Financial District from Produce Exchange Tower, New York

City limits, 1902

Lake Michigan

Central Business District

Horsecar lines, 1865

City limits, 1865

0   1   2   3 miles

Lake Calumet

Central Business District

Industrial area

Residential area

Parks and undeveloped land

Elevated lines, 1902

Streetcar lines, 1902

N W E S

The Urban Environment

The Gilded Age experienced massive **urbanization**. In 1870, only 25 American cities had populations of 50,000 or more; by 1890, 58 cities could make that claim. By 1900, 40% of Americans lived in cities.

In response to these changes, technological advances began to meet the nation's needs. Engineering innovations, such as the Brooklyn Bridge and skyscrapers, laid the groundwork for modern American life. Cities in every industrial area of the country expanded outward from central business districts to suburbs as well as upward as steel allowed buildings to increase in size.

As cities grew larger and beyond walking distance, cities introduced new mass transit services, such as trolley lines, elevated rail lines, and subways.