

## On Steamships



From the end of the 1860s steamships replaced sailing ships in the emigration traffic. It was a revolution that made mass emigration possible. The steamships were much faster than the sailing ships, and the steamship lines offered regular departures and arrivals, and included meals in the price of the ticket. During the fifty years after 1865, nearly 677,000 Norwegians emigrated.



Norwegians crossed the Atlantic in three massive waves: 1866-1873, 1879-1893 and 1900-1914. From 1879 to 1883 an average of 21,000 people left every year, almost as many people as there lived in Trondheim, Norway's third largest city, in 1875.

## European Emigration Routes



Source: Helen Hornbeck Tanner, Ed. *The Settling of North America*. 1995

As steamships took to the seas and rail networks extended across the continent, migrants flooded out of Europe to North America. Many emigrants to North America came from the agricultural heartlands of Central Europe, far from any sea. In the earlier part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century they faced a long, hard journey even before they reached their port of embarkation. They traveled on foot or by cart to river ports.

The beginnings of the railroads in the 1830s eased the journey across Europe somewhat. By the end of the century an efficient railroad network carried migrants from the agricultural regions inland to the major northern ports of Bremen, Bremerhaven, Hamburg and Liverpool, or the southern port of Naples.