

**APUSH  
INSTRUCTOR: W. JOHN MCCORMICK  
PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT PROJECT**

Please prepare a paper of 5 - 8 pages answering the following question. The inclusion of a concise thesis statement, organization, clarity and completeness will be considered in grading the content of your paper. One point out of one-hundred will be deducted for every structural error committed. Content will also be graded on the one-hundred point scale. The two grades will be averaged to determine the final grade for your paper. Double-spaced typing is required. Use no larger than twelve-point font style. Late papers will not be accepted.

**Upton Sinclair's The Jungle**

**A. Choose One (1) of the Following Required Questions:**

1. The rise of industrialization and its effects on American society in the late nineteenth century have always been a source of fascination to Americans and American historians. Some see this period as exploitive, crude, wasteful, corrupt and indecent. These same people also advocate that government regulation and control of industry was (and continues to be) vitally necessary in protecting citizens, society and the environment from the deleterious effects of "big business".

Others however, (including the outgoing Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives) argue that this period was the apex of American civilization due to increased industrial productivity, widespread entrepreneurship, increased opportunity and increased accumulation of individual wealth. These same people advocate that government regulation unfairly burdens American businesses and American workers by raising costs and stagnating job and wage growth.

- Q1. Is regulation/control of the economy and society a vitally necessary function of government or an unnecessary, costly restriction on American business? Which version is the more correct and which is the more incorrect?**

2. Historians have frequently debated the efficacy of Progressive Era reforms. While the Progressives surely set precedents for government intervention in (and regulation of) the private sector, some historians view the Progressive movement as mostly a state and local phenomenon that left an uneven record of success. These same historians argue that true reform of the private sector occurred only during FDR's "New Deal" of the 1930s. Others however, argue that the Progressive Era accomplished much in terms of reforming the politics, economy and society of the laissez-faire America described by Upton Sinclair in his book The Jungle.

- Q2. Was the Progressive Movement successful in solving the political, social and economic problems outlined in Upton Sinclair's The Jungle?**

Using careful examples from The Jungle produce a research/position paper that both explains and defends one of the views listed above.

**B. Additional Notes:**

Use short quotes and paraphrases to prove your argument. You may use other sources but do not include large block quotes from the authors being examined. There is no need for footnotes or bibliography (unless you use another source). Page numbers should be cited. This can be done in parenthesis in the text, e.g. (Sinclair, p. 22); (Turner, p. 76). Please also provide a cover page including title, course title, instructor name, your name and date. See me if you need assistance.