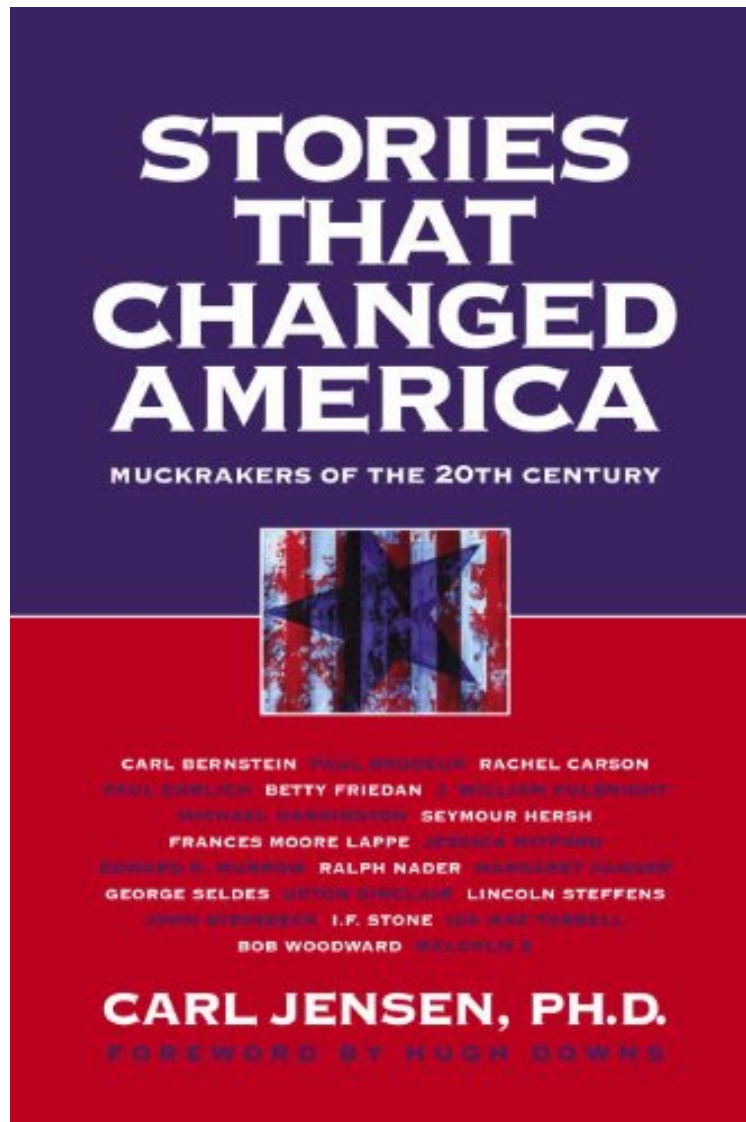


# Stories that Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century

*Carl Jensen*

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**Carl Jensen : Stories that Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stories that Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century:

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book.By PriscillaFloresLots of stories, i mean lots and lots. There was a lot of names that I have heard in my life and when I got this book, I recognized a lot of them. The book came in great condition and came real fast in the mail. Thanks so much!0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good and Not So Good At The Same TimeBy Dr. William LydenIt was interesting to learn about people I

didn't know but the writing style was not that interesting and at times boring. That averaged out to a 3.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy ShaoChungood

Exuberantly written, highly informative, Jensen's *Stories That Changed America* examines the work of twenty-one investigative writers, and how their efforts forever changed our country. Here are the pioneering muckrakers, like Upton Sinclair, author of the fact-based novel *The Jungle*, that inspired Theodore Roosevelt to sign the Pure Food and Drug Act into law; "Queen of the Muckrakers" Ida Mae Tarbell, whose *McClure* magazine exposé led to the dissolution of Standard Oil's monopoly; and Lincoln Steffens, a reporter who unearthed corruption in both municipal and federal governments. You'll also meet Margaret Sanger, the former nurse who coined the term "birth control"; George Seldes, the most censored journalist in American history; Nobel Prize-winning novelist John Steinbeck; environmentalist Rachel Carson; National Organization of Women founder Betty Friedan; African American activist Malcolm X; consumer advocate Ralph Nader; and Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters whose Watergate break-in coverage brought down President Richard Nixon. The courageous writers Jensen includes in this deftly researched volume dedicated their lives to fight for social, civil, political and environmental rights with their mighty pens.

From School Library Journal  
Adult/High School-A professor emeritus of communications at Sonoma State University, Jensen produces an annual summary of the news stories that were most neglected (or censored) by the mainstream media. From his work as director of Project Censored came the popular compilation, *Twenty Years of Censored News* (Seven Stories, 1997). This new volume collects a century's worth of American muckraking, focusing on such noted authors as Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, I. F. Stone, Bob Woodward, and Carl Bernstein. The author provides brief biographical and background information, along with samples from the writers' most influential work. This format serves readers interested in the broad topic of investigative journalism, as well as students doing research on a particular writer or writers. The prose is straightforward, the tone engaging, and the vocabulary nonacademic. Although some of Jensen's 21 selections are questionable (Malcolm X and J. William Fulbright are seldom thought of as muckrakers), all of his subjects have altered the political, social, and cultural course of our nation's history with their words. Many teens will be fascinated by these dedicated individuals who demonstrated by their courageous work that, without freedom of the press, democracy cannot be sustained.  
Robert Saunderson, Berkeley Public Library, CA  
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From Library Journal  
Jensen (communications studies, Sonoma State Univ.), the author of *Twenty Years of Censored News*, expands his theme in this book to cover a century of muckrakers. Jensen presents 21 writers, including Edward R. Murrow, Upton Sinclair, Ida Mae Tarbell, and Seymour Hersh, as the initiators of muckraking and complements the brief excerpts from their work with short biographies. Yet Jensen's definition of "muckraker" is problematically broad. William Fulbright fits the bill, but Malcolm X? Did he uncover plots, expose wrongs, or simply take controversial stands on social crises? Likewise, Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* is too epic simply to fall into the contentious realm of muckraking. Selections aside, the structure of the book, the length, and the vocabulary of the entries make this a good undergraduate textbook that is also recommended for college-tracked high school students.  
DRobert Moore, Raytheon, Sudbury, MA  
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About the Author  
DR. CARL JENSEN is a professor emeritus of Sociology and Communications Studies at Sonoma State University in California and the author of *Censored-The News That Didn't Make the News* and *Why* from 1976 to 1996, and *20 Years of Censored News*, in 1997. He founded Project Censored, the internationally recognized media research project, in 1976.