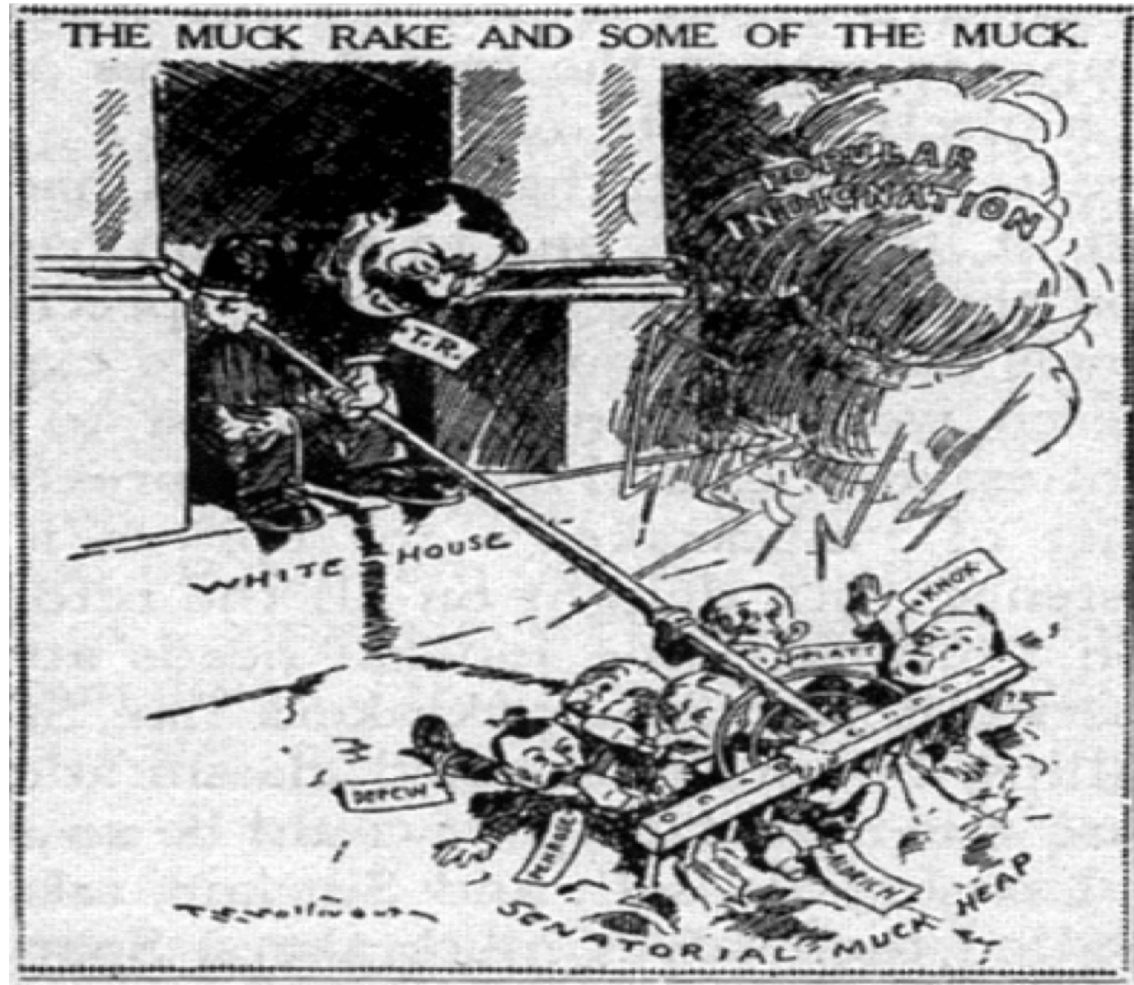


SSUSH13 Overview



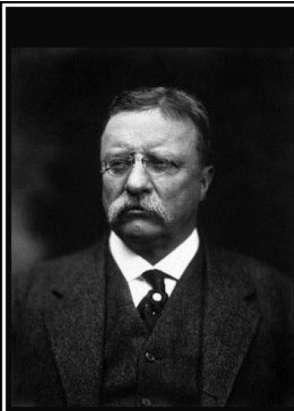
- ❑ The perceived excesses of business and industry coupled with growing social concerns inspired reformers to make important improvements in America's political and social environment.
 - These reformers were known as Progressives.
- ❑ The Progressive Era marks the second definitive era of social and political reform, comparable to the reform movements of the 1840s.
 - Progressive reforms strengthened American democracy in ways carried forward into present times.
 - Sadly, these reforms did not extend to all parts of American society as Blacks found themselves left out of reform efforts.

SSUSH13: EVALUATE EFFORTS TO REFORM AMERICAN SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA.



ELEMENT A: Describe the influence of muckrakers on affecting change by bringing attention to social problems.

Influence of Muckrakers on Social Problems



Men with the muckrake are often indispensable to the well-being of society, but only if they know when to stop raking the muck, and to look upward to the celestial crown above them. ... If they gradually grow to feel that the whole world is nothing but muck their power of usefulness is gone.

(Theodore Roosevelt)

izquotes.com

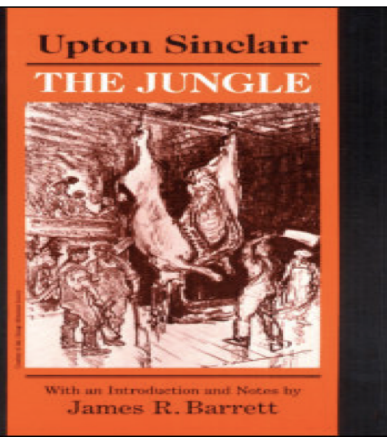
- ❑ The term “muckraker” originated from a speech given by President Theodore Roosevelt in which he praised journalists for their role in uncovering corruption and problems often hidden from society.
- ❑ Through their writing in well-circulated newspapers and books that were published during the time period, an awareness of underlying societal problems drove demands for reform from the public and government officials.



Muckraking the Meat-Packing Industry



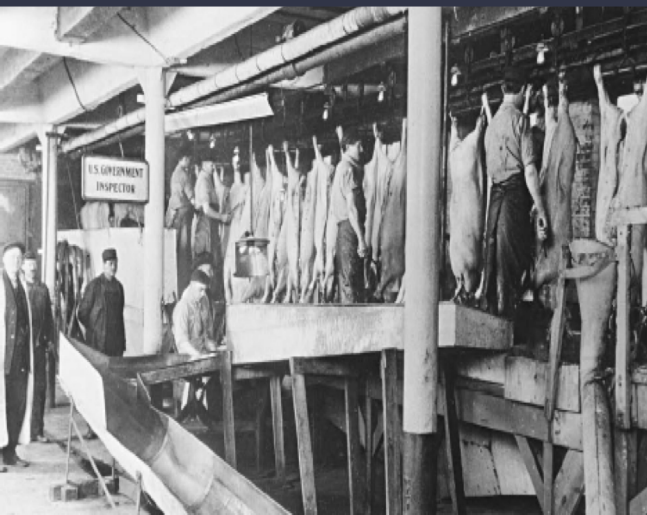
- ❑ One book, in particular, had a significant impact on the meat processing industry. The Jungle (1906) was intended to expose the dangerous working conditions faced by immigrant workers.
- ❑ Instead, the book is remembered for exposing the unclean procedures common in the Chicago meatpacking industry.
 - In 1904, Upton Sinclair was sent by a socialist magazine to work undercover in the Chicago meatpacking industry.
 - In his undercover research, Sinclair learned about all aspects of meat processing and about the lives of the immigrant workers who made up the labor force.
 - It took Sinclair two years to publish his novel because of its horrific subject matter. The novel was an instant success.
 - Just as Uncle Tom's Cabin brought the issue of abolition into middle class homes of the 1850s, Sinclair's novel had a similar effect in rousing the middle class in calling for action against unsafe food packaging and preparation.
 - Popular history has President Theodore Roosevelt reading the novel at breakfast and resolving to take action against the practices described by the novelist.
- ❑ The Jungle served as an impetus for passage of laws to regulate the meatpacking industry.



Muckraking the Meat-Packing Industry for Change



(President Roosevelt takes hold of the investigating muck-rake himself in the packing-house scandal.)
a alamy stock photo AEDY03 www.alamy.com



- ❑ The role of the government was expanded by the Progressive's efforts to protect the United States population and to require regulation of business practices.
 - As a result of the public outcry created by The Jungle, the United States government passed the Meat Inspection Act.
 - The new law set cleanliness standards that had to be followed by meat processing facilities.
 - A new federal agency, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was also established to monitor facilities for their compliance with the regulations.
- ❑ The reform was prompted by the uproar created by Upton Sinclair's book.



Muckraking Standard Oil Co.

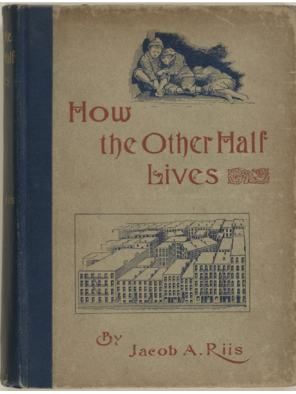
- ❑ Ida Tarbell was another famous muckraker, whose writing led to reform.
 - Between 1902 and 1904, Tarbell wrote a series of magazine articles exposing Standard Oil's unfair business practices.
 - There were 19 installments of "The History of the Standard Oil Company" and marked the beginning of investigative journalism.
 - Spurred by her father's business loss at the hands of J.D. Rockefeller, Tarbell's methods became a model for other investigative journalists.
 - She researched Standard Oil for two years by examining public records, newspaper coverage, and interviewing former company executives in order to piece together how Rockefeller was able to create the company.
 - The articles told how Rockefeller used his business methods to destroy independent oilmen in Pennsylvania in order to create an oil monopoly.
 - Tarbell concluded her series by examining Rockefeller's character, which she described as "moneymad."
 - She also claimed that Rockefeller had created a national life that was far meaner, poorer, and uglier than had existed prior to his creation of Standard Oil.
- ❑ Tarbell's series was well received because she was not critical of capitalism. Instead, she focused her criticism on the unethical practices of Rockefeller and his associates in building Standard Oil.

The History of Standard Oil



IDA M. TARBELL

Muckraking the Poor's Living Conditions



- ❑ Another important muckraker of the Progressive Era was Jacob Riis.
 - He was a New York photojournalist who documented the living conditions of the urban poor.
 - His work, How the Other Half Lives (1890), exposed the unhealthy tenement housing that workers and families were forced to live in, as well as the unsanitary conditions of slum streets.



- ❑ Riis's work led to the institution of municipal housing codes calling for the re-design of urban housing and the creation of sanitation departments that removed garbage and dead animals from the city streets.



- ❑ In addition, large urban centers began providing sewer and water services in order to lessen the chances of typhoid and cholera outbreaks in cities.



