The Victorians Meet the Modern, 1880-1917
Chapter 18
Women, Men, and the Solitude of Self

• Elizabeth Cady Stanton described the “solitude of self” in 1892 in front of Congress.

Changes in Family Life

• Decline in birthrate from ___ child family in 1800 to ___ in 1900. Why?

• Comstock Act-

• New rural dilemma-

The Rise of High School

• Valuable for boys from affluent families for professional work

• However, girls attended in even larger number than boys after the Civil War. Why?

• _____% of Americans between the ages of 5 and 18 went to school by 1900.

• Most schools were coed and included sports programs
College Men and Women

• Through most of the 19th century rate of Americans who attended college was around 2%, by 1920 it went to 8%.

• A much larger attended business and technical schools.

African American Education

• Booker T. Washington founded the Tuskegee Institute in 1881.
  • Focused on industrial education as opposed to...
  • Avoid confrontation with whites and focus on cultivating patronage and private influence

• Tide of disfranchisement, segregation, and lynching rolled in during the 1890s, educated and prosperous blacks became targets of white anger.
Higher Education for Women

- Women often attended female only institutions or teacher training colleges
- Warning by doctors to educated women-
- Eventually more public institutions allowed women students
- Coeducation was more prevalent in the Midwest, West, and African American schools. Why?
  - 58% of universities and colleges were coed by 1910
- More respect from male peers
- More justification for women’s ________. 
Masculinity and the Rise of Sports

• More men were taking white collar jobs. Effect:

• No distinct American sports before the Civil War, except Native American lacrosse.

The YMCA and “Muscular Christianity”

• Business leaders relied on sports to foster physical and mental discipline
• Instill teamwork and company pride
• More for elite status men
• Volleyball and basketball
• Women rapidly encroaching on athletic turf. Effect:

America’s Game

• Baseball was most popular sport after Civil War
• Endorsed by companies that competed on paid work time
• Eventually opened to wage workers
Rise of the Negro Leagues

• In the 1880s-90s there were some black athletes in the major leagues (baseball)
• By the early 1900s, Negro Leagues began. Why?
• Thrived until WW2

American Football

• Controversial because of its violence
• Executives such as Carnegie Steel organized teams
  • Steelers, Packers, Bears
The Great Outdoors

• More Americans became attracted to the outdoors
  • Bicycling and camping became popular
  • Women wore lighter clothes and played sports

Preservation

• National and state governments responded to American trends and set aside more public land for recreation.
  • Theodore Roosevelt extended national forests
  • National Park Service 1916
  • Lacey Act-
    • “monuments” vs. “parks”
  • John Muir founded the Sierra Club
• Environmentalists also worked to protect wildlife
  • Roosevelt signed 51 executive orders creating wildlife refugees
  • Sometimes states used such laws to keep Native Americans off of land
  • Brought hardship to rural families. Why?
Women in the Public Sphere

• Gradually women of all classes and backgrounds began to claim their rights to public space.

Negotiating Public Space

• P.T. Barnum promoted commercial family entertainment for all classes and races
• His circus emphasized female performers and their respectability and refinement
• Railroad companies made their cars comfortable for families
  • First class marked passengers’ wealth and desire for domesticity
  • Exclusion of blacks from first class cars became one of the most public and painful marks of ________, before 1896.
  • By late 19th century women became chief family shoppers
From Female Moral Authority to Feminism

• Many women’s clubs formed by 1890
  • Education, pollution, working conditions, and urban poverty
  • Materialism-
    • Between domesticity and feminism

The Women’s Christian Temperance Union 1874

• Frances Willard first mainstream advocate of women’s suffrage
• Launched women into public reform
• First organization to identify and combat _____.
• Viewed as an attack on ethnic cultures
• Associated alcohol with prostitution, political corruption, and public disorder
• Education; kindergarten
• Labor reform
• Supported the Prohibition Party
• CO 1893; ID 1896
**Women, Race, and Patriotism**

- Daughters of the American Revolution 1890
- United Daughters of the Confederacy 1894
  - Confederacy a noble effort
  - Supported segregation and disfranchisement of African Americans
- Association of Colored Women 1896
  - Temperance, public health, orphans, elderly
- Women’s Convention of National Baptist Church
  - Night schools, prison reform, day care, health

**Feminism**

- Heterodoxy Club (1912) Greenwich Village, NY
- Female wage workers
- Against “separate sphere”
- Supported suffrage
- Work on their own behalf
Domesticity and Missions

- More women engaged in public activism through churches and religious groups
- Women’s National Indian Association
- Rescue home for Chinese women
  - Racially condescending
  - Fierce opposition from white residents
- Nine thousand overseas missionaries
  - Africa, Asia, Middle East
  - Frustration led to justification of Western imperialism
Science and Faith

Dinosaurs, evolution, astronomy

**Darwinism and Its Critics**

- Charles Darwin *On the Origin of Species (1859)*
  - Natural selection
- Social Darwinism was used to justify capitalism and industrialization
- Eugenics
  - Bolstered segregation and racism
  - Half of U.S. states enacted eugenics laws
  - Promoted xenophobia against Eastern and Southern Europeans

**Realism in the Arts**

- Realism
- Naturalism
- Mark Twain became the most famous fiction writer
- modernism
Religion: Diversity and Innovation

Immigrant Faiths

- What led to decline of religion?
- Immigrants established parochial schools
  - Mostly Catholic
- American Jews embraced Reform Judaism

Protestant Innovations

- Responding to the Growth of Catholicism, Protestant evangelism increased
- Social Gospel
- The Salvation Army
  - Used up-to-date marketing techniques
  - Bible Conferences at Niagara Falls
- Fundamentalism
- **Billy Sunday** helped bring evangelism to modern era
  - Women’s suffrage
  - Used sports to advertise revivals
  - Opposed child labor, socialism, and unrestricted immigration