

# In day to day social life and across

[Business, Industries](#)



In the late 19th century, a well debated topic among the economy was the issues concerning immigrants and their maltreatment in their day to day social life and across the work force, but a lower-class writer transformed society for future generations in America forever.

Upton Sinclair is known as a social reformer whose writings were vastly influential in the United States, but what molded him into being such a prodigious writer and what led him to have such vehement beliefs, was his upbringing as a child. Sinclair was born in Maryland in 1878 into one of the many families whose wealth and land was completely wiped out by the Civil War. (“ Upton Sinclair Biography.”) Unfortunately, he was born into a family where his father’s alcoholism shadowed his life while his mother gripped on to him with a tight leash. He was raised on the edge of poverty as a child, sleeping on either sofas, cross-ways, or his parents’ bed, yet his mother’s half of the family was particularly wealthy and affluent. (“ Upton Sinclair.”) Since he was exposed to both the well-off and struggling people of the United States in the late 19th century, Sinclair was aware of the privileged aspects and notable advantages that came within the upper class as opposed to the ghastly ones the slums were bestowed with. This is how Sinclair’s beliefs on America’s social construct came to be and it is what developed his keen intellect at such a young age.

(“ Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle: Muckraking the Meat-Packing Industry.”) Living in both of these social settings matured him into the writer he was soon to become and impacted his books for the better. Later, when Sinclair was 20, the contempt he had come to procure overtime pushed him to become a self-proclaimed socialist in 1903, and by 1904 he was working for

the socialist newspaper Appeal to Reason. Here he spent seven weeks in the appalling meatpacking industry of Chicago working undercover to reveal the exploitation of workers in companies. ("Upton Sinclair.") After researching day in and day out on the field, Sinclair threw himself into his exposé for the magazine.

He was so devoted to his work that his piece soon developed into his iconic literary piece, The Jungle. Sinclair wrote The Jungle with such emotion that it almost seeps out and entices the audience to keep reading and become as heartfelt on the subject as Sinclair seems to be. The reader can truly tell that Sinclair put his all into his work and poured his thoughts, situated on real world problems, into his novel.

In many cases it almost seemed as though he could not confine his passion and ardor when he apprised the story of Jurgis. "He never missed a meeting, however. He had picked a few words of English by this time, and friends would help him understand. They were often very turbulent meetings, with half a dozen men declaiming at once, in as many dialects of English, but the speakers were all desperately in earnest, and Jurgis was in earnest, too, for he understood that a fight was on, and that it was his fight.

"Here the reader can see a glimpse of Sinclair's style because he was so earnest in voicing his mind that he even wrote the third sentence with six different clauses, which comes to show the excitement to get it all out in his tone, and in turn they had that much more of an impact together. The way he puts his whole being into his writing influences the reader and is what ultimately gave the book the outcome and praise it received, and continues

to have today. His book had a staggeringly immense supporting audience, for all the right reasons.

He made a significant change in the United States' future; his play with words and how he can manipulate them in order to paint his thoughts to the best of his abilities to form *The Jungle*, a mere gander into the mind of Upton Sinclair. Sinclair implements a variety of elements to get to the reader; from hard evidence to creating a picture in the reader's mind to break them down from within he sways them in his favor. For example, in many parts of the novel, he appeals to the sensitive side of the reader and reaches out to them with pathos. In many instances, Sinclair is able to do this by describing the horrendous and inhumane conditions the immigrants were forced into. "To this part of the yards came all the " tankage" and the waste products of all sorts; here they dried out the bones, - and insuffocating cellars where the daylight never came you might see men and women and children bending over whirling machines and sawing bits of bone into all sorts of shapes, breathing their lungs full of the fine dust, and doomed to die, every one of them, within a certain definite time.

" (Chapter 13 Page 2) He pushes the reader to feel pity for the workers and be infuriated by how the wealthy with the upper hand had no mercy upon the poor souls of the minorities. Sinclair believed that by making the reader realize how difficult it was in these times, it might push them towards or guilt trip them into wanting to make a change and have socialistic ideals. " The house was one of a whole row that was built by a company which existed to make money by swindling poor people." (Chapter 6 Page 2) Logos is

evident in this excerpt from the novel because it is a clear example of how the immigrants are being taken advantage of by their bosses, a matter that is out of their control because of their low-income lifestyle and inferior political influence.

Sinclair also uses ethos throughout his novel and in this quote to demonstrate the corrupt way of their society in the late 19th century. He shows the leaders of their community, the large business owners that provide jobs to the lower income immigrants, exploit the power they have over their employees and have a corrupt manner of keeping their business up and running day in and day out. So, in this scenario, instead of the rich giving to the poor, the industry giants are taking from the poor to benefit their already well-off lifestyle. What Sinclair was trying to get at with this quote across the book, is that our society is run by greed, regardless of who one knocks down to ruin on the way. Sinclair gets to the reader with a wide array of methods that make the audience intrigued not only about the gruesome and unhygienic meatpacking industry but the profiteering ways of the employer.

His childhood formed his values and way of thinking about society which enforced and constructed his book. With this, he uses emotional, logical, and ethical evidence to support his ideals and convince the reader of his principles. Sinclair's book led to countless modifications and investigations which in the end altered the course of America.