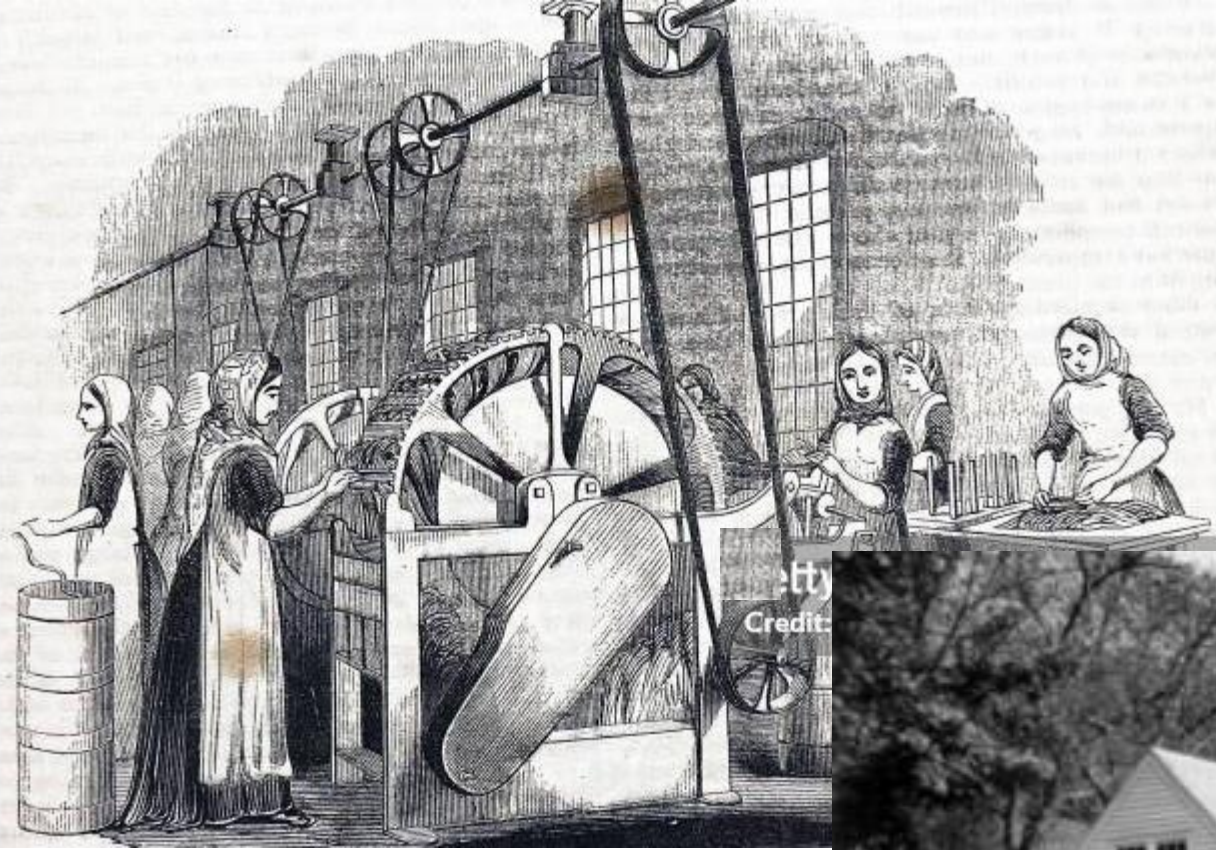
*"The greater part of our population must live
in cities--cities much greater than the world
has yet known. In due time we shall be a
nation of cities."*

Josiah Strong, 1898



Flickr.com

New York City's first skyscraper:
the Tower Building (1889)



Before steam-powered mills were invented, most industry was realized in rural, hilly areas with streams and rivers that had fast, powerful current.

Unfortunately, this meant that production took place away from cities, where the products would be sold to the majority of customers.



I. Sources of Urbanization

II. A. As steam replaced water power for mills, industries became concentrated geographically (iron/steel in Pittsburgh, meat-packing in Chicago, shoes in Haverhill, Massachusetts, etc). Steam engines transmitted power to the factory floor, via belts & axles.

B. Large-scale production instantly created small cities of workers--company towns dominated by one industry.

C. Gateways for immigrants (New York, Boston, San Francisco) provided abundant cheap labor.



The Corliss Steam engine (1876)

Another Steam engine, early 20th c.



II. Problems of the City

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A. Mass transit



bayourenaissanceman.blogspot.com

Horses produced several pounds of doozle and a quart of urine each day.

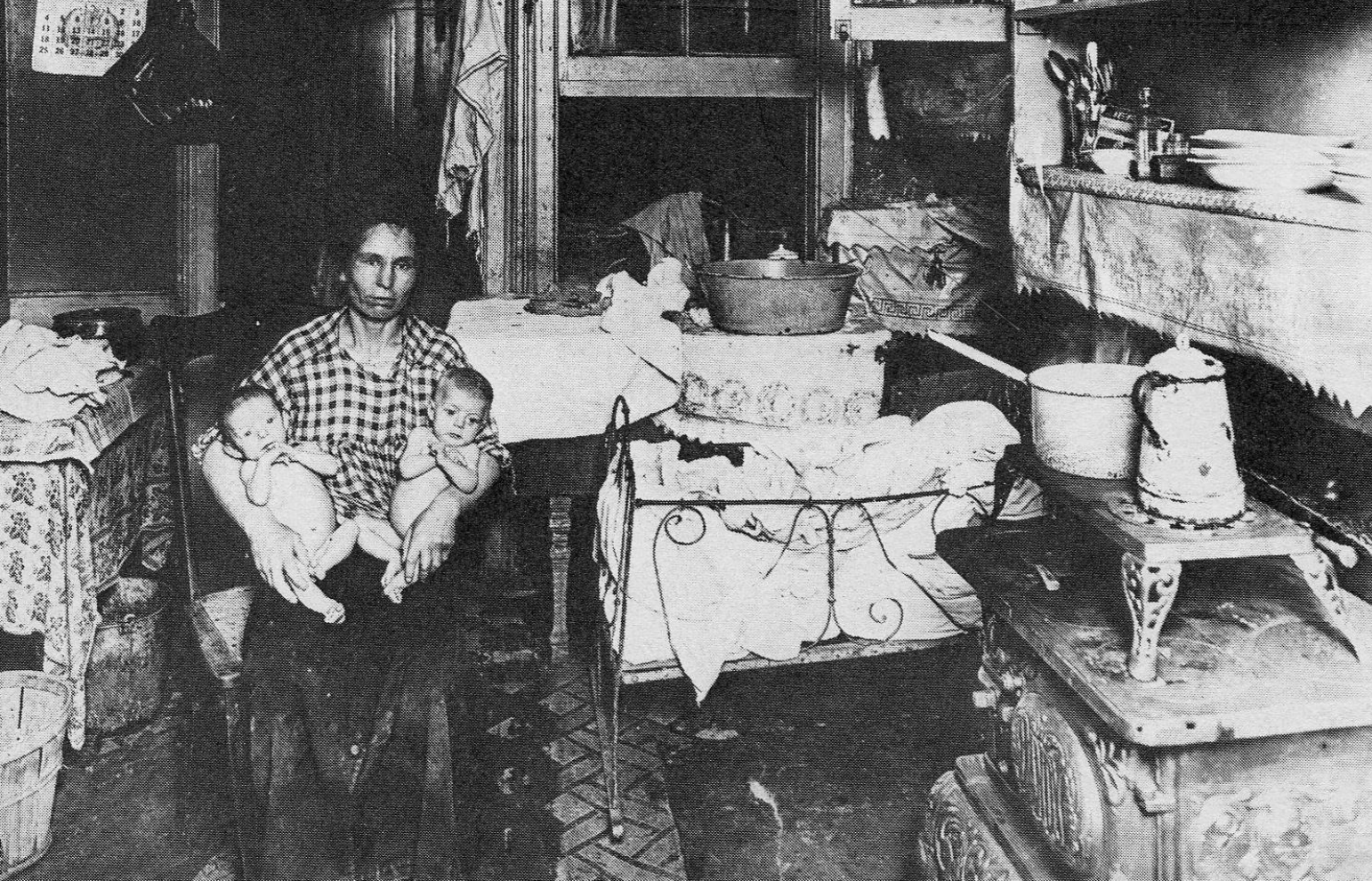
- 1. Until 1890, the horsecar (using railroad tracks) accounted for 70% of city traffic. Limitations: a. Slow, b. Limited pulling power, c. Left piles of manure.**

2. Cable cars (first used in San Francisco in 1873) and electric trolley cars (Richmond, 1887) with overhead power lines replaced horses in many cities.

San Francisco



Ebay.com

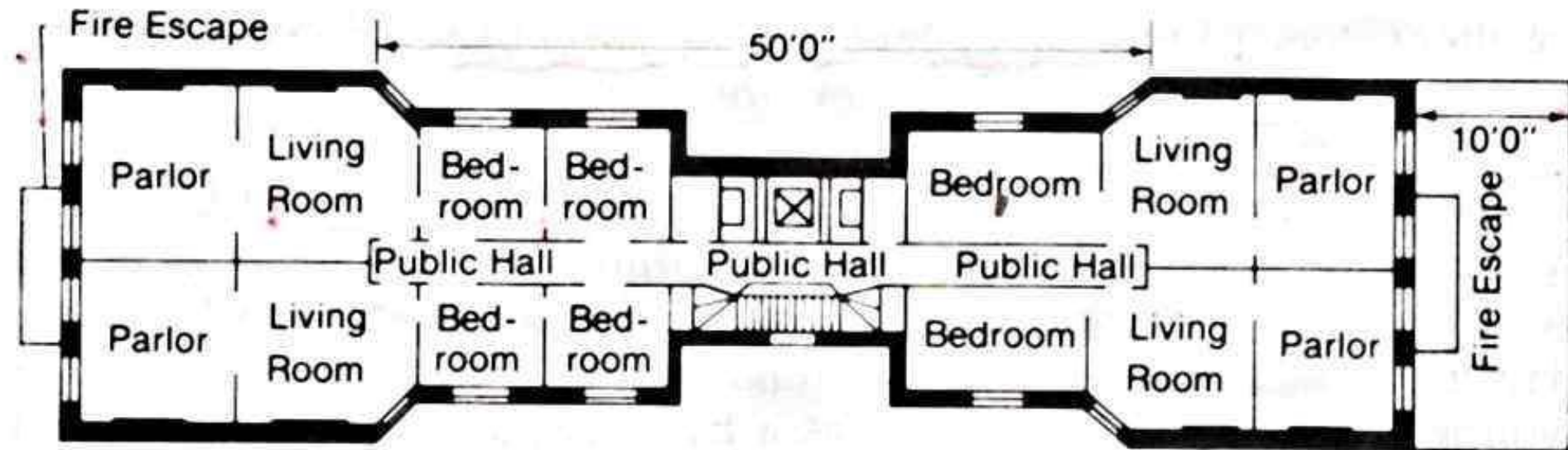


newyorkcitymuseum-a-thon.blogspot.com

B. Overcrowding in tenements



C. Poor sanitation, inadequate water supplies



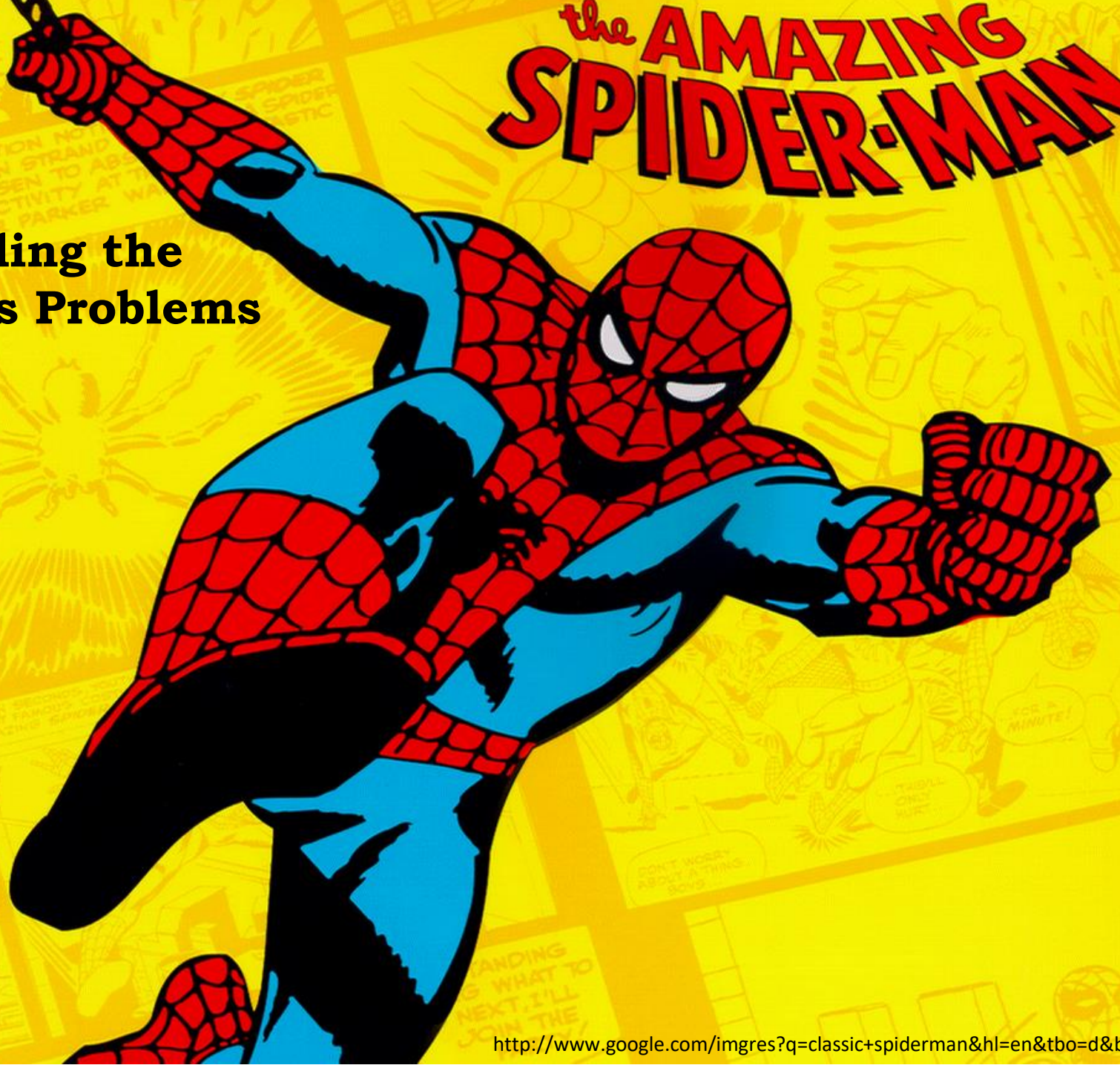
DUMBBELL TENEMENT

Shmoop.com

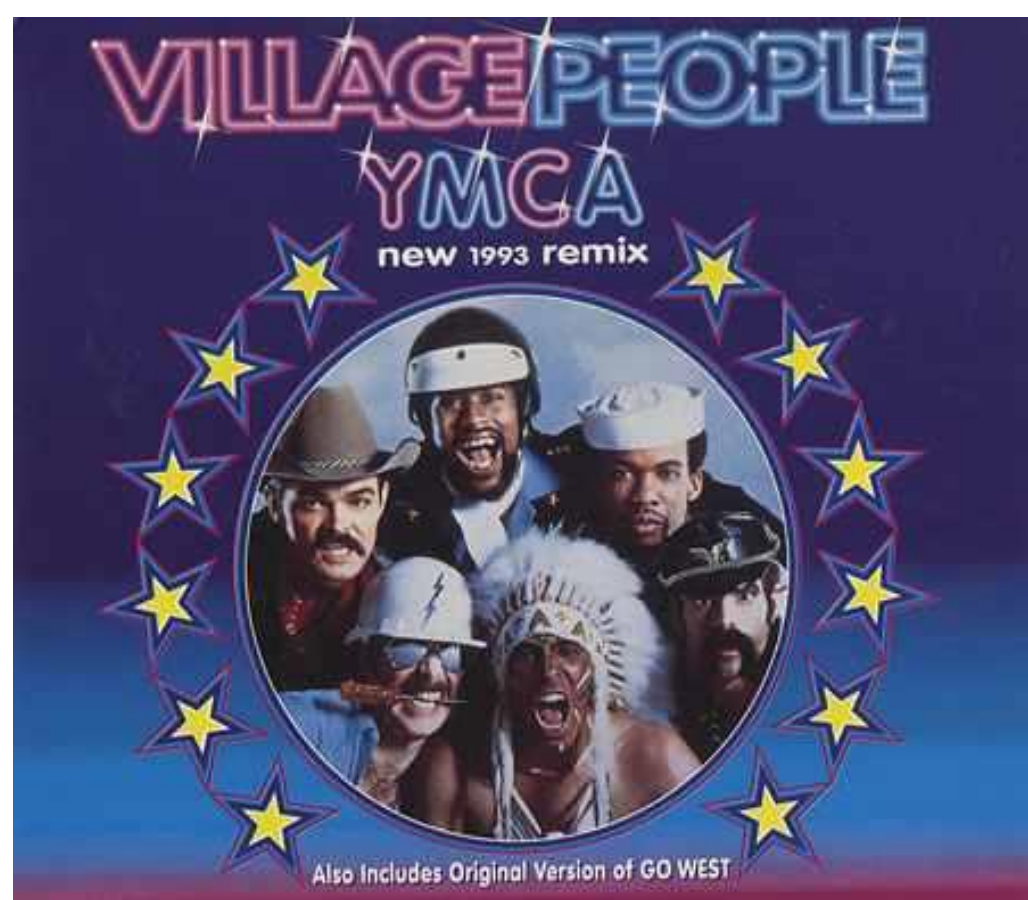
These five-or six-story housing blocs with dumbbell-shaped floor plans, were introduced in New York City in 1879. They were supposed to include fireproof stairways, outside windows for each room, and a toilet for every two families. But violations of these standards soon became commonplace, and by the 1890s, most of the dumbbell tenements had become be grossly overcrowded, lacking toilets, running water, and backyards

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

III. Battling the City's Problems



A. Reformers sought to counter poverty & other urban problems by focusing on moral uplift.



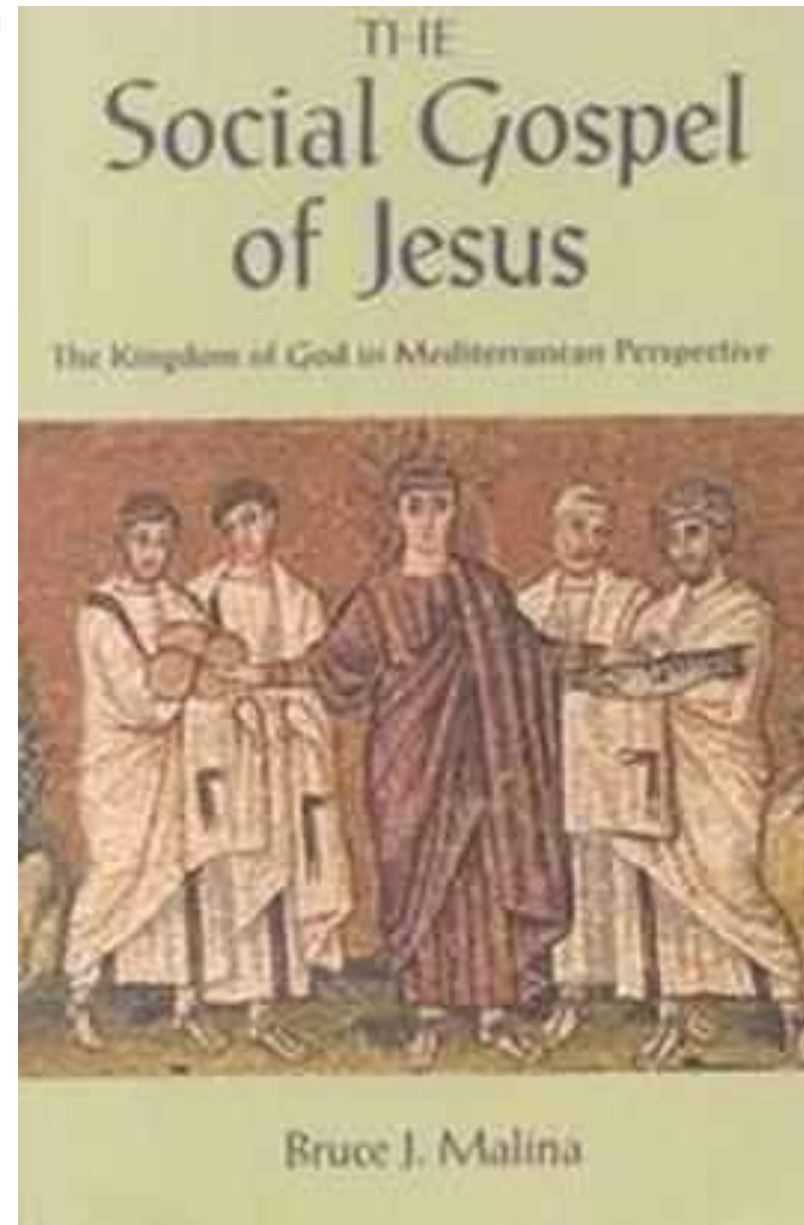
- 1. YMCAs and YWCAs formed to provide housing and recreation opportunities**
- 2. Salvation Army effective in providing emergency aid, housing, and street kitchens**
- 3. Comstock laws sought to close down gambling, pornography, prostitution, and Sunday liquor sales.**

B. Social Gospel sought to apply teachings of Jesus to the problems of urban society. Blame for problems did not rest with the poor, but with society.

Target.com

1. Washington Gladden--true Christianity requires churchgoers to fight social injustice

2. Walter Rauschenbusch— Christianity and the Social Crisis. Churches should unite to reform the abuses of industry and fight for peace.



C. Settlement Houses--founded by Jane Addams—offered a variety of services:



- 1. literacy classes**
- 2. crafts classes**
- 3. job training, and**
- 4. a sense of dignity to urban dwellers, particularly immigrants**

IV. Corruption in the City

- A. Police forces (separate from the military and controlled by local officials) established to maintain law and order:**
- 1. poorly defined duties**
 - 2. ineffective in stopping theft, crime, prostitution, gambling**
 - 3. Symbiotic relationships developed between police & institutions, such as the saloons they were supposed to oversee.**
 - 4. Reform came slowly, through independent police commissions**

http://www.zazzle.com/police_dogs_on_parade_early_1900s_card-137858894567598325

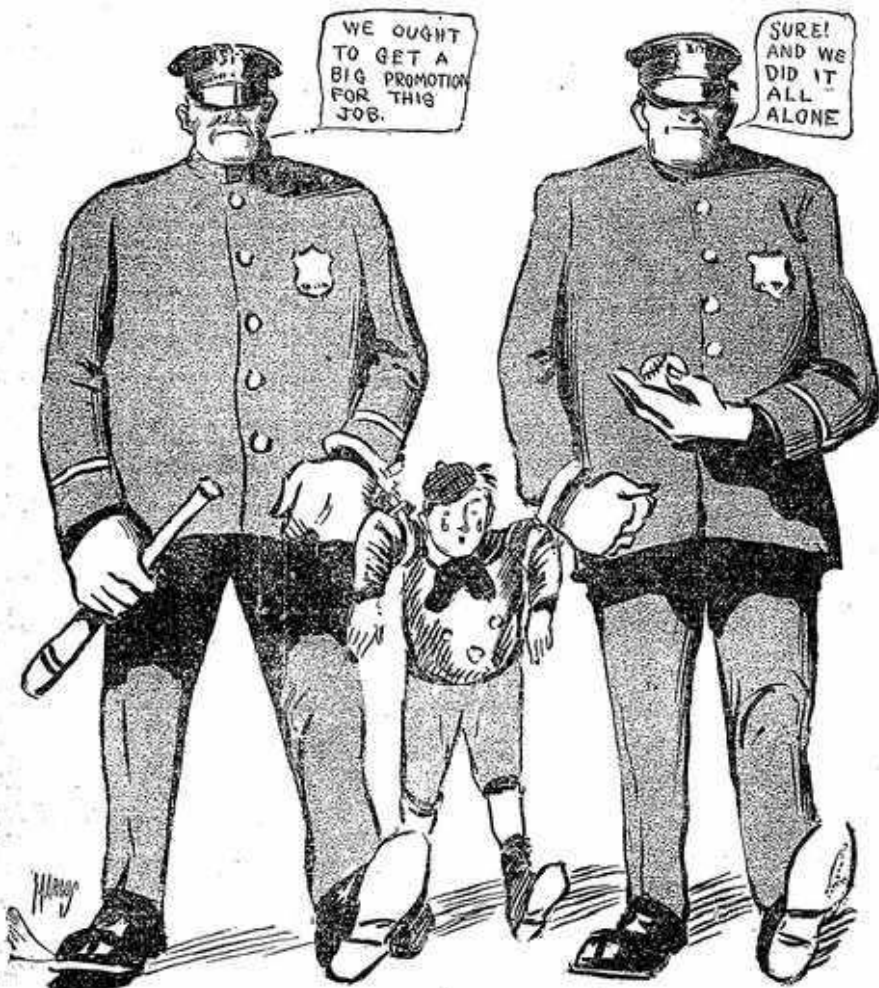


B. Political bosses emerged, controlling city machines

1. Ward captains turned out voters on election day
2. Jobs handed out as political favors, as were tax breaks and licenses.



3. While some machines provided welfare services, opportunities for corruption were great



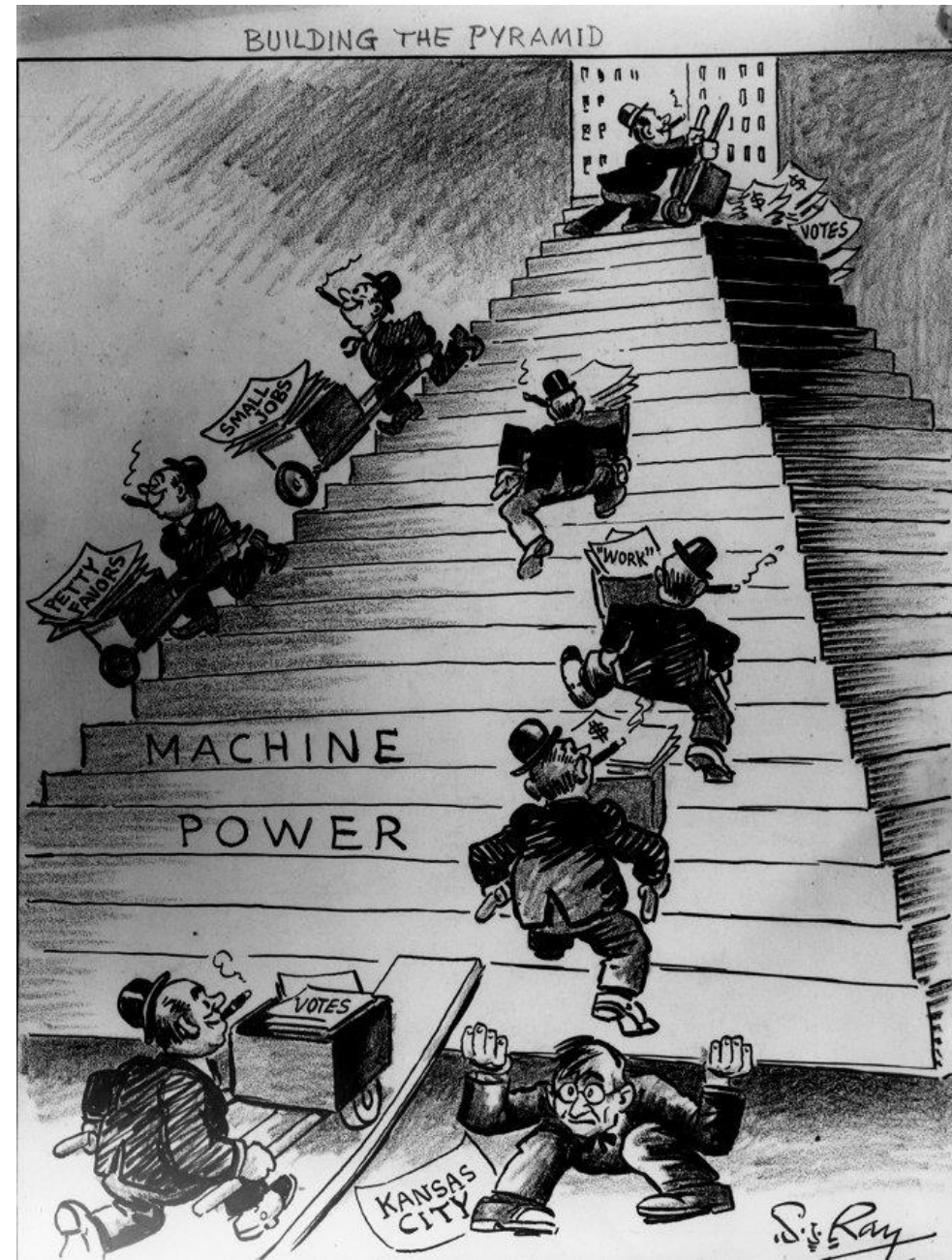
"Th' force was all used up by th' daily customary raptures in suppressin' baseball games."

From NYT- Aug, 11, 1912, about the fictional character, Mr. Dooley, and his observations about New York City.

Henry James, Henry Adams and Theodore Roosevelt read him regularly. The historian Charles A. Beard said that given the toxic level of public controversies in the early 20th century, he "relaxed the tension of the 'moral overstrain.'" The columnist Franklin P. Adams called his meditations "merely truth concealed in sugar-coated idiom and dialect" to conceal his loathing of injustice, sham and selfish stupidity. Through hundreds of columns beginning in 1893, he was a national sage and satirist laureate. All that, and he didn't really exist.

Boss Tweed in New York's Tammany Hall controlled 60,000 jobs. He was arrested, bribed his way out of jail, escaped, re-caught and finally died in jail.

Big Jim Pendergast held absolute power in Kansas City, controlling gambling and liquor licenses



<http://library.umkc.edu/spec-col/parisoftheplains/webexhibit/pol-01.htm>

Though the machine benefited many, it was a national embarrassment to the city, the state, and the Democratic party. As this cartoon shows, the machine's workings were common knowledge. From local citizens' councils to the governor's mansion, Pendergast's politics began to be tolerated less and criticized more. Leaders in the call for reform were Mayor John B. Gage, elected in 1940; *The Kansas City Star*; and Samuel S. Mayerberg, outspoken rabbi of Temple B'Nai Jehudah.