Preparation Questions for Wed, Feb 21 – Chapter 18

Who were the “new immigrants” in the late 19th century?

What challenges did new immigrants to the United States face?

What steps did immigrants take to meet these challenges?

What was the “assimilation dilemma”?

What factors contributed to rapid urban growth in the late 19th century?

What was it like to live in a late-19th century American city?

Identify the 5 most important terms / concepts from this reading (and WHY they are important)

Preparation Questions for Friday, Feb 23 --- 2nd Half of Ch 18

What is a “political machine”? What role did they play in late-19th century cities? Did they help or hinder immigrant assimilation?

Who opposed urban political machines?

What solutions and alternatives did they offer?

What are some of the various metaphors for American society’s multiculturalism?

Which one do you think best describes the ACTUAL situation in the early 20th century US?

Which one do you think SHOULD define American assimilation?

Identify the 5 most important terms / concepts from this reading (and WHY they are important)

Document Workshop Ch 18 – American Assimilation, 1890s-1910s

Imagine each of the documents in this chapter as if they were distinct individual people, each with a particular perspective on the issue of American immigration and assimilation. Picture them as engaged in a conversation or a debate.

* Who are they—define / identify each?
* What would each “person” (document) say?
* Where would they agree / disagree?
* Whose perspectives are *not* represented here?

You might, for example, take any 2-3 documents and compare/contrast.

Sample “Interpret the Evidence” questions (p. 614)

According to Israel Zangwill, how will immigrants become “real Americans”? (Doc 18.5)

According to the *Puck* cartoon (Doc 18.6), what are the limits of the melting pot?

Why might other immigrant groups have supported Chinese exclusion? (Doc 18.7)

Describe Alfred Schultz’s view of the melting pot and the possibilities of assimilation (Doc 18.8). How would he evaluate the *Puck* cartoon?

How does Randolph Bourne’s vision of America’s future (Doc 18.9) differ from that of Zangwill (Doc 18.5)? On what points might the two men have agreed, and could they have satisfied Schultz (Doc 18.8)?