**US History**

**Measurement Topic 2:** Industrialization and Immigration

**Learning target #2 (Level 3):** Explain the effect political machines had in cities and explain how immigrants and middle class people responded to the political machines.

The industrial revolution in the United States caused new cities in the northern part of the United States to form, also caused existing cities to grow larger. Many cities grew near canals, major rivers and railroads which provided transportation. Between 1870 and 1920 the urban (city) population in the United States grew from 10 million to 54 million due to increased industrialization in the United States. When cities grow this is called urbanization. Most of the city growth took place in the Northeastern part of the United States. In 1890, 40% of the US population lived in cities.

At the same time about 20 million Europeans from **Southern and eastern parts of Europe** arrived in the United States between 1870 and 1920, which added to the urban growth. Immigrants gathered in ethnic groups (lived near people like them), they lived near other who shared their language, religion and values. Industrial jobs, jobs in the factories, drew immigrants to cities; as a result cities became overcrowded creating issues with inadequate housing, poor transportation, increase in crime and a major issue with people not having clean water. Another major issue created was a lack of good sanitation; cities were not prepared for this huge influx of people, so the cities did not have good sewage system, resulting in sewage being found in the streets. Many immigrants lived in multifamily tenements (apartments) in the central part of the cities that were poorly build, lacked good lighting and sewage systems. Residents of cities had to live in fear of crime, diseases, and fire. Also as the cities grew in size and issues, the city governments were not equipped to deal with these issues.

Political Machines were created to handle these issues in cities. Political machines were groups of people who choose to “fix” the issues found in the cities created with industrialization and larger populations. Political machines were able to handle the issues of cities by controlling all the politics, jobs, and organizations of a city. Political machines had a boss, the main person in charge of the political machine. Under the boss were election captains, the people who would help the immigrants in exchange for votes, and the last part of the political machines were the immigrants. Immigrants were **the poor people** in the cities who received assistance from the political machines in exchange for votes.

New immigrants needed jobs, housing, and food and police protection. Since immigrants were new to the United States they felt the political machines were their “friends”, since the political machines provided immigrants with **essential services such as housing, jobs, and protection**. **In exchange for providing all these services to the immigrants**, **political machines would “request” that immigrants vote for specific people or laws on election day**. The payoff for the political machine would take place on Election Day, when the immigrants **would vote** for the person or laws the political machines supported. This resulted in immigrants having **A LOT of voting power**. Political Machines controlled the laws, politicians, jobs, and police in the cities. In order for laws to get passed or politicians to get elected they had to support the Political machines. The politicians would promise jobs to the political machine so they would get elected. Political machines also became rich by committing fraud since the political machine bosses would accept bribes from contractors who wanted the big jobs in cities, such as building bridges, sewers and streets. The political machines took over cities at first to provide services the cities could not, but because they “bought” votes, they became very corrupt with election fraud, and political corruption.

Immigrants responded very favorably to political machines since they got help with their most urgent problems. City bosses offered them jobs, housing, or help with becoming citizens all in exchange for their votes for specific politicians or laws.

**Middle class Americans** did not respond so favorably to the political machines. They saw them as **corrupt** since the political machine supported criminals, and paid off the police. The middle class Americans felt political **machines represented wide spread corruption found in major cities**. Middle class Americans also distrusted immigrants influence on the government, so they began calling for reforms. The people who wanted these changes were called progressives. Progressives in California created the **Workingman Party** to keep **Asian immigrants** from political gaining control. Some cities did respond to this cry for reform by establishing city councils and electing mayors to provide a more stable and less corrupt city government.

**Answer all the questions in complete questions:**

1. What led to an increase in urbanization?
2. What happened to cities as a result of urbanization? What were some issue cities encountered as a result of urbanization?
3. Why were political machines created? What is a political machine?
4. How did political machines gain power?
5. What did immigrants get from the political machines?
6. How did middle class Americans respond to political machines? How did they view political machines?
7. Why was the working man party created?

Write a **½ page summary** about political machines and how immigrants and middle class Americans responded to political machines.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_