



Welcome!

Lecture 15:  
Brave New World

# Unit 3: Facing Freedom's Boundaries

## Lecture 15: *Brave New World*



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### Industrialization and Class

- Upper class
  - 1890: top 1% of American families owned 1 / 4 of the nation's wealth; top 10% owned 73%
- Middle class
  - 1865-1890: middle class income rose 30%
- Working class
  - 1860-1890: wages rose 50%
    - skilled wages up 73%
    - unskilled wages up 31%

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### Industrialization and Work

- Industrialization changes the size and shape of the work force
- Autonomous labor replaced by directed labor
- Skilled labor declines, unskilled labor increases
- Working conditions

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### Industrialization and Immigration

Factors stimulating immigration:

- Push Factors

- ▶ economic conditions in Europe and Asia
- ▶ political conditions in Europe and Asia
- ▶ technology of transportation

Immigration to America was part of a massive global migration during the Gilded Age.

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### Industrialization and Immigration

Factors stimulating immigration (con't):

- Pull Factors

- ▶ jobs = freedom
- ▶ "free" land
- ▶ social mobility

Most immigrants to America did not intend to stay and returned to their home country or to another country.

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### Industrialization and Immigration

#### Immigrant life in America:

- the world of home and family
  - ▶ ethnic enclaves
  - ▶ mutual support organizations
  - ▶ language and culture / assimilation
- Social mobility
  - ▶ modest but real
  - ▶ varied among different immigrant groups
  - ▶ higher levels for second generation