what effect did riis have on society

what effect did riis have on society is a question that reveals the profound influence Jacob Riis had on American social reform and urban development. This article explores the transformative impact of Riis's groundbreaking work as a social reformer and photojournalist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From exposing the harsh realities of tenement living to inspiring social change and policy reforms, Riis's legacy continues to shape discussions about poverty, immigration, and urban life. Readers will discover how Riis's photography and writing affected public perception, prompted legislative action, and paved the way for modern investigative journalism. The following sections detail his background, major works, societal impact, and lasting legacy, providing a comprehensive look at what effect Riis had on society and why his influence endures today.

- Background: Who Was Jacob Riis?
- Riis's Groundbreaking Work and Methods
- Impact on Public Awareness
- Influence on Social Reform and Legislation
- Riis's Legacy in Urban Development and Journalism
- Lasting Effects on Modern Society

Background: Who Was Jacob Riis?

Jacob Riis was a Danish-born American journalist, social reformer, and photographer. Arriving in New York City as an immigrant in the 1870s, Riis experienced firsthand the challenges of urban poverty. His early struggles inspired him to document the living conditions of the city's poorest residents, particularly in the overcrowded tenement neighborhoods. Riis's unique perspective as both an outsider and a member of the working class gave him a deep understanding of the issues facing urban immigrants.

Riis's career began in journalism, but he quickly realized that words alone were not enough to convey the severity of the conditions he witnessed. He turned to photography, using emerging flash techniques to capture stark images of city life. These photographs complemented his investigative reporting and provided undeniable evidence of the need for change.

Riis's Groundbreaking Work and Methods

Innovative Use of Photography

Riis revolutionized social documentation by combining written narratives with powerful photographic evidence. His pioneering use of flash photography allowed him to illuminate the dark interiors of tenements, revealing the squalor and overcrowding that had previously been hidden from public view. This visual approach made his work more relatable and impactful for readers who might never witness these conditions firsthand.

- Exposed hidden realities of urban poverty
- Engaged the public through compelling visuals
- Set new standards in investigative journalism

Major Works: "How the Other Half Lives"

Published in 1890, "How the Other Half Lives" became Riis's most influential book. It combined his firsthand accounts with photographs and illustrations, offering a vivid portrayal of life in New York City's tenements. The book reached a wide audience and sparked intense public debate about poverty, housing, and social responsibility. Riis's storytelling bridged the gap between the privileged and the impoverished, humanizing those living in dire circumstances.

In addition to "How the Other Half Lives," Riis published other works such as "Children of the Poor" and "The Battle with the Slum," each contributing to his mission of social enlightenment and reform.

Impact on Public Awareness

Changing Perceptions of Poverty

Riis's work dramatically shifted public perception of poverty and urban living conditions. Before his exposés, many Americans were unaware or indifferent to the plight of their city's poor. His compelling photographs and honest narratives made the problems of overcrowding, disease, and child labor impossible to ignore. Riis fostered empathy and a sense of urgency, encouraging citizens and leaders to acknowledge the effects of neglect and inequality.

Media Coverage and Public Discourse

Riis's revelations generated widespread media attention. Newspapers and magazines reprinted his images and stories, amplifying their reach. His lectures, often accompanied by lantern slide shows of his photographs, drew large audiences and further fueled public discussion. Riis's ability to combine journalism with visual storytelling set a precedent for future media coverage of social issues.

- Increased public awareness of tenement conditions
- Encouraged civic engagement and philanthropy
- Inspired other journalists and reformers

Influence on Social Reform and Legislation

Political Response to Riis's Advocacy

Riis's persistent advocacy led to significant political response. City officials, including future president Theodore Roosevelt, took notice of his work and sought to address the problems he exposed. Roosevelt, then New York City Police Commissioner, worked closely with Riis to improve housing conditions and police practices in impoverished neighborhoods.

Legislators enacted new laws to regulate tenement construction, sanitation, and public health. These reforms aimed to reduce overcrowding, improve safety standards, and protect vulnerable populations. Riis's documentation provided the evidence needed to justify these policy changes.

Key Reforms Inspired by Riis

- Tenement House Act of 1901: Mandated safer building codes and better ventilation
- Improved sanitation and waste management in urban areas
- Enhanced child welfare regulations
- Expansion of public parks and playgrounds for children

Riis's influence extended beyond New York City, inspiring urban reform movements nationwide. His work demonstrated the power of investigative journalism in shaping policy and improving lives.

Riis's Legacy in Urban Development and Journalism

Transforming City Planning and Housing

Riis's advocacy contributed to the evolution of urban planning and housing policy. His emphasis on safe, sanitary, and affordable living conditions became the foundation for modern city planning.

Urban architects and policymakers adopted new standards for tenement design, ventilation, and access to natural light.

Riis's ideas also promoted the development of green spaces and recreational facilities, recognizing the importance of healthy environments for children and families. These improvements helped transform urban landscapes and improved quality of life for generations.

Pioneering Investigative Journalism

Jacob Riis is widely regarded as a pioneer of investigative journalism. By integrating photography and first-person accounts, he set a model for future reporters covering social issues. His work inspired a new generation of muckrakers and reform-minded journalists to tackle subjects like labor rights, child welfare, and public health.

- Introduced multimedia storytelling in journalism
- Encouraged ethical reporting and social responsibility
- Influenced notable journalists such as Ida B. Wells and Upton Sinclair

Lasting Effects on Modern Society

Enduring Importance of Riis's Work

The effects of Jacob Riis's contributions remain evident in modern society. His documentation of poverty and advocacy for change laid the groundwork for contemporary debates about affordable housing, urban inequality, and immigrant rights. Social reformers and policymakers continue to reference Riis's work as a catalyst for progress.

Educational institutions teach Riis's methods and legacy, emphasizing the role of media in shaping public opinion and driving social change. Museums and archives preserve his photographs, ensuring that future generations understand the significance of his work.

Lessons for Contemporary Social Reform

- · Importance of evidence-based advocacy
- Power of visual storytelling to inspire action
- Need for ongoing vigilance in addressing urban poverty

Jacob Riis's legacy serves as a reminder that exposing injustice can lead to meaningful reform. His life and work underscore the value of compassion, persistence, and innovation in the pursuit of a more equitable society.

Questions and Answers: what effect did riis have on society

Q: How did Jacob Riis's photography influence public awareness of poverty?

A: Riis's use of photography exposed the harsh realities of tenement life to the public, making previously hidden conditions visible and prompting widespread concern and calls for reform.

Q: What legislative changes were inspired by Riis's work?

A: Riis's advocacy led to legislation such as the Tenement House Act of 1901, which improved housing standards, sanitation, and child welfare regulations in urban areas.

Q: How did Riis's approach to journalism differ from others at the time?

A: Riis combined investigative reporting with photographic documentation, pioneering multimedia storytelling and setting new standards for ethical and impactful journalism.

Q: What was the significance of "How the Other Half Lives"?

A: "How the Other Half Lives" brought national attention to the plight of urban poor, influencing public opinion, policy makers, and social reform movements across the United States.

Q: In what ways did Riis collaborate with political figures?

A: Riis worked with leaders like Theodore Roosevelt to address urban poverty, improve police practices, and advocate for better housing and public health policies.

Q: How has Riis's legacy impacted modern urban planning?

A: Riis's emphasis on safe, sanitary, and well-designed housing influenced modern city planning, leading to improved building codes and the development of green spaces.

Q: Why is Jacob Riis considered a pioneer of investigative journalism?

A: Riis's integration of photographs and firsthand accounts set a model for future investigative journalists, encouraging evidence-based, socially responsible reporting.

Q: What lessons can social reformers learn from Riis's work today?

A: Social reformers can learn the importance of visual storytelling, persistent advocacy, and using evidence to drive policy change from Riis's methods and achievements.

Q: How did Riis's work affect attitudes toward immigrants and the urban poor?

A: Riis humanized immigrants and the urban poor, fostering empathy and reducing prejudice, which helped to shift public attitudes and encourage inclusive reforms.

Q: What ongoing relevance does Jacob Riis's work have in contemporary society?

A: Riis's work remains relevant in discussions about poverty, housing, and social justice, serving as an enduring example of how exposure and advocacy can lead to meaningful societal change.

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What Effect Did Riis Have on Society? A Legacy of Reform

Jacob Riis, a Danish-American journalist and social reformer, is remembered not just for his powerful photography but for the profound impact his work had on American society. His unflinching depictions of poverty and squalor in late 19th-century New York City shocked the nation and ignited a movement for social reform. This post delves into the lasting effects of Riis's work, exploring how his photography, writing, and advocacy contributed to significant changes in housing, sanitation,

Riis's Photographic Exposures: A Window into the Slums

Riis's greatest contribution was his innovative use of photography. Before flash photography, capturing images in dimly lit tenements was challenging. Riis, however, mastered the technique of using flash powder, creating stark and dramatic images that illuminated the harsh realities of tenement life. His photographs weren't merely documentation; they were powerful indictments of societal neglect and injustice. Images of overcrowded rooms, disease-ridden alleys, and families struggling for survival resonated deeply with the public, transcending class and geographical boundaries. These weren't just pictures; they were stories, each one narrating a tale of hardship and despair. His work humanized the plight of the impoverished, shifting public perception from indifference to empathy.

"How the Other Half Lives": A Call to Action

Riis's photographic work was complemented by his groundbreaking book, How the Other Half Lives (1890). This book wasn't just a collection of photographs; it was a meticulously researched and powerfully written exposé of poverty in New York City. Riis combined his striking images with detailed descriptions of tenement life, creating a compelling narrative that shamed the wealthy and powerful into action. He didn't just document the conditions; he analyzed their causes, highlighting the systemic issues of poverty, inadequate housing, and lack of sanitation that perpetuated the cycle of despair. The book's impact was immediate and widespread, galvanizing public opinion and laying the groundwork for significant social reform.

Impact on Housing Reform and Urban Planning

How the Other Half Lives directly influenced the passage of landmark housing legislation. The book's graphic depictions of overcrowded and unsanitary tenements led to increased public pressure on city officials to improve living conditions. The book played a crucial role in the creation of New York City's Tenement House Department and the subsequent Tenement House Act of 1901. This act, a direct response to Riis's work, mandated improvements in ventilation, sanitation, and living space within tenements, marking a turning point in urban housing reform. His advocacy extended beyond legislation, inspiring philanthropists and social reformers to invest in improving housing conditions for the poor.

Influence on Sanitation and Public Health

Riis's work also contributed significantly to improvements in sanitation and public health. His photographs vividly illustrated the link between unsanitary living conditions and the spread of disease. He highlighted the need for better garbage collection, improved sewage systems, and access to clean water. His advocacy played a role in the implementation of public health initiatives, reducing the incidence of disease and improving the overall health of New York City's population. His emphasis on the social determinants of health foreshadowed modern public health approaches that recognize the interconnectedness of social and environmental factors with individual well-being.

Riis's Legacy: A Continuing Inspiration

Jacob Riis's legacy extends far beyond the specific reforms he directly influenced. His work established photojournalism as a powerful tool for social change. His commitment to social justice and his ability to connect with audiences across class divides continue to inspire photographers, journalists, and social activists today. His emphasis on the power of visual storytelling, combined with insightful social commentary, remains a potent model for advocating for social change. His life and work serve as a reminder of the enduring power of photography and journalism to expose injustice and inspire reform.

Conclusion:

Jacob Riis's contribution to society was immeasurable. Through his powerful photographs and compelling writing, he exposed the harsh realities of poverty and inspired generations to work towards a more just and equitable society. His legacy is a testament to the transformative potential of social documentary and the enduring impact of a single individual's dedication to social reform. His work continues to resonate, reminding us of the urgent need to address social inequalities and strive for a more just and humane world.

FAQs:

- 1. Did Riis's work face any criticism? Yes, some criticized Riis for sensationalizing poverty or focusing too heavily on the negative aspects of immigrant life, overlooking their resilience and contributions.
- 2. What other social issues did Riis address beyond housing and sanitation? Riis also spoke out against child labor, police brutality, and the lack of educational opportunities for the poor.
- 3. How did Riis's background influence his work? His own experience of poverty in Denmark instilled in him a deep empathy for the struggles of the poor and fueled his commitment to social reform.
- 4. What is the lasting relevance of Riis's work today? His work serves as a powerful reminder of the persistent challenges of poverty and inequality, emphasizing the ongoing need for social justice and reform.
- 5. Are Riis's photographs still available to view? Yes, many of his photographs are available online and in museums, serving as a powerful testament to his work and a valuable historical resource.

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what effect did riis have on society: *Rediscovering Jacob Riis* Bonnie Yochelson, Daniel Czitrom, 2014-08-18 Jacob Riis (1849-1914) was the author of How the Other Half Lives (1890). This study of his life and work includes excerpts from Riis s diary, chronicling romance, poverty, temptation, and, after many false starts, employment as a writer and reformer. In the second half, Yochelson describes how Riis used photography to shock and influence his readers. The authors describe Riis s intellectual education and discuss the influence of How the Other Half Lives on urban history. It shows that Riis argued for charity rather than social justice; but the fact that he understood what it was to be homeless did humanize Riis s work, and that work has continued to inspire reformers. Yochelson focuses on how Riis came to obtain his now famous images, how they were manipulated for publication, and their influence on the young field of photography.

what effect did riis have on society: The Other Half Tom Buk-Swienty, 2008 A portrait of the late-nineteenth-century social reformer draws on previously unexamined diaries and letters to trace his immigration to America, work as a police reporter for the New York Tribune, and pivotal contributions as a muckraker and progressive.

what effect did riis have on society: The Battle with the Slum Jacob A. Riis, 2013-03-05 Classic work of reportage documents life of the urban poor at the turn of the century. Real-life tales and rare photographs celebrate efforts to demolish breeding grounds of crime and improve conditions in schools and tenements.

what effect did riis have on society: Jacob A. Riis Bonnie Yochelson, 2015 Danish-born Jacob A. Riis (1849-1914) found success in America as a reporter for the New York Tribune, first documenting crime and later turning his eye to housing reform. As tenement living conditions became unbearable in the wake of massive immigration, Riis and his camera captured some of the earliest, most powerful images of American urban poverty—Jacket.

what effect did riis have on society: Jacob Riis's Camera Alexis O'Neill, 2020-06-30 This revealing biography of a pioneering photojournalist and social reformer Jacob Riis shows how he brought to light one of the worst social justice issues plaguing New York City in the late 1800s--the tenement housing crisis--using newly invented flash photography. Jacob Riis was familiar with poverty. He did his best to combat it in his hometown of Ribe, Denmark, and he experienced it when he immigrated to the United States in 1870. Jobs for immigrants were hard to get and keep, and Jacob often found himself penniless, sleeping on the streets or in filthy homeless shelters. When he became a journalist, Jacob couldn't stop seeing the poverty in the city around him. He began to photograph overcrowded tenement buildings and their impoverished residents, using newly developed flash powder to illuminate the constantly dark rooms to expose the unacceptable conditions. His photographs inspired the people of New York to take action. Gary Kelley's detailed illustrations perfectly accompany Alexis O'Neill's engaging text in this STEAM title for young readers.

what effect did riis have on society: How the Other Half Lives Jacob A. Riis, 2011 Jacob Riis's famed 1890 photo-text addressed the problems of tenement housing, immigration, and urban life and work at the beginning of the Progressive era. David Leviatin edited this complete edition of How the Other Half Lives to be as faithful to Riis's original text and photography as possible. Uncropped prints of Riis's original photographs replace the faded halftones and drawings from photographs that were included in the 1890 edition. Related documents added to the second edition include a stenographic report of one of Riis's lantern-slide lectures that demonstrates Riis's melodramatic techniques and the reaction of his audience, and five drawings that reveal the subtle but important

ways Riis's photographs were edited when they were reinterpreted as illustrations in the 1890 edition. The book's provocative introduction now addresses Riis's ethnic and racial stereotyping and includes a map of New York's Lower East Side in the 1890s. A new list of illustrations and expanded chronology, questions for consideration, and selected bibliography provide additional support.

what effect did riis have on society: Jacob Riis Janet B. Pascal, 2005-12-02 Jacob Riis (1849-1914) was born in Denmark and emigrated to America at the age of 21. After several years of poverty, he found work as a police reporter, which took him into the worst of New York's ghettos and tenements. Appalled by the conditions he found there, he began to use the primitive new flash technology to photograph the dark places that had never before been so graphically exposed. The resulting book, How the Other Half Lives, brought to life an entire reform movement. Riis was a staunch ally in the young Theodore Roosevelt's battle to reform the New York police, breaking the brutal system of corruption and graft that had prevented the possibility of any real change in poor neighborhoods. Riis's activism involved him in such vital current controversies as hostility toward immigration, the growing gulf between rich and poor, the relative importance of heredity and environment, the need for adequate public schools, conflicts between social reform and personal freedom, and police brutality. But at the same time, his life raises some thought-provoking moral questions, because his compassion was flawed by an underlying prejudice; his writings are marred by a clear underlying conviction of the superiority of white Protestants, and he speaks with condescension and occasional scorn of other races and religions. He remained an active reformer all his life, founding a settlement house, writing several more books, most notably The Children of the Poor, and maintaining a taxing schedule of lecture tours. This biography includes a picture essay of Riis' photographs as well as, 35 black-and-white illustrations, a chronology, further reading, and an index. Oxford Portraits are informative and insightful biographies of people whose lives shaped their times and continue to influence ours. Based on the most recent scholarship, they draw heavily on primary sources, including writings by and about their subjects. Each book is illustrated with a wealth of photographs, documents, memorabilia, framing the personality and achievements of its subject against the backdrop of history.

what effect did riis have on society: Children of the Tenements (Musaicum Christmas Specials) Jacob A. Riis, 2020-12-17 Musaicum Books presents the Musaicum Christmas Specials. We have selected the greatest Christmas novels, short stories and fairy tales for this joyful and charming holiday season, for all those who want to keep the spirit of Christmas alive with a heartwarming tale. Children of the Tenements is a collection of stories and tales about orphans and poor children living in the slums of New York City. It provides an interesting insight into city life at the turn of the century and shows how the spirit of Christmas can make an impact even on the most unfortunate ones.

what effect did riis have on society: A Fierce Discontent Michael McGerr, 2010-05-11 The Progressive Era, a few brief decades around the turn of the last century, still burns in American memory for its outsized personalities: Theodore Roosevelt, whose energy glinted through his pince-nez; Carry Nation, who smashed saloons with her axe and helped stop an entire nation from drinking; women suffragists, who marched in the streets until they finally achieved the vote; Andrew Carnegie and the super-rich, who spent unheard-of sums of money and became the wealthiest class of Americans since the Revolution. Yet the full story of those decades is far more than the sum of its characters. In Michael McGerr's A Fierce Discontent America's great political upheaval is brilliantly explored as the root cause of our modern political malaise. The Progressive Era witnessed the nation's most convulsive upheaval, a time of radicalism far beyond the Revolution or anything since. In response to the birth of modern America, with its first large-scale businesses, newly dominant cities, and an explosion of wealth, one small group of middle-class Americans seized control of the nation and attempted to remake society from bottom to top. Everything was open to question -family life, sex roles, race relations, morals, leisure pursuits, and politics. For a time, it seemed as if the middle-class utopians would cause a revolution. They accomplished an astonishing range of triumphs. From the 1890s to the 1910s, as American soldiers fought a war to make the world safe

for democracy, reformers managed to outlaw alcohol, close down vice districts, win the right to vote for women, launch the income tax, take over the railroads, and raise feverish hopes of making new men and women for a new century. Yet the progressive movement collapsed even more spectacularly as the war came to an end amid race riots, strikes, high inflation, and a frenzied Red scare. It is an astonishing and moving story. McGerr argues convincingly that the expectations raised by the progressives' utopian hopes have nagged at us ever since. Our current, less-than-epic politics must inevitably disappoint a nation that once thought in epic terms. The New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, the Great Society, and now the war on terrorism have each entailed ambitious plans for America; and each has had dramatic impacts on policy and society. But the failure of the progressive movement set boundaries around the aspirations of all of these efforts. None of them was as ambitious, as openly determined to transform people and create utopia, as the progressive movement. We have been forced to think modestly ever since that age of bold reform. For all of us, right, center, and left, the age of fierce discontent is long over.

what effect did riis have on society: Rethinking American Music Tara Browner, Thomas Riis, 2019-03-16 In Rethinking American Music, Tara Browner and Thomas L. Riis curate essays that offer an eclectic survey of current music scholarship. Ranging from Tin Pan Alley to Thelonious Monk to hip hop, the contributors go beyond repertory and biography to explore four critical yet overlooked areas: the impact of performance; patronage's role in creating music and finding a place to play it; personal identity; and the ways cultural and ethnographic circumstances determine the music that emerges from the creative process. Many of the articles also look at how a piece of music becomes initially popular and then exerts a lasting influence in the larger global culture. The result is an insightful state-of-the-field examination that doubles as an engaging short course on our complex, multifaceted musical heritage. Contributors: Karen Ahlquist, Amy C. Beal, Mark Clagu,. Esther R. Crookshank, Todd Decker, Jennifer DeLapp-Birkett, Joshua S. Duchan, Mark Katz, Jeffrey Magee, Sterling E. Murray, Guthrie P. Ramsey Jr., David Warren Steel, Jeffrey Taylor, and Mark Tucker

what effect did riis have on society: U.S. History P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10 U.S. History is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

what effect did riis have on society: Exposing Hidden Worlds Michael Burgan, 2017-07-01 President Theodore Roosevelt called Jacob Riis the best American I ever knew. The pioneering photojournalist, an immigrant from Denmark, drew attention to the poverty and evils of slum life in the late 1800s. Riis won national acclaim when his photos illustrated his bestselling book How the Other Half Lives. The book focused on the difficult time immigrants faced as thousands of newcomers flooded into the United States each year. Riis called for reform and hoped to prod government officials to help the poor people who were forced to live under horrible conditions. The impact of Riis' photos came from capturing the poor and homeless as they lived and worked, with the subjects' eyes often staring directly into the camera. The great photographer Ansel Adams called them magnificent achievements in the field of humanistic photography. But the reforms that came from Riis' work have not eliminated urban poverty and homelessness, and important work remains to be done.

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what effect did riis have on society: Jacob A. Riis Alexander Alland, 1993-01-01 Riis's images of the slums of New York have influenced every subsequent generation of photographers, while his insightful exploration of the problems of urban life continues to be educational for societies around the world.

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A Pioneer U.S. Forest Service Ranger In The La Sal, Santa Barbara, Cache And Deschutes National Forests From 1907 To 1913.

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what effect did riis have on society: Covering America Christopher B. Daly, 2018 Journalism is in crisis, with traditional sources of news under siege, a sputtering business model, a resurgence of partisanship, and a persistent expectation that information should be free. In Covering America, Christopher B. Daly places the current crisis within historical context, showing how it is only the latest challenge for journalists to overcome. In this revised and expanded edition, Daly updates his narrative with new stories about legacy media like the New York Times and the Washington Post, and the digital natives like the Huffington Post and Buzzfeed. A new final chapter extends the study of the business crisis facing journalism by examining the platform revolution in media, showing how Facebook, Twitter, and other social media are disrupting the traditional systems of delivering journalism to the public. In an era when the factual basis of news is contested and when the government calls journalists the enemy of the American people or the opposition party, Covering America brings history to bear on the vital issues of our times.

what effect did riis have on society: The History of the Standard Oil Company Ida Minerva Tarbell, 1904

what effect did riis have on society: The Shame of the Cities Lincoln Steffens, 1957-01-01 what effect did riis have on society: How the Other Half Looks Sara Blair, 2020-07-14 New York City's Lower East Side, long viewed as the space of what Jacob Riis notoriously called the other half, was also a crucible for experimentation in photography, film, literature, and visual technologies. This book takes an unprecedented look at the practices of observation that emerged from this critical site of encounter, showing how they have informed literary and everyday narratives of America, its citizens, and its possible futures. Taking readers from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, Sara Blair traces the career of the Lower East Side as a place where image-makers, writers, and social reformers tested new techniques for apprehending America--and their subjects looked back, confronting the means used to represent them. This dynamic shaped the birth of American photojournalism, the writings of Stephen Crane and Abraham Cahan, and the forms of early cinema. During the 1930s, the emptying ghetto opened contested views of the modern city, animating the work of such writers and photographers as Henry Roth, Walker Evans, and Ben Shahn. After World War II, the Lower East Side became a key resource for imagining poetic revolution, as in the work of Allen Ginsberg and LeRoi Jones, and exploring dystopian futures, from Cold War atomic strikes to the death of print culture and the threat of climate change. How the Other Half Looks reveals how the Lower East Side has inspired new ways of looking-and looking back-that have shaped literary and popular expression as well as American modernity.

what effect did riis have on society: *A Secret Gift* Ted Gup, 2010-10-28 An inspiring account of America at its worst-and Americans at their best-woven from the stories of Depression-era families who were helped by gifts from the author's generous and secretive grandfather. Shortly before Christmas 1933 in Depression-scarred Canton, Ohio, a small newspaper ad offered \$10, no

strings attached, to 75 families in distress. Interested readers were asked to submit letters describing their hardships to a benefactor calling himself Mr. B. Virdot. The author's grandfather Sam Stone was inspired to place this ad and assist his fellow Cantonians as they prepared for the cruelest Christmas most of them would ever witness. Moved by the tales of suffering and expressions of hope contained in the letters, which he discovered in a suitcase 75 years later, Ted Gup initially set out to unveil the lives behind them, searching for records and relatives all over the country who could help him flesh out the family sagas hinted at in those letters. From these sources, Gup has re-created the impact that Mr B. Virdot's gift had on each family. Many people yearned for bread, coal, or other necessities, but many others received money from B. Virdot for more fanciful items-a toy horse, say, or a set of encyclopedias. As Gup's investigations revealed, all these things had the power to turn people's lives around- even to save them. But as he uncovered the suffering and triumphs of dozens of strangers, Gup also learned that Sam Stone was far more complex than the lovable-retiree persona he'd always shown his grandson. Gup unearths deeply buried details about Sam's life-from his impoverished, abusive upbringing to felonious efforts to hide his immigrant origins from U.S. officials-that help explain why he felt such a strong affinity to strangers in need. Drawing on his unique find and his award-winning reportorial gifts, Ted Gup solves a singular family mystery even while he pulls away the veil of eight decades that separate us from the hardships that united America during the Depression. In A Secret Gift, he weaves these revelations seamlessly into a tapestry of Depression-era America, which will fascinate and inspire in equal measure. Watch a Video

what effect did riis have on society: The Bully Pulpit Doris Kearns Goodwin, 2013-11-05 Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's dynamic history of Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft and the first decade of the Progressive era, that tumultuous time when the nation was coming unseamed and reform was in the air. Winner of the Carnegie Medal. Doris Kearns Goodwin's The Bully Pulpit is a dynamic history of the first decade of the Progressive era, that tumultuous time when the nation was coming unseamed and reform was in the air. The story is told through the intense friendship of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft—a close relationship that strengthens both men before it ruptures in 1912, when they engage in a brutal fight for the presidential nomination that divides their wives, their children, and their closest friends, while crippling the progressive wing of the Republican Party, causing Democrat Woodrow Wilson to be elected, and changing the country's history. The Bully Pulpit is also the story of the muckraking press, which arouses the spirit of reform that helps Roosevelt push the government to shed its laissez-faire attitude toward robber barons, corrupt politicians, and corporate exploiters of our natural resources. The muckrakers are portrayed through the greatest group of journalists ever assembled at one magazine—Ida Tarbell, Ray Stannard Baker, Lincoln Steffens, and William Allen White—teamed under the mercurial genius of publisher S.S. McClure. Goodwin's narrative is founded upon a wealth of primary materials. The correspondence of more than four hundred letters between Roosevelt and Taft begins in their early thirties and ends only months before Roosevelt's death. Edith Roosevelt and Nellie Taft kept diaries. The muckrakers wrote hundreds of letters to one another, kept journals, and wrote their memoirs. The letters of Captain Archie Butt, who served as a personal aide to both Roosevelt and Taft, provide an intimate view of both men. The Bully Pulpit, like Goodwin's brilliant chronicles of the Civil War and World War II, exquisitely demonstrates her distinctive ability to combine scholarly rigor with accessibility. It is a major work of history—an examination of leadership in a rare moment of activism and reform that brought the country closer to its founding ideals.

what effect did riis have on society: *Annual Report* Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (U.S.), 1918

what effect did riis have on society: The Gilded Age Mark Twain, Charles Dudley Warner, 1904

what effect did riis have on society: Sweatshop USA Daniel E. Bender, Richard A. Greenwald, 2013-10-28 For over a century, the sweatshop has evoked outrage and moral

repugnance. Once cast as a type of dangerous and immoral garment factory brought to American shores by European immigrants, today the sweatshop is reviled as emblematic of the abuses of an unregulated global economy. This collection unites some of the best recent work in the interdisciplinary field of sweatshop studies. It examines changing understandings of the roots and problems of the sweatshop, and explores how the history of the American sweatshop is inexorably intertwined with global migration of capital, labor, ideas and goods. The American sweatshop may be located abroad but remains bound to the United States through ties of fashion, politics, labor and economics. The global character of the American sweatshop has presented a barrier to unionization and regulation. Anti-sweatshop campaigns have often focused on local organizing and national regulation while the sweatshop remains global. Thus, the epitaph for the sweatshop has frequently been written and re-written by unionists, reformers, activists and politicians. So, too, have they mourned its return.

what effect did riis have on society: Complete Works of Frank Norris Frank Norris, 2023-07-18 This volume brings together the two masterpieces of American Naturalism by Frank Norris. The Epic of the Wheat, a trilogy of novels, captures the rise and fall of the wheat industry in California and the Midwest at the turn of the 20th century. The Pit, set in Chicago's commodities market, depicts the ruthless competition and greed that pervade modern capitalism. Norris's vivid prose and uncompromising realism make these classics relevant and engaging to contemporary readers. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

what effect did riis have on society: The Tenement Saga Sanford Sternlicht, 2004-12-16 Nearly two million Jewish men, women, and children emigrated from Eastern Europe between 1882 and 1924 and settled in, or passed through, the Lower East Side of New York City. Sanford Sternlicht tells the story of his own childhood in this vibrant neighborhood and puts it within the context of fourteen early twentieth-century East Side writers. Anzia Yezierska, Abraham Cahan, Michael Gold, and Henry Roth, and others defined this new Jewish homeland and paved the way for the later great Jewish American novelists. Sternlicht discusses the role of women, the Yiddish Theater, secular values, the struggle between generations, street crime, politics, labor unions, and the importance of newspapers and periodicals. He documents the decline of Yiddish culture as these immigrants blended into what they called The Golden Land.

what effect did riis have on society: Riis Bjarne Riis, Lars Steen Pedersen, 2012 In 1996 Danish cycling legend Bjarne Riis won the Tour de France. Eleven years later he called a press conference and confessed to taking performance-enhancing drugs in order to achieve the ultimate cycling triumph. In Riis, his sensational autobiography - already an acclaimed bestseller in Denmark and Germany - the notoriously private Dane bares his soul. From the shy, young daydreamer who fell in love with cycling as an eight-year-old, to the hardened, regular user of banned blood booster EPO. While never shirking the seriousness of his actions Riis does attempt to explain the pressures and attitudes within cycling at the time that let him down a dark path that he now condemns. Brutally honest and as furiously fast-paced as one of his breakaways from the peleton, Riis is a powerful insight into the life and mind of one of the sport's key figures as well as a window into the world of professional road racing. There are not many people who have been involved in cycling to the extent that Riis has over the last 30 years and readers will be surprised by how open the normally taciturn Dane has been in his autobiography. If you liked Fignon's We Were Young and Carefree this book will certainly appeal to you.

what effect did riis have on society: *The Pit* Frank Norris, 2009-01-01 Like his more famous contemporary Upton Sinclair, American author BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NORRIS, JR. (1870-1902)

also highlighted the corruption and greed of corporate monopolies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries... themes that continue to make his work riveting reading more than a century later. The Pit, first published in 1903, is a fictional narrative of the dealing in the Chicago wheat pit, focusing on speculator Curtis Jadwin, who is so addicted to his own greed that it becomes his downfall. The second part of Norris's projected Trilogy of the Epic of the Wheat, *The Pit is preceded by 1901's The Octopus, also available from Cosimo. (Norris died before he could write the third volume, The Wolf.)

what effect did riis have on society: The Tenement House Act New York (State)., 1903 what effect did riis have on society: Wealth Against Commonwealth Henry Demarest Lloyd, 1894

what effect did riis have on society: The Jungle Upton Sinclair, 1920 what effect did riis have on society: Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman Sarah Moore Grimké, 1838

what effect did riis have on society: The Virtues of the Vicious Keith Gandal, 1997-10-23 In this compelling work, Keith Gandal reveals how the slum in nineteenth-century America, long a topic for sober moral analysis, became in the 1890s an unprecedented source of spectacle, captured in novels, newspapers, documentary accounts, and photographs. Reflecting a change in the middle-class vision of the poor, the slum no longer drew attention simply as a problem of social conditions and vice but emerged as a subject for aesthetic, ethnographic, and psychological description. From this period dates the fascination with the colorful alternative customs and ethics of slum residents, and an emphasis on nurturing their self-esteem. Middle-class portrayals of slum life as strange and dangerous formed part of a broad turn-of-the-century quest for masculinity, Gandal argues, a response to a sentimental Victorian respectability perceived as stifling. These changes in middle-class styles for representing the urban poor signalled a transformation in middleclass ethics and a reconception of subjectivity. Developing a broad cultural context for the 1890s interest in the poor, Gandal also offers close, groundbreaking analysis of two of the period's crucial texts. Looking at Jacob Riis's How the Other Half Lives (1890), Gandal documents how Riis's use of ethnographic and psychological details challenged traditional moralist accounts and helped to invent a spectacular style of documentation that still frames our approach as well as our solutions to urban problems. Stephen Crane's Maggie: A Girl of the Streets (1893) pushed ethnographic and psychological analysis even farther, representing a human interiority centered around self-image as opposed to character and exploring not only different customs but a radically different ethics in New York's Bowery--what we would call today a culture of poverty. Gandal meanwhile demonstrates how both Riis's innovative touristic approach and Crane's bohemianism bespeak a romanticization of slum life and an emerging middle-class unease with its own values and virility. With framing discussion that relates slum representations of the 1890s to those of today, and featuring a new account of the Progressive Era response to slum life, The Virtues of the Vicious makes fresh, provocative reading for Americanists and those interested in the 1890s, issues of urban representation and reform, and the history of New York City.

what effect did riis have on society: Lion's Paws Nellie Simmons Meier, 2013-10 This is a new release of the original 1937 edition.

what effect did riis have on society: After the Fact James West Davidson, Mark H. Lytle, 1982 Under the historians eye, the puzzles of the past turn and reveal themselves. Here are good stories well told, displaying the essential fascination of scholarship in action and what it can accomplish.

what effect did riis have on society: How the Other Half Lives, New York (Annotated) Jacob a Riis, 2020-06-30 Differentiated book. It has a historical context with research of the time-The purpose of realizing this historical context is to approach the understanding of a historical epoch from the elements provided by the text. Hence the importance of placing the document in context. It is necessary to unravel what its author or authors have said, how it has been said, when, why and where, always relating it to its historical moment. How the Other Half Lives: Studies Between New

York's Neighborhood Houses (Original title in English How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York) was one of the pioneering works of photojournalism by Jacob Riis in 1888. The Originally illustrated with halftones and engravings based on his photographs, the book denounces the living conditions in the working-class neighborhoods of New York City in the 1980s; it was a model of the way in which journalism and, in particular, photo journalism, could echo marginal situations that occurred in the middle and upper classes of a society. During the 80s of that century, the city's middle and upper classes ignored the difficult and dangerous conditions of marginalization of poor immigrants.

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