

jacob riis us history definition

jacob riis us history definition is a key concept in American history, referring to the work and influence of Jacob Riis, a pioneering journalist, photographer, and social reformer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This article explores who Jacob Riis was, his contributions to U.S. history, his groundbreaking use of photojournalism, and the lasting impact he made on urban reform and social awareness. We will define Jacob Riis in the context of U.S. history, examine his most notable works, discuss the social conditions he documented, and analyze how his efforts influenced public policy and the lives of millions. By understanding the Jacob Riis U.S. history definition, readers can appreciate the significance of his efforts in exposing urban poverty and shaping American society. Whether you are a student, educator, or history enthusiast, this comprehensive guide will provide everything you need to know about Jacob Riis and his place in U.S. history.

- Jacob Riis US History Definition: Meaning and Context
- Who Was Jacob Riis?
- Jacob Riis's Major Works and Contributions
- The Social Conditions Riis Exposed
- Photojournalism and the Power of Images
- Impact on Social Reform and U.S. Policy
- Jacob Riis's Legacy in Modern U.S. History

Jacob Riis US History Definition: Meaning and Context

The term "jacob riis us history definition" refers to the historical role and influence of Jacob Riis as a social reformer, photographer, and journalist who exposed the harsh realities of life in American urban slums during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Riis is best known for using photography and detailed reporting to highlight the living conditions of immigrants and the poor in New York City. His work provided a vivid and compelling account of urban poverty, influencing public opinion and inspiring reforms. The Jacob Riis U.S. history definition encompasses his key role in the Progressive Era, his pioneering use of photojournalism, and his lasting impact on social policy and urban development.

Who Was Jacob Riis?

Jacob Riis was a Danish-American journalist, photographer, and social reformer born in 1849 in Denmark. He immigrated to the United States in 1870, working various jobs before becoming a police reporter in New York City. Riis's personal experiences with poverty drove his commitment to social justice and reform. Throughout his career, he focused on documenting and improving the lives of the urban poor, particularly immigrants living in tenements. He became one of the most influential figures in the field of investigative journalism and social photography.

Early Life and Immigration

Jacob Riis was born in Ribe, Denmark, and faced economic hardship from a young age. After immigrating to the United States, he struggled to find work and experienced homelessness. These challenges shaped his empathy for the poor and influenced his later work as a reformer and journalist. Riis's background as an immigrant gave him a unique perspective on the struggles faced by newcomers in America's rapidly growing cities.

Career as a Journalist and Photographer

Riis began his career in journalism as a police reporter for the New York Tribune. He quickly became known for his investigative work, often venturing into the city's poorest neighborhoods to document conditions. Riis's transition to photography helped him visually capture the realities of tenement life, making his stories more impactful and accessible to a wider audience. His innovative approach combined written narratives with powerful images, establishing him as a pioneer in photojournalism.

Jacob Riis's Major Works and Contributions

Jacob Riis's most influential works combined investigative journalism with photography to bring attention to issues of poverty, housing, and social injustice. His publications played a critical role in educating the public and prompting legislative change. The following are some of his most notable contributions:

- **How the Other Half Lives (1890):** Riis's groundbreaking book that exposed the living conditions in New York City tenements, using both written

accounts and photographs.

- **The Children of the Poor (1892):** A detailed examination of child labor and the struggles faced by impoverished children in urban environments.
- **Out of Mulberry Street (1898):** A collection of essays and stories highlighting life in the immigrant neighborhoods of New York City.

Through these works, Riis not only documented the struggles of the urban poor but also advocated for specific reforms, such as improved housing standards, sanitation, and child welfare policies.

The Social Conditions Riis Exposed

Jacob Riis's primary focus was on the dire social conditions in New York City's slums during the late 19th century. He documented overcrowded tenements, inadequate sanitation, rampant disease, and the dangers faced by children and families. Riis's work provided a window into the daily lives of immigrants and the working poor, revealing the stark contrast between the wealthy and the impoverished in America's cities.

Tenement Housing and Urban Poverty

Riis's investigations revealed that many families lived in cramped, poorly ventilated apartments with little access to clean water or sunlight. These unsanitary conditions contributed to the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis and typhoid fever. Tenement housing was often unsafe, with fire hazards and structural decay posing constant threats to residents.

Child Labor and Public Health

Children living in poverty were often forced to work long hours in factories, sweatshops, or on the streets to help support their families. Riis highlighted the negative impact of child labor on physical and mental health. He also drew attention to the lack of access to education and medical care among impoverished families, calling for reforms to protect vulnerable children.

Photojournalism and the Power of Images

Jacob Riis is widely recognized as one of the first to use photography as a tool for social reform. He understood that images could have a greater impact than words alone, making the struggles of the poor more real and urgent to the public. Riis's innovative use of flash photography allowed him to capture images in dark, crowded interiors, where traditional cameras could not operate.

Influence on Public Perception

Riis's photographs were instrumental in changing how Americans viewed poverty. By presenting undeniable visual evidence, he countered prevailing stereotypes and encouraged empathy and action. His work inspired other reformers and journalists to adopt similar methods, helping to establish photojournalism as a powerful force for change.

Techniques and Challenges

Working with early photographic technology, Riis faced significant challenges in capturing images in low-light conditions. He pioneered the use of magnesium flash powder, which illuminated dark tenements and brought hidden realities to light. Despite technical limitations, his photographs remain some of the most iconic images of urban America in the late 1800s.

Impact on Social Reform and U.S. Policy

The exposure of urban poverty by Jacob Riis led to significant changes in U.S. society and government policy. His work influenced public opinion, mobilized community leaders, and prompted legislative action aimed at improving the lives of the poor.

- Tenement House Act of 1901: A pivotal law that established new standards for housing safety, ventilation, and sanitation in New York City.
- Expansion of Social Services: Growth in charitable organizations, settlement houses, and child welfare initiatives.
- Progressive Era Reforms: Broader efforts to address urban problems, labor rights, and public health throughout the United States.

Riis's advocacy contributed to the development of modern urban planning and public health systems. He worked closely with other reformers, such as Theodore Roosevelt, who credited Riis with inspiring his own commitment to social change.

Jacob Riis's Legacy in Modern U.S. History

The legacy of Jacob Riis extends far beyond his lifetime. His work laid the groundwork for future generations of social reformers, journalists, and photographers. The principles he championed—social justice, transparency, and compassion—continue to shape American society and public policy.

Influence on Later Reform Movements

Riis's methods and ideals influenced the development of investigative journalism, social work, and urban studies. His approach set a precedent for using media to advocate for marginalized communities and inspired later reformers to address issues such as housing inequality, public health, and child welfare.

Recognition and Educational Importance

Today, Jacob Riis is recognized as a central figure in U.S. history textbooks, museum exhibits, and academic studies. His photographs and writings remain essential resources for understanding the challenges and transformations of American cities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By studying the Jacob Riis U.S. history definition, students and historians gain insight into the roots of social reform and the ongoing pursuit of equity and justice in the United States.

Frequently Asked Questions: Jacob Riis US History Definition

Q: What is the jacob riis us history definition?

A: The Jacob Riis U.S. history definition refers to the role and influence of Jacob Riis as a pioneering journalist and photographer who exposed urban poverty and drove social reform in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Q: Why is Jacob Riis significant in U.S. history?

A: Jacob Riis is significant because he used journalism and photography to highlight the poor living conditions in urban slums, prompting public awareness and policy changes that improved housing and social services for millions.

Q: What are Jacob Riis's most famous works?

A: Jacob Riis's most famous works include "How the Other Half Lives," "The Children of the Poor," and "Out of Mulberry Street," all of which documented the struggles of the urban poor and advocated for reform.

Q: How did Jacob Riis use photography for social reform?

A: Riis used early flash photography to capture the harsh realities of life in tenement housing, making his reporting more compelling and convincing, which helped drive support for change.

Q: What social issues did Jacob Riis expose?

A: Jacob Riis exposed issues such as overcrowded tenements, poor sanitation, child labor, disease, and the lack of social and public health services in urban areas.

Q: How did Jacob Riis influence public policy?

A: Riis's work influenced the passage of laws like the Tenement House Act of 1901 and inspired broader Progressive Era reforms aimed at improving urban living conditions.

Q: What is the importance of "How the Other Half Lives"?

A: "How the Other Half Lives" is important because it was one of the first works to combine investigative journalism with photography, effectively raising public awareness about poverty and sparking significant reforms.

Q: Who were some reformers influenced by Jacob Riis?

A: Reformers such as Theodore Roosevelt were influenced by Jacob Riis's work, and Roosevelt credited Riis with motivating him to focus on social reform during his political career.

Q: What is Jacob Riis's legacy in modern times?

A: Jacob Riis's legacy includes his influence on journalism, social work, urban planning, and ongoing efforts to address social inequality and improve the lives of disadvantaged populations.

Q: How is Jacob Riis taught in schools today?

A: Jacob Riis is taught as a key figure in U.S. history, particularly in lessons about the Progressive Era, social reform, and the use of media to effect change. His life and work are studied through textbooks, primary sources, and multimedia resources.

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Jacob Riis: US History Definition and Lasting Legacy

Introduction:

Dive into the life and impactful work of Jacob Riis, a name synonymous with late 19th-century American social reform. This comprehensive guide provides a detailed Jacob Riis US history definition, exploring his impactful photography, investigative journalism, and enduring contribution to understanding and addressing urban poverty in America. We'll unpack his influential book, "How the Other Half Lives," analyze his photographic techniques, and examine his lasting legacy on social reform movements. This in-depth exploration aims to provide a complete understanding of this pivotal figure in American history.

Jacob Riis: A Concise US History Definition

Jacob Riis (1849-1914) was a Danish-American journalist, social reformer, and early pioneer of documentary photography. He is best known for his impactful work exposing the squalid living conditions of the impoverished working class in New York City during the Gilded Age. His groundbreaking photographic essays and investigative journalism played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing progressive social reforms. His work transcends a mere historical record; it's a powerful testament to the human cost of rapid industrialization and urbanization.

Riis's Photographic Techniques: Illuminating the Shadows

Riis wasn't just a photographer; he was a master of using his medium to tell a story. His innovative use of flash photography, a relatively new technology at the time, allowed him to capture the stark realities of tenement life, previously unseen by the affluent classes. He meticulously documented cramped, disease-ridden tenements, overflowing streets, and the faces of poverty-stricken families. His images weren't merely snapshots; they were carefully composed narratives, designed to evoke empathy and outrage in the viewer. This strategic use of light and shadow dramatically showcased the contrast between opulent wealth and crushing poverty within the same city.

The Power of the Image: More Than Just a Picture

Riis understood the power of visual storytelling. His photographs weren't detached observations; they were carefully selected and presented to maximize their emotional impact. He deliberately chose images that highlighted the most poignant aspects of poverty – the suffering children, the overcrowded living spaces, the despair etched on the faces of the residents. He wasn't simply documenting; he was campaigning for change through the emotive power of his imagery.

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

Published in 1890, "How the Other Half Lives" became a seminal work in American social reform literature. The book, accompanied by Riis's powerful photographs, vividly depicted the appalling living conditions in New York City's slums. It wasn't simply a descriptive account; it was a scathing indictment of societal inequalities and a passionate plea for reform. The book's immediate impact was undeniable, galvanizing public awareness and shaping the narrative around urban poverty.

Impact of "How the Other Half Lives" on Social Reform

Riis's book directly influenced progressive reformers, politicians, and philanthropists. It served as a catalyst for improved housing legislation, tenement reforms, and the creation of settlement houses aimed at providing social services to the poor. His work directly impacted the development of public health initiatives and contributed to a broader understanding of the social determinants of health and well-being. It essentially paved the way for future social documentary photography and journalism.

Riis's Lasting Legacy: A Continuing Conversation

Jacob Riis's legacy extends far beyond his photography and writing. His commitment to social justice, his innovative use of photography as a tool for social change, and his passionate advocacy for the marginalized continue to inspire social reformers and activists today. His work serves as a stark reminder of the enduring challenges of poverty and inequality and the importance of documenting and addressing social injustices. His legacy compels us to critically examine our own societies and continue the fight for a more equitable and just world.

The Enduring Relevance of Riis's Work

Despite the passage of time, the issues Riis highlighted – poverty, housing inequality, and the need for social reform – remain strikingly relevant in the 21st century. His work serves as a powerful reminder that social progress is an ongoing process, requiring sustained effort and commitment to address persistent societal challenges. His legacy compels us to acknowledge that history repeats itself unless actively countered by engaged citizenship and progressive policies.

Conclusion:

Jacob Riis's contribution to US history is undeniable. He used his skills as a journalist and photographer to expose the harsh realities of poverty and inspire significant social reforms. His work continues to resonate, urging us to confront societal inequities and work towards a more just and equitable future. His legacy reminds us that the power of photography and storytelling can be a potent force for positive change.

FAQs

1. What specific reforms resulted directly from Riis's work? Riis's work directly influenced the passage of tenement house laws in New York City, leading to improved sanitation, ventilation, and living conditions in tenement buildings. His advocacy also contributed to the establishment of settlement houses and various public health initiatives.
2. How did Riis's background influence his work? Born in Denmark, Riis experienced poverty firsthand, shaping his empathy and dedication to improving the lives of the poor in New York City. His immigrant experience allowed him to connect with the marginalized communities he documented.
3. What are some criticisms of Riis's work? Some critics argue that Riis's portrayals, while impactful,

sometimes reinforced negative stereotypes about the poor. Others point out that his solutions often focused on assimilation rather than addressing systemic inequalities.

4. How did Riis use technology to his advantage? Riis's innovative use of flash photography, a relatively new technology at the time, was crucial to his ability to capture images within the dimly lit tenements, revealing the stark reality of their living conditions to a wider audience.

5. What is the significance of "How the Other Half Lives" today? "How the Other Half Lives" remains significant today as a powerful historical document that highlights the persistent challenges of poverty and inequality. It serves as a cautionary tale and a reminder of the importance of social reform and justice.

jacob riis us history definition: How the Other Half Lives Jacob Riis, 2011

jacob riis us history definition: The Making of an American Jacob A. Riis, 2023-09-14
Reproduction of the original. The publishing house Megali specialises in reproducing historical works in large print to make reading easier for people with impaired vision.

jacob riis us history definition: The Children of the Poor Jacob August Riis, 1892 Jacob Riis was a Danish-born photojournalist who used his camera to draw attention to the plight of the poor.

jacob riis us history definition: 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.

jacob riis us history definition: The Gilded Age Mark Twain, Charles Dudley Warner, 1892

jacob riis us history definition: 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.

jacob riis us history definition: A Ten Years' War: An Account of the Battle with the Slum in New York Jacob A. Riis, 2022-05-29 A Ten Years' War: An Account of the Battle with the Slum in New York is a book by Jacob A. Riis. It takes a look at slums, gangs and criminal behavior and their causes in early 20th century NYC.

jacob riis us history definition: 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.

jacob riis us history definition: Permanent Supportive Housing National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Policy and Global Affairs, Science and Technology for Sustainability Program, Committee on an Evaluation of Permanent Supportive Housing Programs for Homeless Individuals, 2018-08-11 Chronic homelessness is a highly complex social problem of national importance. The problem has elicited a variety of societal and public policy responses over the years, concomitant with fluctuations in the economy and changes in the demographics of and attitudes toward poor and disenfranchised citizens. In recent decades, federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the philanthropic community have worked hard to develop and implement programs to solve the challenges of homelessness, and progress has been made. However, much more remains to be done. Importantly, the results of various efforts, and especially the efforts to reduce homelessness among veterans in recent years, have shown that the problem of homelessness can be successfully addressed. Although a number of programs have been developed to meet the needs of persons experiencing homelessness, this report focuses on one particular type of intervention: permanent supportive housing (PSH). Permanent Supportive Housing focuses on the impact of PSH on health care outcomes and its cost-effectiveness. The report also addresses policy and program barriers that affect the ability to bring the PSH and other housing models to scale to address housing and health care needs.

jacob riis us history definition: 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.

jacob riis us history definition: 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.

jacob riis us history definition: Five Points Tyler Anbinder, 2012-06-05 The very letters of the two words seem, as they are written, to redden with the blood-stains of unavenged crime. There is Murder in every syllable, and Want, Misery and Pestilence take startling form and crowd upon the imagination as the pen traces the words. So wrote a reporter about Five Points, the most infamous neighborhood in nineteenth-century America, the place where slumming was invented. All but

forgotten today, Five Points was once renowned the world over. Its handful of streets in lower Manhattan featured America's most wretched poverty, shared by Irish, Jewish, German, Italian, Chinese, and African Americans. It was the scene of more riots, scams, saloons, brothels, and drunkenness than any other neighborhood in the new world. Yet it was also a font of creative energy, crammed full of cheap theaters and dance halls, prizefighters and machine politicians, and meeting halls for the political clubs that would come to dominate not just the city but an entire era in American politics. From Jacob Riis to Abraham Lincoln, Davy Crockett to Charles Dickens, Five Points both horrified and inspired everyone who saw it. The story that Anbinder tells is the classic tale of America's immigrant past, as successive waves of new arrivals fought for survival in a land that was as exciting as it was dangerous, as riotous as it was culturally rich. Tyler Anbinder offers the first-ever history of this now forgotten neighborhood, drawing on a wealth of research among letters and diaries, newspapers and bank records, police reports and archaeological digs. Beginning with the Irish potato-famine influx in the 1840s, and ending with the rise of Chinatown in the early twentieth century, he weaves unforgettable individual stories into a tapestry of tenements, work crews, leisure pursuits both licit and otherwise, and riots and political brawls that never seemed to let up. Although the intimate stories that fill Anbinder's narrative are heart-wrenching, they are perhaps not so shocking as they first appear. Almost all of us trace our roots to once humble stock. Five Points is, in short, a microcosm of America.

jacob riis us history definition: *The History of the Standard Oil Company* Ida Minerva Tarbell, 2020-09-28 One of the busiest corners of the globe at the opening of the year 1872 was a strip of Northwestern Pennsylvania, not over fifty miles long, known the world over as the Oil Regions. Twelve years before this strip of land had been but little better than a wilderness; its chief inhabitants the lumbermen, who every season cut great swaths of primeval pine and hemlock from its hills, and in the spring floated them down the Allegheny River to Pittsburg. The great tides of Western emigration had shunned the spot for years as too rugged and unfriendly for settlement, and yet in twelve years this region avoided by men had been transformed into a bustling trade centre, where towns elbowed each other for place, into which three great trunk railroads had built branches, and every foot of whose soil was fought for by capitalists. It was the discovery and development of a new raw product, petroleum, which had made this change from wilderness to market-place. This product in twelve years had not only peopled a waste place of the earth, it had revolutionised the world's methods of illumination and added millions upon millions of dollars to the wealth of the United States. Petroleum as a curiosity, and indeed in a small way as an article of commerce, was no new thing when its discovery in quantities called the attention of the world to this corner of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The journals of many an early explorer of the valleys of the Allegheny and its tributaries tell of springs and streams the surfaces of which were found covered with a thick oily substance which burned fiercely when ignited and which the Indians believed to have curative properties. As the country was opened, more and more was heard of these oil springs. Certain streams came to be named from the quantities of the substance found on the surface of the water, as "Oil Creek" in Northwestern Pennsylvania, "Old Greasy" or Kanawha in West Virginia. The belief in the substance as a cure-all increased as time went on and in various parts of the country it was regularly skimmed from the surface of the water as cream from a pan, or soaked up by woollen blankets, bottled, and peddled as a medicine for man and beast. Up to the beginning of the 19th century no oil seems to have been obtained except from the surfaces of springs and streams. That it was to be found far below the surface of the earth was discovered independently at various points in Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania by persons drilling for salt-water to be used in manufacturing salt. Not infrequently the water they found was mixed with a dark-green, evil-smelling substance which was recognised as identical with the well-known "rock-oil." It was necessary to rid the water of this before it could be used for salt, and in many places cisterns were devised in which the brine was allowed to stand until the oil had risen to the surface. It was then run into the streams or on the ground. This practice was soon discovered to be dangerous, so easily did the oil ignite. In several places, particularly in Kentucky, so much oil was obtained with the

20th century. The novel is a must-read for anyone interested in history, politics, or social justice. Its enduring relevance and impact make it a classic of American literature.

jacob riis us history definition: 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.

jacob riis us history definition: The Decorated Tenement Zachary J. Violette, 2019-04-30 Winner of the International Society of Place, Landscape, and Culture Fred B. Kniffen Award A reexamination of working-class architecture in late nineteenth-century urban America As the multifamily building type that often symbolized urban squalor, tenements are familiar but poorly understood, frequently recognized only in terms of the housing reform movement embraced by the American-born elite in the late nineteenth century. This book reexamines urban America's tenement buildings of this period, centering on the immigrant neighborhoods of New York and Boston. Zachary J. Violette focuses on what he calls the "decorated tenement," a wave of new buildings constructed by immigrant builders and architects who remade the slum landscapes of the Lower East Side of Manhattan and the North and West Ends of Boston in the late nineteenth century. These buildings' highly ornamental facades became the target of predominantly upper-class and Anglo-Saxon housing reformers, who viewed the facades as garish wrappings that often hid what they assumed were exploitative and brutal living conditions. Drawing on research and fieldwork of more than three thousand extant tenement buildings, Violette uses ornament as an entry point to reconsider the role of tenement architects and builders (many of whom had deep roots in immigrant communities) in improving housing for the working poor. Utilizing specially commissioned contemporary photography, and many never-before-published historical images, *The Decorated Tenement* complicates monolithic notions of architectural taste and housing standards while broadening our understanding of the diversity of cultural and economic positions of those responsible for shaping American architecture and urban landscapes. Winner of the International Society of Place, Landscape, and Culture Fred B. Kniffen Award

jacob riis us history definition: Creative Composites Lauren Kroiz, 2012-09-06 "Creative Composites provides an intelligent, rigorous account of several under-examined figures who gathered around the photographer Alfred Stieglitz and played important roles in the first American avant-garde. Drawing on rich archival sources, Lauren Kroiz revisits the cultural debates of the period and constructs an intricate and convincing comparative analysis of the role that gender, race and ethnicity, and cultural nationalism played in the construction of American modernism. This important historical and interpretive text represents a much-needed contribution not only to the history of American art but also to American social and cultural history."—Marcia Brennan, author of *Curating Consciousness: Mysticism and the Modern Museum* "Describing the associations between immigrant critics and artists enmeshed in the New York art world in the early twentieth century, Kroiz skillfully demonstrates that American modernism reached beyond its European influences and was a deeply hybrid enterprise with multiple, global, and overlapping roots. Kroiz is sure-footed when seriously addressing works of art and marvelous at working through the issues around the ethnic identities of many of the key figures. Illuminating a crucial and oft-overlooked aspect of the history of American modernism—this peripatetic and shifting multiculturalism—*Creative Composites* is a timely, deeply researched text that highlights the wealth of mixed ancestry in our cultural heritage."—Jessica May, author of *American Modern: Documentary Photography* by Abbott, Evans, and Bourke-White

jacob riis us history definition: McClure's Magazine , 1897

jacob riis us history definition: American Rebels Jack Newfield, 2004-01-05 *American Rebels* is an anthology of specially commissioned essays by leading American writers that attempt to reconcile authentic patriotism with original artistic creation, unpopular opinion, and real moral principles that don't change with the winds. It includes rebels in politics, education, journalism, religion, literature, film, sports, music, law, popular culture, and social struggle. These are real rebels against conformity, commercialism, racism, oligarchy, the bogus conventional wisdom,

stacked decks, and sacred cows. The Americans celebrated don't fit under any one ideology or party. They are too free-spirited to be categorized, belonging to a continuum of conviction and creation in our tangled national history. Some, like Walt Whitman, Bob Dylan, Marlon Brando, and Frank Sinatra, are famous. Others are less well known but have earned a broad appreciation; among them are Sam Fuller, Paul O'Dwyer, and Mike Harrington. Still others like Edward Abbey, Benjamin Mays, and Bill Hicks are almost cult figures—revered by a small, intense following. Others have faded from memory, like Margaret Sanger and Clarence Darrow, and deserve a new shaft of sunlight. This groundbreaking collection includes original essays by Pete Hamill, Stanley Crouch, Budd Schulberg, Danny Goldberg, J. Hoberman, Patricia Bosworth, Tom Hayden, Steve Earle, and others.

jacob riis us history definition: The Afro-American Press and Its Editors Irvine Garland Penn, 1891

jacob riis us history definition: The Bitter Cry of the Children John Spargo, 2023-11-11 John Spargo's 'The Bitter Cry of the Children' is a groundbreaking exposé on child labor in America during the early 20th century. With a compelling mix of investigative journalism and poignant storytelling, Spargo documents the appalling conditions faced by child workers in factories and mines, shedding light on a dark chapter of American history. The book echoes the sentiments of the progressive movement of the time, calling for social reform and labor laws to protect the most vulnerable members of society. Spargo's writing style is both evocative and informative, making this book a must-read for those interested in labor history and social justice issues. John Spargo, a prominent socialist and reformer, was deeply involved in the labor movement and social activism of his time. His personal experiences and passionate advocacy for social change undoubtedly influenced his decision to write 'The Bitter Cry of the Children'. As a respected authority on labor issues, Spargo's book served as a catalyst for legislative changes and public awareness about child labor practices. I highly recommend 'The Bitter Cry of the Children' to anyone interested in the history of labor rights, social reform, and the impact of investigative journalism. Spargo's powerful expose remains relevant today, reminding us of the ongoing need to protect the rights and well-being of all children.

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understand muckraking.

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5,000 words) are simply and clearly enough written that an intelligent high school student should easily understand them, but sophisticated enough that a college student or general reader in a public library will find the essays both informative and stimulating. The final major element of this encyclopedia consists of fifty-odd essays on literary movements, periods, or themes, pulling together a broad range of information and making interesting connections. These essays treat many of the same authors already discussed, but in a different context; they also gather into the fold authors who do not have an entire essay on their work (so that Zane Grey, for example, is discussed in an essay on Western literature but does not have an essay to himself). In this way, the project is truly encyclopedic, in the conventional sense. These essays aim for comprehensiveness without losing anything of the narrative force that makes them good reading in their own right. In a very real fashion, the literature of the American people reflects their deepest desires, aspirations, fears, and fantasies. The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature gathers a wide range of information that illumines the field itself and clarifies many of its particulars.

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jacob riis us history definition: The American Yawp Joseph L. Locke, Ben Wright, 2019-01-22 I too am not a bit tamed--I too am untranslatable / I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.--Walt Whitman, Song of Myself, Leaves of Grass The American Yawp is a free, online, collaboratively built American history textbook. Over 300 historians joined together to create the book they wanted for their own students--an accessible, synthetic narrative that reflects the best of recent historical scholarship and provides a jumping-off point for discussions in the U.S. history classroom and beyond. Long before Whitman and long after, Americans have sung something collectively amid the deafening roar of their many individual voices. The Yawp highlights the dynamism and conflict inherent in the history of the United States, while also looking for the common threads that help us make sense of the past. Without losing sight of politics and power, The American Yawp incorporates transnational perspectives, integrates diverse voices, recovers narratives of resistance, and explores the complex process of cultural creation. It looks for America in crowded slave cabins, bustling markets, congested tenements, and marbled halls. It navigates between maternity wards, prisons, streets, bars, and boardrooms. The fully peer-reviewed edition of The American Yawp will be available in two print volumes designed for the U.S. history survey. Volume I begins with the indigenous people who called the Americas home before chronicling the collision of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans. The American Yawp traces the development of colonial society in the context of the larger Atlantic World and investigates the origins and ruptures of slavery, the American Revolution, and the new nation's development and rebirth through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Rather than asserting a fixed narrative of American progress, The American Yawp gives students a starting point for asking their own questions about how the past informs the problems and opportunities that we confront today.

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