Econ 323
Economic History of the U.S.
Prof. Eschker
Fall 2018
Today’s Topics

- Collect Discussant Papers!
- Final Study Tips Posted
- Costa Reading for Tuesday (do beforehand—five minute paper)
- 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
• *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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOTAL UNION MEMBERSHIP (THOUSANDS)</th>
<th>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL LABOR FORCE</th>
<th>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS A PERCENT OF NONFARM LABOR FORCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.1%</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>1,918</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>2,116</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>2,976</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>5,034</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>3,625</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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)
Strikebreaker (a scab)

- a person who works despite an ongoing strike. Strikebreakers may be individuals who are not employed by the company prior to the trade union dispute, but may also refer to union members who cross picket lines to work.
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

[Graph showing immigration trends from 1865 to 1914, with peaks and troughs indicated by different lines and bars.]

- Peak Years
- Trough Years
- NBER Dates
- Contractions
- Expansions
### Origins of Immigrants, 1820–1920 (in percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NORTHERN AND WESTERN EUROPE</th>
<th>CENTRAL, EASTERN, AND SOUTHERN EUROPE</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1821–1890</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891–1920</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And lots more to come
Legal immigrants to the United States 1900-98

Source: INS
*Fiscal years
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
  - No limits on Latin American immigration
  - Put maximum immigration at 150,000 (big drop)