

## IMPORTANT WRITINGS IN U.S. HISTORY

John Winthrop, *Model of Christian Charity*: “we shall build a city upon a hill”

Benjamin Franklin, *Sir Richard's Almanac*: compendium of best colonial era writings

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776): convinces Congress to declare independence

Knickerbocker Group: 1820s – James Fenimore Cooper, Longfellow, William Cullen Bryant – use of American themes in literature

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (1835) – French observer travels America and writes of Americans' individualism and equality

Henry David Thoreau, *On Civil Disobedience* – people must not obey unjust laws

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance*: champions the American virtue of individualism

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* – America's poet writes best poetry of 19th century

Abolitionist literature

William Lloyd Garrison, *The Liberator* (newspaper) – 1st abolitionist newspaper

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) – best selling novel about evils of slavery

Frederick Douglass, *The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass* – details his early life as a slave

Hinton Helper, *The Impending Crisis of the South* (1857): slavery is bad for poor whites in the South

George Fitzhugh, *The Sociology of the South*: defends slavery as preferable to “northern wage slaves”

Helen Hunt Jackson, *Century of Dishonor* (1886) – details plight of Indians in 19th century

Horatio Alger – wrote “rags to riches” stories for children; heroism, individualism, honesty & thrift

Andrew Carnegie, “Gospel of Wealth” – wealthy people should give most of their \$ to community

Henry George, *Progress and Poverty* – 100% land tax should be placed on property of wealthy people after a certain value has been exceeded

Ralph Bellamy, *Looking Backwards*

William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer – yellow journalists (own newspaper chains)

Booker T. Washington, *Atlanta Compromise*, (1895) – blacks should worry about economic self sufficiency first before political equality

Muckrakers: progressive writers who do exposés on corruption, poverty, trusts, etc.

Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890) – progressive photographer/writer exposed urban poverty

Lincoln Steffens, *Shame of the Cities* – details urban corruption of political machines and big business

Ida Tarbell—details ruthless tactics of John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1906) – details horrible conditions in Chicago meatpacking plants

D.W. Griffith, *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) – movie that glorifies the KKK during reconstruction

Bruce Barton, *The Man Nobody Knows* (1924) – Jesus was the world's first great advertising man

“The Lost Generation”: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Sinclair Lewis

“Harlem Renaissance”: Langston Hughes, Claude McKay key members of the movement

“The Jazz Singer” – first motion picture with sound (“talkie”)

John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* – novel about the Joad family (Okies) during the depression.

Dorothea Lange, photographs of the Great Depression

Michael Harrington, *The Other Side of America* (1962) – details poverty in America and inspires Johnson's “Great Society”

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 1962 – seminal work on the environmental movement in America

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) – seminal work of women's rights movement in 1960s

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*

Daniel Ellsberg, The Pentagon Papers (1971) exposed confidential military files regarding the war in Vietnam; *US. v. New York Times* the Supreme Court allowed publication of the *Pentagon Papers*

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, *All the President's Men* (1974) chronicled the Watergate scandal and cover-up