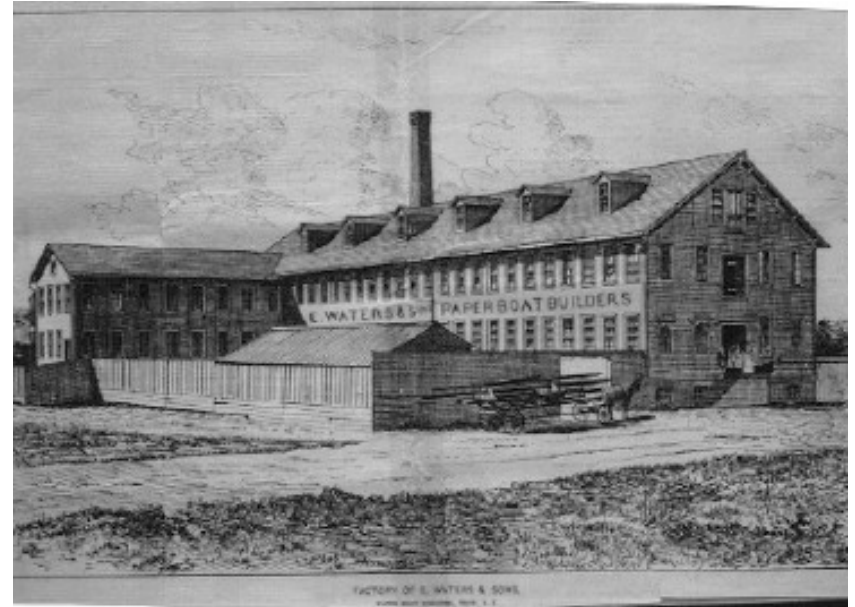


The Industrial Age

Outcome: Labor Supply

Factories Need Workers!



Labor Supply

1. Setting the Stage:

- a. By 1890, the frontier was officially considered closed
- b. Free land was no longer available to settlers moving west
- c. Two waves of immigrants would come to settle America
- d. Differences in culture as well as competition for jobs would create tension

Labor Supply

2. Sources of Labor During the Industrial Age

a. Migration from farms to cities (urbanization)

- i. Between 1860-1915 rural population doubled, but urban pop grew 700%!
- ii. By 1915, more than 1 in 3 people living in cities came from farms: why?
 1. Young, single women saw little futures on farms
 2. Many migrants were black southern sharecroppers seeking a better life in Northern industrial cities
 3. Farms were becoming larger & more mechanized which meant less human power was needed

Labor Supply

- b. Immigrants provided a large pool of labor for industry
 - i. Immigrants arrived in 2 large waves or periods
 - 1. **Wave #1** (Before 1880) = "Old Immigrants"
 - a. Almost all came from Northern and Western Europe
 - b. Ex: Great Britain, Germany, Scandinavia

Old Immigrants



Labor Supply

2. Wave #2 (After 1880) = "New Immigrants"
 - a. More than one-third came from Southern or Eastern Europe
 - b. Ex: Italy, Greece, Slavic
 - c. Their different languages, religions, and customs set them apart from most "old immigrants," feeding intolerance
 - d. Contributed to a surplus of labor by mid 1880s
 - e. Became targets of discrimination, fueled by renewed attitude of Nativism among some "old immigrants"
 - f. **Nativism:** a prejudice by native-born Americans against new immigrants, fueled by cultural differences & economic threat

New Immigrants



Labor Supply

3. Industry Exploited Workers

- a. Coal mines (boys) and textile factories (girls & women)
- b. Women and children made up more than 50% of industrial workforce in 1880s
- c. Workers no longer felt valued by their employers, but became interchangeable parts in the machine of industry
- d. **Workers faced:**
 - i. Low pay
 - ii. Long hours
 - iii. Poor & unsafe working conditions
- e. Felt powerless (a single worker was no match against an employer)