

Econ 323

Economic History of the U.S.

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Spring 2016

Today's Topics

- Collect Discussant Papers!
- Final Study Tips Posted
- Costa Reading for Monday (do beforehand)
- Econ major
- Big Business (cont.)
- Labor
 - Unions
 - Women
 - Immigrants

- Pick a major (or minor) that
 - You like
 - You are good at
- Economics
- Curious problem solvers
- Top Ten in Demand major
- One of the highest starting salaries
- <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2012/04/17/which-college-majors-pay-best/>
- *Can often use coursework in other disciplines for individually designed pathway

Unions

- Economics (see notes)

Unions

- Commonwealth vs. Hunt 1842
 - Established that unions were legal
- Clayton Act 1914
 - Declared unions not anti-competitive behavior
- Wagner Act 1935
 - Unions have the right to strike
 - Companies must collectively bargain with unions

TABLE 18-4 Union Membership, Selected Years

YEAR	TOTAL UNION MEMBERSHIP (THOUSANDS)	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL LABOR FORCE	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS A PERCENT OF NONFARM LABOR FORCE
1860	5	.1%	n.a.
1870	300	2.4	4.6
1880	50	.3	.5
1886	1,010	4.8	8.2
1890	325	1.4	2.3
1900	791	2.8	4.7
1905	1,918	5.9	9.3
1910	2,116	5.8	8.6
1917	2,976	7.4	10.0
1920	5,034	12.2	16.7
1929	3,625	7.6	9.7

SOURCES: Stanley Lebergott, "The American Labor Force," in *American Economic Growth: An Economist's History of the United States*, ed. Lance E. Davis et al. (New York: Harper & Row, 1963), p. 220; and *Historical Statistics* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1975), Series D4, D7, D8, D12, D17, D940, D943.

Unions

- Violent Episodes:
 - Haymarket Riot
 - Homestead Steel Works
 - Pullman Strike
- Court **Injunction** orders to stop striking
- **Yellow-Dog contract**
 - “This agreement has been well named. It is yellow dog for sure. It reduces to the level of a yellow dog any man that signs it, for he signs away every right he possesses under the Constitution and laws of the land and makes himself the truckling, helpless slave of the employer.” (source: Wikipedia)

Unions

- Chicago Haymarket Video

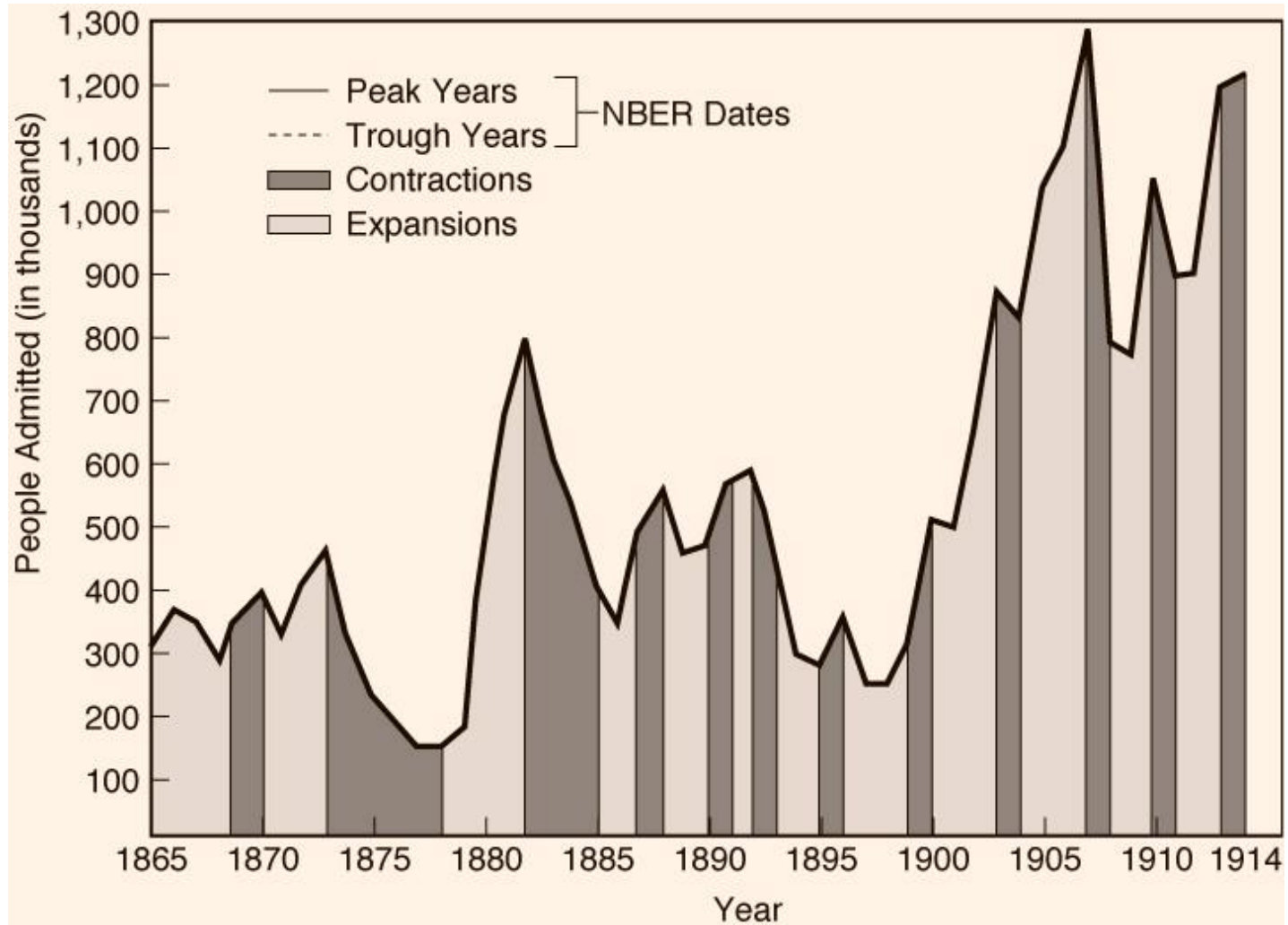
Women and Children in the workplace



These pickets are helping to dramatize the case for labor's legislative agenda.

Immigration

Immigration



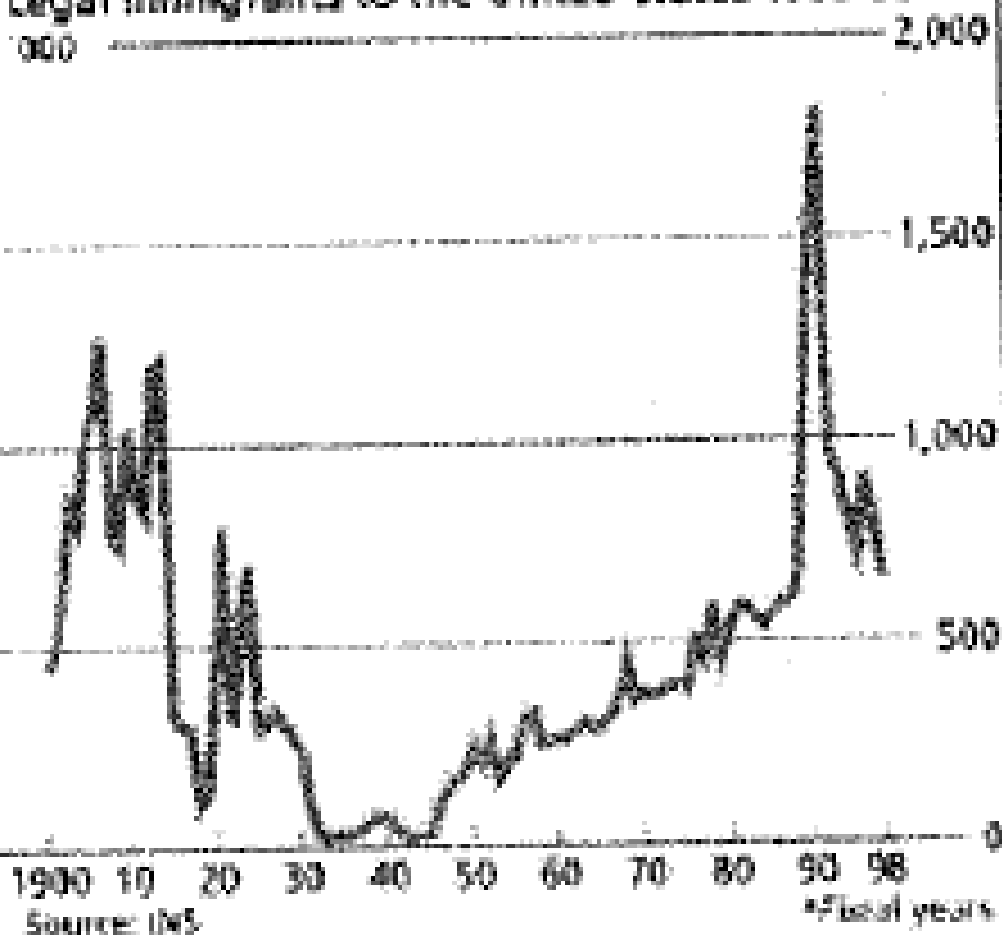
BLE 18-3 Origins of Immigrants, 1820–1920 (in percent)

	NORTHERN AND WESTERN EUROPE	CENTRAL, EASTERN, AND SOUTHERN EUROPE	OTHER
1821–1890	82%	8%	10%
1891–1920	25	64	11

SOURCE: *Historical Statistics* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1960), Series C88–114.

And lots more to come

Legal immigrants to the United States 1900-98*



Immigration restrictions

- Quotas
- Literacy requirements
- Chinese Exclusion Act 1882
 - First restrictions based on ethnicity
 - Repealed in 1943
- Immigration Act 1924
 - Restricted European immigration to 2% of 1890 nationalities
 - Prohibited Arab, Indian, and East Asian immigration
 - Put maximum immigration at 150,000 (big drop)