

THE WORLD OF CITIES

Medicine and Population - between 1800 and 1900, pop. of Europe more than doubled

The Fight Against Disease

- 1870 - Louis Pasteur - French chemist who showed the link between microbes and disease - went on to develop vaccines for rabies and anthrax, and introduced pasteurization, process for killing disease-carrying bacteria in milk

- 1880s - Robert Koch - German doctor who identified the bacteria that caused tuberculosis (cure came half a century later)

- by 1914, yellow fever, malaria traced to microbes carried by mosquitoes

In the Hospital - early 1840s - anaesthesia first used to relieve pain during surgery, allowed doctors to experiment with operations that hadn't been possible before

- Florence Nightingale - British army nurse who insisted on better hygiene for injured soldiers in field hospitals - introduced sanitary measures in British hospitals, founded the world's first school for nursing

- Joseph Lister - English surgeon who discovered antiseptics for preventing infection, insisted that surgeons wash their hands before operating and sterilize their instruments

- eventually, antiseptics drastically reduced deaths from infection

The Life of the Cities

The Changing City Landscape

- urban renewal - rebuilding of the poor areas of city - tenement housing replaced by wide boulevards and public buildings - project put many to work, decreasing the threat of social unrest

- settlement patterns shifted - in most American cities, rich lived in pleasant neighborhoods in city outskirts - poor crowded into slums near the city center, close to factories - trolley lines took many employees from home to factory

Sidewalks, Sewers, and Skyscrapers

- sidewalks helped with pedestrian traffic in cities - gas lamps, then electric street lights, increased safety at night - cities organized police forces, expanded fire protection

- sewage systems made cities healthier places to live - massive new sewers in London and Paris cut death rates dramatically

- by 1900, architects were using steel to construct soaring buildings

Slums - urban life remained harsh for the poor - most working-class families lived in small, cramped row houses or tenements in overcrowded neighborhoods

- some families lived in a single room - unemployment or illness meant lost wages that could ruin a family - high rates of crime, alcoholism were a constant curse

The Lure of the City - many drawn by the promise of work - music halls, opera houses, theaters provided entertainment, museums and libraries offered educational opportunities - sports drew citizens of all classes (from tennis to bare-knuckle boxing)

Working-Class Struggles

- by mid 1800s, workers formed mutual-aid societies, self-help groups to aid sick or injured workers - men and women joined socialist parties, organized unions

- by late 1800s, most western countries gave all men the right to vote - labor unions were legalized in many industrialized nations by the beginning of the 20th century

- govts. passed laws to regulate working conditions - child labor was outlawed, employment of women in mines was banned - by 1909, British coal miners won an 8-hour work day - govts. established old-age pensions, disability insurance for injured or ill workers

Rising Standards of Living

- standard of living - measures the quality and availability of necessities and comforts in a society - families ate more varied diets, lived in better homes, dressed in inexpensive, mass-produced clothing - advances in medicine improved health - some workers moved to suburbs, traveling to work on subways and trams

- despite these changes, the gap between workers and the middle class widened

CHANGING ATTITUDES AND VALUES

A New Social Order - by the late 1800s, a growing middle class was pushing its way up the social ladder - top of middle class: midlevel business people, professionals (doctors, scientists, lawyers)

- below this group (but still part of the middle class) were teachers, office workers, shopkeepers, clerks - struggled to keep up with those just above them

- at the base of the social ladder were workers and peasants

Rights for Women - in Europe and the U.S., politically active women campaigned for fairness in marriage, divorce, and property laws

- women's groups supported the temperance movement, campaign to limit or ban the use of alcohol - they argued that drinking threatened family life

- late 1800s - groups emerged supporting women's suffrage (right to vote) - faced intense opposition - women in Europe, most of U.S. wouldn't have suffrage until after WWI

Growth of Public Education

Public Education - late 1800s - quality of elementary schools improved, more secondary schools (high schools) opened - students learned Greek, Latin, history, math - only middle-class families could afford to send their sons to school

Higher Education - university students were usually sons of middle/upper-class families
- university curriculum emphasized ancient history, languages, philosophy, religion, law
- 1840s - women's colleges began to open in England, U.S.

The Darwin Challenge - Charles Darwin - British naturalist who developed the theory of natural selection - those species who adapted best to the environment would survive, reproduce ("survival of the fittest")

- evolution - man descended from other species over time - extremely controversial idea - many Christians argued that Darwin's theory reduced people to the level of animals, undermined belief in God and the soul (creation vs. evolution)

Social Darwinism - applying the idea of survival of the fittest to war and economic competition - industrial tycoons were more "fit" than those they put out of business - war brought progress by weeding out weak nations - encouraged racism

Religion in an Urban Age

- social gospel - movement among Protestant churches in the U.S. and Europe that urged Christians to social service - they campaigned for reforms in housing, health care, education