

A.P. U.S. History: Summer Assignment

This is the first major assignment of the first semester, and your placement in this class will be reconsidered if you do not complete this in a timely manner. I can be reached at cbiehn@cvcvcs.org to answer any questions you might have.

Historical Book Review:

Please read the following portions of *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. Chapters 1-19; Chapters 27-28; the attached excerpt from Chapter 31.

Basic summary of Chapters 20-26: Jurgis runs away and becomes a traveling worker on farms for many months; he later returns to Chicago and finds work. He becomes part of the corrupt schemes of the politicians but is soon betrayed by them, which is what just happened when Chapter 27 begins.

Chapter 31: the last 2 paragraphs of the book. And then there were official returns from the various precincts and wards of the city itself! Whether it was a factory district or one of the “silk-stocking” wards seemed to make no particular difference in the increase; but one of the things which surprised the party leaders most was the tremendous vote that came rolling in from the stockyards. Packingtown comprised three wards of the city, and the vote in the spring of 1903 had been 500, and in the fall of the same year, 1,600. Now, only one year later, it was over 6,300—and the Democratic vote only 8,800! There were other wards in which the Democratic vote had been actually surpassed, and in two districts, members of the state legislature had been elected. Thus Chicago now led the country; it had set a new standard for the party, it had shown the workingmen the way!

—So spoke an orator upon the platform; and two thousand pairs of eyes were fixed upon him, and two thousand voices were cheering his every sentence. The orator had been the head of the city’s relief bureau in the stockyards, until the sight of misery and corruption had made him sick. He was young, hungry-looking, full of fire; and as he swung his long arms and beat up the crowd, to Jurgis he seemed the very spirit of the revolution. “Organize! Organize! Organize!”—that was his cry. He was afraid of this tremendous vote, which his party had not expected, and which it had not earned. “These men are not Socialists!” he cried. “This election will pass, and the excitement will die, and people will forget about it; and if you forget about it, too, if you sink back and rest upon your oars, we shall lose this vote that we have polled to-day, and our enemies will laugh us to scorn! It rests with you to take your resolution—now, in the flush of victory, to find these men who have voted for us, and bring them to our meetings, and organize them and bind them to us! We shall not find all our campaigns as easy as this one. Everywhere in the country tonight the old party politicians are studying this vote, and setting their sails by it; and nowhere will they be quicker or more cunning than here in our own city. Fifty thousand Socialist votes in Chicago means a municipal-ownership Democracy in the spring! And then they will fool the voters once more, and all the powers of plunder and corruption will be swept into office again! But whatever they may do when they get in, there is one thing they will not do, and that will be the thing for which they were elected! They will not give the people of our city municipal ownership—they will not mean to do it, they will not try to do it; all that they will do is give our party in Chicago the greatest opportunity that has ever come to Socialism in America! We shall have the sham reformers self-stultified and self-convicted; we shall have the radical Democracy left without a lie with which to cover its nakedness! And then will begin the rush that will never be checked, the tide that will never turn till it has reached its flood—that will be irresistible, overwhelming—the rallying of the outraged workingmen of Chicago to our standard! And we shall organize them, we shall drill them, we shall marshal them for the victory! We shall bear down the opposition, we shall sweep it before us—and Chicago will be ours! Chicago will be ours! CHICAGO WILL BE OURS!

What are the significant political, social, and economic factors that Sinclair is attempting to comment on in his novel *The Jungle*?

- Please include your artistic, intellectual, and religious perspectives explaining to how this work of historical fiction relates to the Modern American Culture of today.

This review must be typed.

The Reviews will not be accepted after August 09, 2023. I suggest you start no later than the first of August.

The Textbooks for the Course should be purchased prior to the first day.

AP United States History, By the People
2nd Edition
978-0-13-474709-5

AP Supplement
Documenting United States History, Themes, Concepts, and Skills for the AP Course
978-1-4576-2012-6