



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

US History and Government  
Regents Review

Reform  
Progressive Era  
Muckrakers

## PROGRESS TOWARD SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

A wide variety of reform movements developed from the 1890s to the 1920s.

### ***The Muckrakers and Reform***

**Muckrakers** helped bring reform issues to the attention of the public. Most were journalists and writers, but others were artists and photographers. Muckrakers investigated and exposed corruption and injustice through articles in mass-circulation magazines. They also wrote novels dramatizing situations that demanded reform.

In 1906, the work of the muckrakers resulted in the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act—the first two acts of consumer protection legislation. The federal government passed these laws after it became clear that the unsanitary conditions exposed by Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle* were based on fact.

As time passed, the muckrakers' influence declined, partly because readers tired of their sensationalism. Nevertheless, their tradition has continued to the present day.

### ***Other Areas of Concern***

Other people and groups also worked to bring Progressive reforms to American society.

**PROBLEMS OF POVERTY** Attempts to end the poverty, crowding, and disease in American cities began before 1900. Once the germ theory of disease was accepted, cities put more effort into improving water and sewage systems. A well-known urban reformer was Jacob Riis,

### **Progressive Era Muckrakers**

<b>Muckraker</b>	<b>Book/Article</b>	<b>Subject of Exposé</b>
Frank Norris	<i>The Octopus</i> (1901)	monopolistic railroad practices in California
Ida Tarbell	<i>History of the Standard Oil Company</i> (1904)	ruthless practices of Standard Oil
Lincoln Steffens	<i>The Shame of the Cities</i> (1906)	urban political corruption
Jacob Riis	<i>How the Other Half Lives</i> (1890)	life in New York's tenements
Upton Sinclair	<i>The Jungle</i> (1906)	dangerous conditions in meatpacking industry

who used writings and photographs to show the need for better housing for the poor. Some Protestant church leaders became part of the Social Gospel movement, which worked to help poor city dwellers. One goal of urban reformers was building codes that would require safer, better-lighted, better-ventilated, and more sanitary tenements.

**SOCIAL SETTLEMENT MOVEMENT** One early group of Progressive urban reformers was the settlement-house workers. Settlement houses, located in working-class slums, offered people—especially immigrants—education, child care, social activities, and help in finding jobs. Well-known settlement houses included Hull House in Chicago, founded by Jane Addams, and the Henry Street Settlement in New York City, founded by Lillian Wald.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) The activities of the muckrakers led Congress to pass laws that
  - 1) increased taxes on imports
  - 2) protected the consumer
  - 3) placed strict limits on immigration
  - 4) curbed the power of labor unions
- 2) The actions of Jane Addams, Ida Tarbell, and Booker T. Washington illustrate that reform in the United States has
  - 1) utilized a variety of methods to achieve many goals
  - 2) promoted women's suffrage as its main goal
  - 3) depended on support from religious groups
  - 4) relied on programs initiated by the Federal Government
- 3) A writer who publishes articles revealing political corruption might be called a modern-day
  - 1) muckraker
  - 2) abolitionist
  - 3) philanthropist
  - 4) nativist
- 4) In the late 1890's and early 1900's, the public became aware of the poor housing conditions and the economic distress of many immigrant urban dwellers through the
  - 1) activities of the pacifist movement
  - 2) writings of Harriet Beecher Stowe
  - 3) campaign platform of the Know-Nothing Party
  - 4) photographs of Jacob Riis
- 5) Jacob Riis, Jane Addams, and Margaret Sanger are most closely associated with efforts to
  - 1) advance the interests of organized labor
  - 2) preserve the natural environment
  - 3) improve conditions for the poor
  - 4) educate and train formerly enslaved persons
- 6) During the 19th century, what was the major reason that an increasing number of states established public schools and passed compulsory education laws?
  - 1) Most jobs required a high school diploma.
  - 2) The Supreme Court required the states to do so.
  - 3) Reformers argued that an educated, literate population was necessary for a successful democracy.
  - 4) The United States had begun a massive program of technical training to enhance its international economic position.
- 7) The works of Upton Sinclair, Frank Norris, and Lincoln Steffens popularized the idea that
  - 1) women needed equal political rights to become full citizens
  - 2) government should not interfere in the lives of individual citizens
  - 3) problems in government and industry needed to be corrected
  - 4) newspapers should not try to change public policy
- 8) Frank Norris' novel *The Octopus* (1901) and Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle* (1906) both played a significant role in
  - 1) bringing about government support for economic reform
  - 2) ending the Great Depression
  - 3) easing hostilities between Western farmers and Eastern industrialists
  - 4) involving the United States in World War I
- 9) The works of Jacob Riis and Upton Sinclair exposed the problems associated with
  - 1) poverty among Native American peoples
  - 2) rapid industrialization and urbanization
  - 3) colonial expansion in Asia
  - 4) segregation of public facilities in the South

- 10) Reform legislation of the Progressive Era provided for
- 1) the elimination of racial segregation in public places
  - 2) increased direct participation in government
  - 3) tax incentives for business investment
  - 4) employment for the poor

- 11) Lincoln Steffens and Jane Addams are *best* known for
- 1) promoting the interests of organized labor
  - 2) leading political movements on behalf of the Populist Party
  - 3) attempting to ease the problems of the urban poor
  - 4) fighting for temperance and Prohibition

- 12) **"Jane Addams Opens Hull House"**  
**"Jacob Riis Photographs Tenement Residents"**  
**"Ida Tarbell Exposes Standard Oil Company"**

These headlines represent efforts by individuals to

- 1) improve depressed urban areas
- 2) support business monopolies
- 3) correct abuses of the Industrial Revolution
- 4) solve problems of American farmers

- 13) In his book *How the Other Half Lives*, Jacob Riis focused attention on the living conditions of
- 1) sharecroppers in the South
  - 2) small farmers on the Great Plains
  - 3) Native American Indians on reservations
  - 4) residents of urban slums

- 14) In his book, *How the Other Half Lives*, Jacob Riis attempted to
- 1) point out the weaknesses of progressive reforms
  - 2) defend the right of business to exploit cheap labor
  - 3) publicize the living conditions of the urban poor
  - 4) celebrate the lifestyle of the business aristocracy

- 15) Jacob Riis, in *How the Other Half Lives*, and Lincoln Steffens, in *The Shame of the Cities*, contributed to reform movements in the United States by
- 1) criticizing racial injustice
  - 2) opposing westward expansion
  - 3) supporting organized labor
  - 4) exposing poverty and corruption

- 16) During the early 20th century in the United States, one major aim of the muckrakers was to
- 1) change the two-party political system through revolution
  - 2) bring about reforms in business and government
  - 3) promote civil rights legislation benefiting women and blacks
  - 4) arouse public opinion supporting United States entrance into World War I

- 17) The primary contribution of the muckrakers in the late 1800's and early 1900's was to
- 1) promote the ideals of rugged individualism and laissez faire.
  - 2) expose corruption and negligence on the part of big business and government
  - 3) lobby the Federal Government to open more free land to western settlement
  - 4) encourage public support for the building of the Panama Canal

- 18) The writings of muckrakers of the late 19th-century had the most direct impact on
- 1) efforts to increase public education in the South
  - 2) reform in the area of factory working conditions
  - 3) elimination of segregation in the South
  - 4) the struggle for women's rights

- 19) In the United States, the term "muckraker" has been used to describe authors whose writings deal mainly with
- 1) publicizing constitutional issues relating to minority rights
  - 2) advancing the cause of socialism
  - 3) exposing social conditions in need of reform
  - 4) criticizing the government's social welfare policies

20) Which term refers to a journalist who exposed social evils in the United States?

- 1) muckraker
- 2) carpetbagger
- 3) mugwump
- 4) scalawag

Which helped to bring about the enactment of Federal meat inspection laws in the Progressive Era?

- 1) the unhealthy condition of newly arrived migrants
- 2) a decline in farm exports
- 3) economic demands of the cattlemen
- 4) writings of the muckrakers

22) In the early 20th century, muckrakers were able to influence American society mainly through their

- 1) publication of articles and books
- 2) activities as government officials
- 3) control over factories
- 4) frequent acts of civil disobedience

23) During the Progressive Era, the muckrakers were most effective in reaching the public through their

- 1) leadership roles in powerful corporations
- 2) participation in political campaigns
- 3) congressional proposals
- 4) novels and articles in the popular press

24) With which statement would the muckrakers most likely have agreed?

- 1) The results of governmental decisionmaking are more important than how those results were achieved.
- 2) Honesty and ethics in government must be demanded by the people.
- 3) The media has no business prying into the private life of a Presidential candidate.
- 4) Government has a responsibility to protect corporations from foreign competition.

25) Which was a primary theme of the muckraking literature during the early 20th century in the United States?

- 1) concern for poverty and despair
- 2) glorification of pastoral beauty and the frontier
- 3) virtues of individualism and initiative
- 4) encouragement of individual participation in the democratic process

26) Jacob Riis' photographs and the Settlement House movement led by Jane Addams drew attention to the needs of the

- 1) Japanese and Chinese laborers in the late 1800's
- 2) freedmen immediately after the Civil War
- 3) farmers in the 1880's and 1890's
- 4) urban poor in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

27) Cartoons by Thomas Nast and books such as Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* illustrate how the arts in the United States

- 1) were just beginning to reach mass audiences
- 2) generally centered on themes from nature
- 3) created demands for reform in society
- 4) still lagged behind European standards

28) Which is the most valid conclusion about the effect of publications such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Jungle*, and *Silent Spring* on United States society?

- 1) In a highly literate society, people are not influenced by exaggerated portrayals of social issues.
- 2) Antiwar literature has had considerable popularity at various periods in United States history.
- 3) During times of social unrest, the government has censored writings it has considered inflammatory.
- 4) literature can be a powerful force in molding public opinion on a particular issue.

29) Jane Addams, Lillian Wald, and Jacob Riis are best known as

- 1) social reformers
- 2) inventors
- 3) congressional leaders
- 4) leaders of industry

30) The writers Lincoln Steffens and Upton Sinclair were referred to as "muckrakers" because they

- 1) supported the growth of large corporations
- 2) wrote articles supporting the imperialistic ambitions of the United States
- 3) aroused citizens to seek social changes
- 4) led national movements to protect women's rights

- 31) Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, and Frank Norris all shared a belief that
- 1) the public was unlikely to respond to calls for reform
  - 2) reform was needed to control the abuses of business
  - 3) monopolies were necessary for businesses to survive
  - 4) the government should follow a laissez-faire policy

- 32) A basic goal of early-1900's muckrakers such as Lincoln Steffens, Upton Sinclair, and Ida Tarbell was to
- 1) encourage workers in most industries to join unions
  - 2) expose corruption in government and business
  - 3) keep the United States from participating in wars
  - 4) bring about equal opportunities for African Americans

- 33) Which event of the early 1900's is evidence that Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle* had an important impact on the United States?
- 1) adoption of reforms in public education
  - 2) adoption of the 18th amendment establishing Prohibition
  - 3) passage of legislation limiting immigration
  - 4) passage of legislation requiring Federal inspection of meat

- 34) Cartoons by Thomas Nast were to urban political machines as *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair was to
- 1) the meatpacking industry
  - 2) lumber and logging companies
  - 3) public utilities
  - 4) railroad monopolies