Human Capital and Higher Education:
Historical Lessons from the City University of New York (CUNY)

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- Three Eras
  - First Era: 1880 – 1950
  - Third Era: 1980 - present

The Founder
- Townsend Harris (1808-1878)

“Let the children of the rich and the poor take their seats together . . .”

Free Academy (1847)
- Original building at 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue

City University of New York (2009)
- 22 campuses and 500,000+ degree and non-degree students

- Four-Year Colleges:
  - Baruch College
  - Brooklyn College
  - City College
  - Hunter College
  - Lehman College
  - Medgar Evers College
  - Queens College
  - Queensborough
  - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

- Two-Year Colleges:
  - Manhattan
  - Bronx
  - Brooklyn
  - Borough Hall
  - LaGuardia
  - Queensborough
  - Queens
  - City College of New York

- Graduate and Professional Schools:
  - CUNY Law School
  - CUNY Graduate Center
  - CUNY Graduate School of Journalism
  - CUNY School of Professional Studies
  - CUNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education

http://cuny.edu/about/colleges.html
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Three Eras

- First Era: 1880 – 1950
  - Jewish immigrants
- Second Era: 1950 - 1975
- Third Era: 1975 - present

City College of New York (1906)
- Neo-Gothic Campus at 137th Street (Harlem)

The “New York Intellectuals”

Daniel Bell,
City College, 1935-1939

Irving Howe,
City College, 1936-1940

Jewish Students in the 1930s

Irving Kristol,
City College, 1936-1940

Nathan Glazer,
City College, 1940-1944

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  - Black and Spanish-speaking immigrants
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CUNY Community Colleges, 1950s

1. Staten Island Community College, 1955 (#4)
2. Bronx Community College, 1957 (#1)
3. Queensborough Community College, 1958 (#17)

CUNY Community Colleges, 1960s

1. Staten Island Community College, 1963 (#15)
2. Bronx Community College, 1967 (#12)
3. LaGuardia Community College, 1968 (#16)
Newark (New Jersey) Race Riot, 1967

CUNY Student Protests, 1969-70

CUNY Freshman Enrollment, 1969-1970

Anti-tuition protests, 1970s...
- 1973-75: Economic recession/city budget crisis
- 1976: Tuition imposed for the first time
- 1977: Freshman enrollment at CUNY dropped 30%
  36,606 freshmen in 1976
  25,741 freshmen in 1977

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Three Eras
- First Era: 1880 – 1950
  - Jewish immigrants
  - Black and Spanish-speaking immigrants
- Third Era: 1980 – present
  - Academically talented immigrants
Strengthening Advanced Programs

CCNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, established 1976

CUNY Macaulay Honors College (2005)

Some of the Macaulay Honors College students and staff, 2009

Thank you!

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