

Demographic and Environmental Changes 1750-1914

Key changes -- overview

- End of Atlantic slave trade and slavery
- Large scale migration to the Americas
- Dropping birth rates in the west due to industrialization
- Environmental changes (some worse, some better)
- Changes in the workplace
- Changes in family life
- Changes in social classes
- Changes in gender roles

End of the slave trade and slavery

- Enlightenment & Revolutions raised issues
- Slave revolts
- Increase in Caribbean sugar production meant cheaper sugar, while price of slaves stayed same
- Industry a safer investment for capital
 - Factory workers didn't have to be taken care of like slaves

End of slave trade and slavery

- Abolition in most European countries and the US:
 - Britain, 1807
 - The US, 1808
 - France, 1814
 - The Netherlands, 1817
 - Spain, 1845

- Abolitionists pushed British navy to send patrol ships to conduct search & seizure off coast of Africa
- Last documented slave trip – 1867 (to Cuba)

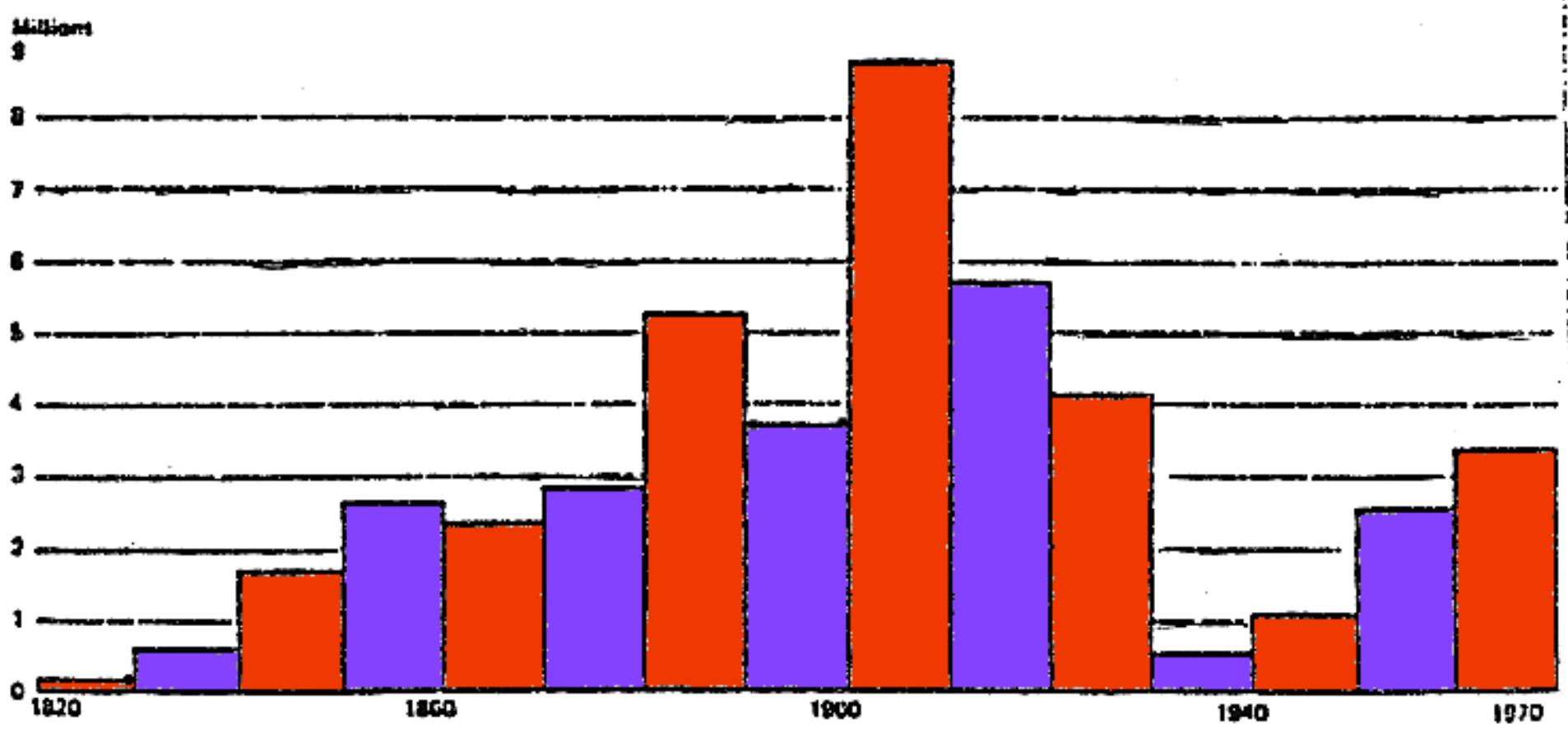
The end of slavery

- Continued in most places in the Americas long after trade abolished
 - British colonies – 1833
 - French colonies – 1848
 - USA – 1865
 - Brazil (last) 1888

Large-Scale Migrations

- Asian and European immigrants to Americas seeking economic opportunity
 - Gold rush
 - Factory work
 - Railroads
 - Plantation (agricultural) work

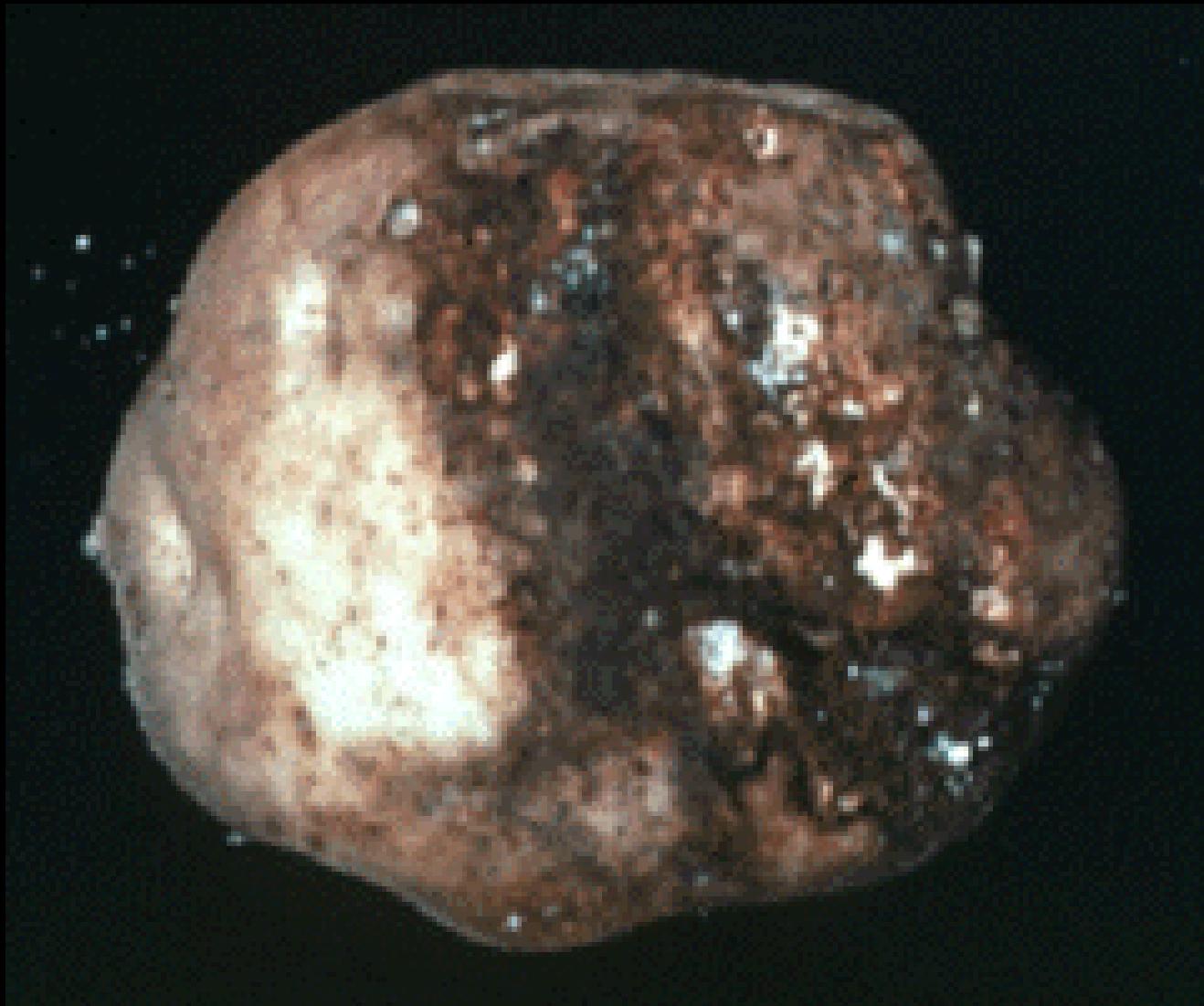
Bar Chart: US Immigration 1820-1970



“Push” factors for Europeans

- Increasing rents in Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Scandinavia
- Potato famine in Ireland
- Political revolutions in Germany
- Southern and Eastern Europeans:
 - Famine
 - Poverty
 - Discrimination

Phytophthora
Infestans
(Potato blight)





ATTACK ON A POTATO STORE.

Decades	Total	Yearly Average	Percentage
1821-30	408	41	0.25
1831-40	2,258	226	0.37
1841-50	1,870	167	0.09
1851-60	9,231	923	0.17
1861-70	11,728	1,173	0.50
1871-80	55,759	5,576	1.98
1881-90	307,309	30,731	5.85
1891-1900	655,668	65,567	17.05
1901-4	741,986	185,496	27.86
1821-1904	1,786,217		

Irish Migration to North America



EVICTION SCENE 1767. W.L.

Italians on ship deck





Italian men waiting at Ellis Island



Italian Women at Ellis Island

Chinese
immigrants en
route





Chinese men on ship

Reactions against immigrants

- “Nativist” organizations, e.g. the Know Nothings
- Anti-immigrant riots
- Chinese immigration cut off – “Chinese Exclusion Act” of 1889



PACIFIC CHIVALRY.

Encouragement to Chinese Immigration.

HELP WANTED

NO IRISH NEED APPLY

FULTON STREET 2000 O.C.

OCTOBER 12, 1855

PECK.



THE MORTAR OF ASSIMILATION - AND THE ONE ELEMENT THAT WORKS WEL

Migration to Latin America

- Mostly agricultural work
 - 4 million Italians
 - 15,000 Indentured laborers from China to Cuba
 - Chinese and Japanese to Peru – Cotton mines, plantations, railroads
 - Pacific Northwest – Chinese & Japanese to work in salmon canneries

Demographic Changes

- With industrialization, large families no longer necessary and too expensive
- Historically low birth-rate levels in 19th century
- High birth rates outside of West (e.g. Qing China's population explosion to 400 million)

Environmental Changes

- 1750 Wilderness areas virtually gone in Europe
- Deforestation a continuing problem (with soil erosion, desertification)
- Transformation of land in American West – swidden agriculture



Deforestation in Amazon

Environmental Changes

- Industrialization may have actually helped in some instances: Iron replaced wood slowing deforestation
- Massive Urbanization
 - London: from 500,000 in 1700 to over 2 million by 1850 (largest city ever)
 - New York City – 600,000 in 1850

Changes in Social and Gender Structure

- Industrialization widened gap between rich and poor by creating “white collar” class
- Workers were paid very low wages – many suffered more than rural peasants
- Industrial jobs were boring and repetitive
- Factory workers were powerless until the formation of labor unions

Family life

- Factories meant domestic system faded; families no longer all worked together
- Usually both husband and wife worked away from home (as did children)
- Even with two incomes, most families found it hard to make ends meet

Social classes

- Bourgeoisie class became larger
- Most not wealthy but comfortable
 - Small business owners
 - Managers or administrators of large businesses
 - “White collar” jobs

Social Classes

- Urban poor at mercy of business cycles and economic swings
- Factory workers frequently laid off, contributing to troublesome public behaviors:
 - Drunkenness
 - Fighting

Middle class stressed sobriety, thrift, responsibility, and industriousness









Gender Roles and Inequality

- Changes in gender roles fell along class lines
- Lower class men and women:
 - Factory workers resisted work discipline and pressures imposed by middle class managers
 - Most wives worked
 - Domestic servants
 - Clerks and secretaries



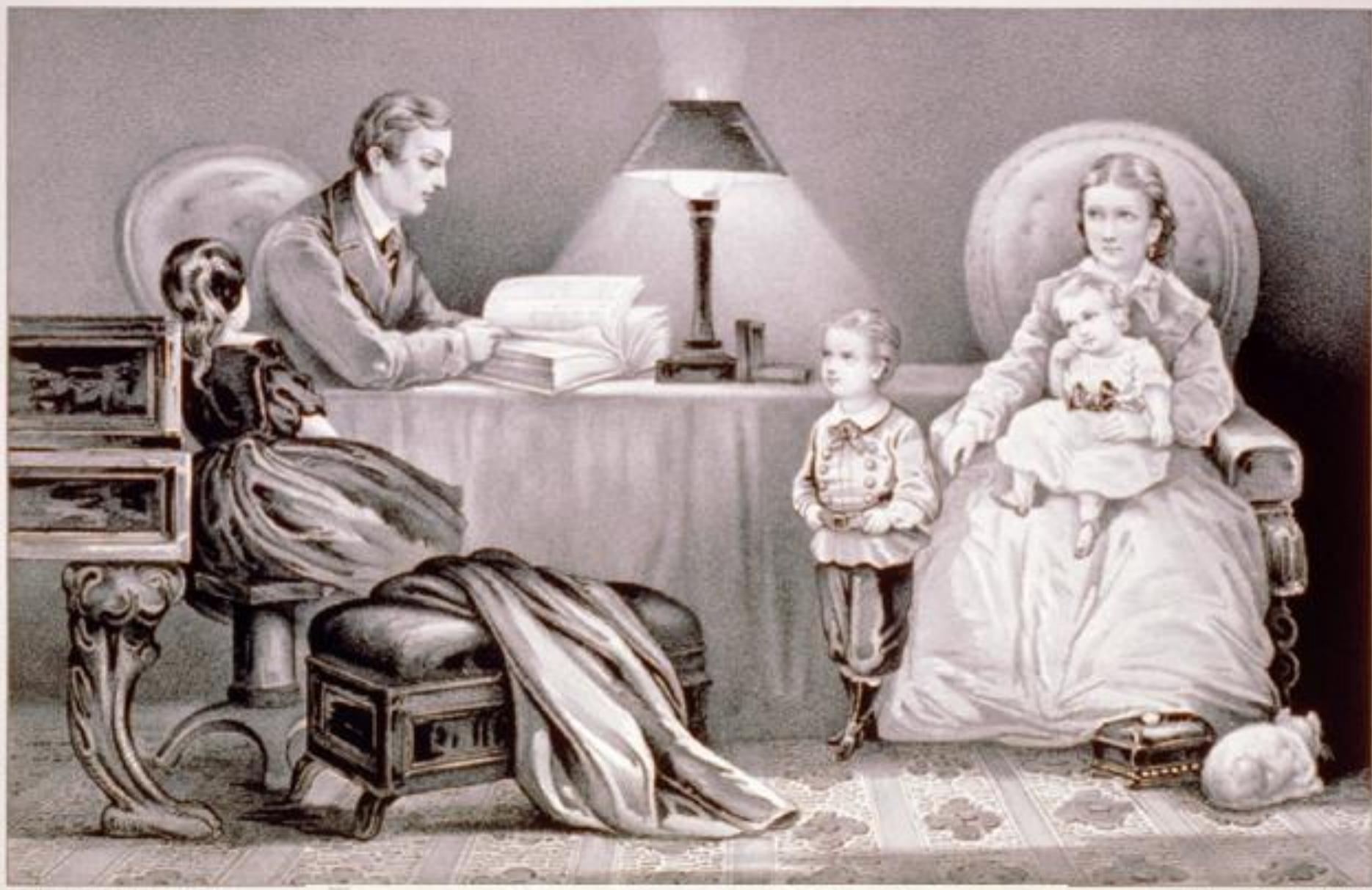
Irish "Laundry Girls"



Irish “Domestics”

Gender Roles and Inequality

- Middle class men and women
 - Increased status when work moved to factories, became managers or owners
 - “Men’s work” valued more than women’s domestic work
 - Men’s wages supported most middle-class families
 - Self improvement a favorite past time
 - Church attendance stressed



PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES

FAMILY DEVOTION.

Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find. Matt. VII. 7.

155 MADISON ST. NEW YORK

Currier & Ives, c1871

Gender roles of Middle Class

- Women: “Cult of Domesticity” developed
- Controversy over whether women’s rights increased or decreased in middle class

Increased	Decreased
Raising children vital to society	Women's work no longer integral
“Cult of Domesticity” idolized women as moral exemplars	Children less important
Didn't have to work in factory or agricultural jobs	“Separate Spheres” kept women from professional life