Exercise 1 pg. 364

In the second half of the 19th century in Europe lower classes’ conditions were extremely difficult: after the development of industrialization many people moved from the countryside to cities, but health, living and working conditions there were absolutely precarious, so people often decided to go somewhere else in order to find better and easier ones. Moreover, poor people were not politically involved and had less rights than middle and upper classes. They wanted more rights and a political delegation.

Exercise 2 pg. 364

I think the journey to America must have been extremely hard. There were a lot of people who decided to leave their country and across the ocean to find a new life, so steamships were incredibly crowded. The journey was also difficult because of health and hygienic conditions that were extremely bad and dangerous: people could get ill or come down with deathly diseases.

Exercise 3 pg. 365

1. Most immigrants came from Germany, Great Britain and Ireland.
2. During the 1880s most immigrants came from Northern and Western Europe.
3. In order to control immigration, the United States introduced the “Federal Immigration Act”, to select the people that could be welcomed in the States. So, immigration became more controlled as regards health, economic and morality of the immigrants.
4. Immigrants were occupied in many different branches, depending on their nationalities: Greeks usually were shops owners, Jews used to open restaurants or worked as tailors, Slavs worked in steel factories and Mexicans were mostly agricultural workers.

Exercise 1 pg. 366

Looking at the three images I can suppose that three of the businesses that changed the United State’s economy during the last part of the 19th century were the development and raising of the banks role, the commercialisation of “Coca Cola”, which is now one of the biggest and most famous multinational corporations of the world, and the discovery and commercialisation of a new kind of soap that had the peculiarity of floating so that it was easier to use.