

During encountered
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During the 1930s, people all over the United States suffered poverty and joblessness during the Great Depression.

Unable to pay rent or mortgages, families were forced off their land while businesses and corporations expanded due to industrialization. This left people with the only option of migrating towards areas that offered jobs. However, they encountered equally challenging circumstances than the ones they were leaving, and the life of a typical migrant was hard. In *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck shows the substandard social conditions caused by industrialization that forced families to migrate yet still encounter starvation, suffering, and death.

My group's presentation included chapters in which Steinbeck describes the many obstacles that migrants had to deal with. We emphasize the life and death circumstances that migrants had to endure in order to stay alive during the Dust Bowl era. Specifically, the Joad family moves west to California after being kicked off their land in Oklahoma and left homeless. They were forced to travel towards California in hopes of better living and working conditions. Historically, migrants like the Joads dealt with starvation, discrimination, and even death. One of the social issues our group discussed was the power banks and corporations during that time.

Families that worked hard and lived on their land for ages were evicted as banks reclaimed their land when mortgages were not paid due to unemployment. After families were evicted, their properties were leveled, thus showing the aggressiveness banks displayed and their lack of compassion towards suffering families. Along with being coerced from their

property, the Joads and many other migrants experienced discrimination.

Migrant workers were often referred to by the native Californians as “ okies,” a slang term for scum. In addition to dealing with poverty and trying to establish new roots, workers faced discrimination.

Californians were intimidated by the influx of workers because they feared that migrants might take over resources and land during this unstable economic time. This discrimination led to unfair hiring practices that excluded migrants, who often experienced starvation while camping alongside roads. Homeless, the Joads were suffering from the harsh conditions that came with camping out on streets, eventually leading to Granpa's and Granma's death. Starving and on the break of exhaustion, migrants continued to suffer as resources in California were destroyed due to external factors like weather. This worsened their starvation. Crops were decaying and extreme weather conditions like heavy rain and flooding ruined harvests. This affected migrant farmers' wages, and many were unable to feed their families. Many people resorted to stealing and begging to survive.

Classmates were surprised to learn of the extent of the impacts that industrialization had on migrants. Industrialization is meant to improve the country by developing better means of life and economy, yet migrants had a very different experience of industrialization. I think that my classmates were able to further understand the power that corporations had and the negative roles that banks played during the time. While the industrial era brought advances in technology that made life easier for many people, there was a darker underside that affected the lives of immigrants. One question that arose after the presentation was whether it was necessary for the banks and <https://assignbuster.com/during-encountered-equally-challenging-circumstances-than-the/>

corporations to take advantage of migrants in order to keep power. This question led to many different answers among classmates, but my answer is no.

I think that the corporations had a social responsibility to treat citizens with respect. It may have been possible to maintain power without putting families throughout these circumstances. For example, rather than evicting families from their homes, banks could have created arrangements or payment plans so that families could pay debt over time. This would have ensured that banks received money while avoiding the unfortunate position of creating homelessness and despair. In conclusion, migrants' lives were filled with endless struggles to provide for their families and make a living. Migrants experienced starvation, suffering, and death at the hands of big corporations and banks. Many migrants like the Joads were discriminated against by those native of the land and put under horrific working conditions. John Steinbeck captures the anguish and desperation of those less fortunate during the Great Depression, and his works are still relatable today, as immigrants and other people living below the poverty line work to achieve the American dream.