

how the other half lives by jacob riis

How The Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis: Illuminating the Shadows of New York's Tenements

how the other half lives by jacob riis is more than just a book title; it's a powerful social document that opened the eyes of many to the harsh realities faced by the impoverished residents of New York City's tenement districts in the late 19th century. Written by journalist and reformer Jacob Riis, this groundbreaking work combined vivid prose and pioneering photojournalism to expose the squalid living conditions endured by the urban poor. The impact of Riis's work extended beyond literature, influencing social reform and shaping public consciousness about poverty in America.

The Historical Context Behind How The Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis

To truly appreciate the significance of **how the other half lives by jacob riis**, it's essential to understand the era in which it was written. The late 1800s marked a period of rapid industrialization and massive immigration to the United States, especially to cities like New York. The influx of immigrants seeking jobs led to overcrowded neighborhoods where tenements—often poorly constructed and unsafe buildings—became the only affordable housing option for many working-class families.

Urbanization and Immigration Challenges

New York City's population exploded during this time, with thousands arriving from Europe every week. Many of these newcomers settled in Manhattan's Lower East Side, a district notorious for its overcrowded tenements. These buildings were cramped, lacked adequate ventilation, sanitation, and often housed multiple families in a single room. Disease, crime, and poverty were rampant, and the middle and upper classes largely remained unaware or indifferent to these conditions.

Jacob Riis: The Man Behind the Lens and the Pen

Jacob Riis was born in Denmark and immigrated to the United States in 1870. Starting his career as a police reporter for the New York Tribune, Riis witnessed firsthand the grim realities of the city's poorest neighborhoods. Unlike many journalists of his time, he didn't shy away from confronting uncomfortable truths. Instead, he sought to use his skills to advocate for change.

Innovative Use of Photography

One of the unique aspects of how the other half lives by Jacob Riis is its use of photography to complement written descriptions. Riis was a pioneer in flash photography, a technique that allowed him to capture images in the dark and cramped interiors of tenements. These photographs were shocking to contemporary audiences—offering a visual proof of squalor that words alone couldn't convey.

Core Themes and Insights in How The Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis

The book delves deeply into the social issues plaguing New York's impoverished communities. Riis's writing is both empathetic and direct, aiming to shock readers into action while humanizing the individuals behind the statistics.

Poverty and Overcrowding

Riis illustrated how families were often forced to live in single-room apartments, with multiple generations cramped together. The lack of sunlight and fresh air contributed to widespread illnesses like tuberculosis. He described communal toilets and water sources that were breeding grounds for disease.

Child Labor and Exploitation

Another troubling revelation in how the other half lives by Jacob Riis was the prevalence of child labor. Many children worked long hours in factories or on the streets, deprived of education and childhood. Riis's accounts highlighted the urgent need for labor reforms and better protections for vulnerable populations.

Crime and Social Disorder

Riis didn't shy away from discussing crime, which was often a symptom of the desperate circumstances. He pointed out how poor living conditions and lack of opportunities contributed to cycles of violence and criminal behavior, urging society to address root causes rather than merely punishing offenders.

The Impact and Legacy of How The Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis

The influence of how the other half lives by jacob riis went far beyond the literary world. The book played a pivotal role in sparking social reform movements and changing public policy aimed at improving urban living conditions.

Influence on Housing Reforms

Riis's vivid descriptions and photographs galvanized public opinion and pressured city officials to act. His work contributed to the passage of the Tenement House Act of 1901, which established strict regulations on tenement construction, ventilation, and sanitation to protect residents' health and safety.

Advancement of Social Work and Urban Reform

The book also inspired the burgeoning field of social work and encouraged philanthropists and reformers to focus on the needs of the urban poor. Settlement houses, like Jane Addams's Hull House, gained momentum in providing education, healthcare, and support services.

Legacy in Photojournalism

Jacob Riis's pioneering use of photography in advocacy journalism set a precedent that many would follow. Today, photojournalism remains a powerful tool in raising awareness and mobilizing change on social issues worldwide.

Why How The Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis Still Matters Today

Though over a century old, the themes explored in how the other half lives by jacob riis resonate with ongoing discussions about urban poverty, housing inequality, and social justice.

Lessons in Empathy and Advocacy

Riis's work reminds us of the importance of seeing beyond statistics to the

human stories behind poverty. His compassionate yet unflinching approach encourages modern readers and activists to engage with marginalized communities with both empathy and urgency.

Urban Challenges: Then and Now

Many cities today still grapple with housing shortages, homelessness, and health disparities reminiscent of Riis's era. Understanding the historical context helps frame contemporary debates on affordable housing and urban policy.

Using Media to Drive Change

Riis's success in combining photography with storytelling offers valuable insights for today's advocates. In an age dominated by digital media, powerful images combined with compelling narratives can still move public opinion and influence policy.

Exploring How The Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis: Tips for Modern Readers

For those interested in diving into Riis's work, here are some suggestions to deepen understanding and appreciation:

- **Read with historical context:** Supplement your reading with information about the Gilded Age, immigration waves, and urbanization.
- **Examine the photographs carefully:** Notice how the visual evidence complements the text and evokes emotional responses.
- **Reflect on parallels:** Consider how issues raised by Riis relate to present-day social challenges in your community or elsewhere.
- **Explore related reform movements:** Learning about figures like Jane Addams or the settlement house movement can enrich your perspective.
- **Engage in discussions:** Sharing insights or participating in forums about social justice can help apply historical lessons to current times.

Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives* remains an essential work for anyone interested in social history, urban studies, or the power of media in advocacy. Its honest portrayal of hardship and hope continues to inspire

efforts toward creating more equitable and humane cities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'How the Other Half Lives' by Jacob Riis about?

'How the Other Half Lives' is a pioneering work of photojournalism and social reform that exposes the harsh living conditions of the poor in New York City's tenements during the late 19th century.

When was 'How the Other Half Lives' published?

The book was first published in 1890.

Who was Jacob Riis?

Jacob Riis was a Danish-American social reformer, journalist, and photographer known for his work documenting the living conditions of the urban poor.

Why is 'How the Other Half Lives' considered important?

It is considered important because it brought public attention to the squalid conditions of tenement housing, influencing housing reforms and social policies.

What type of photography did Jacob Riis use in 'How the Other Half Lives'?

Riis used flash photography to capture images of dark and cramped tenement interiors, which was innovative at the time.

How did 'How the Other Half Lives' impact social reform?

The book helped spur housing reforms, improved sanitation, and legislation aimed at improving living conditions for the urban poor.

What themes are explored in 'How the Other Half Lives'?

Themes include poverty, urbanization, immigration, social inequality, and the need for reform in public health and housing.

How did Jacob Riis gather information for 'How the Other Half Lives'?

Riis combined firsthand observations, interviews, and photography to document the lives of the poor in New York City tenements.

Is 'How the Other Half Lives' still relevant today?

Yes, it remains relevant as a historical record and a reminder of the importance of social justice and housing reform.

What audience was 'How the Other Half Lives' intended for?

Riis aimed the book at middle and upper-class readers and policymakers to raise awareness and prompt action to improve living conditions for the poor.

Additional Resources

How The Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis: A Groundbreaking Exposé of Urban Poverty

how the other half lives by jacob riis stands as a seminal work in the canon of investigative journalism and social reform literature. Published in 1890, this book by Jacob Riis, a Danish-American social reformer and journalist, exposes the harsh living conditions of New York City's impoverished immigrant communities in the late 19th century. Through a compelling blend of vivid prose and pioneering photojournalism, Riis not only documented the squalor of tenement life but also galvanized public awareness and policy changes aimed at urban housing reform. This article delves into the significance, impact, and enduring relevance of **how the other half lives by jacob riis**, while exploring its themes, methodologies, and place in the history of social documentary work.

Context and Historical Significance

Jacob Riis's work emerged during the Progressive Era, a period marked by rapid industrialization, urbanization, and a surge of immigration into the United States. By the 1880s, New York City had become a melting pot of various ethnic groups, many of whom found themselves confined to overcrowded and unsanitary tenements in neighborhoods like the Lower East Side. Riis's investigative approach was revolutionary for its time, combining firsthand accounts, interviews, and photography to reveal a side of urban life that was largely ignored by the middle and upper classes.

The significance of **how the other half lives by jacob riis** lies in its role

as one of the earliest examples of photojournalism used explicitly for social reform. Riis's use of flash photography allowed him to capture haunting images of dimly lit rooms, cramped quarters, and the faces of struggling families. These photographs, paired with his narrative, brought the plight of the urban poor to the attention of policymakers, philanthropists, and the general public. Riis's work is often credited with influencing landmark housing legislation, including the Tenement House Act of 1901, which improved living conditions and sanitation standards.

Investigative Approach and Methodology

Journalistic Techniques

Jacob Riis adopted a hands-on, immersive approach to his investigative reporting. Unlike many journalists of his time who relied on secondhand reports, Riis ventured directly into the tenements, engaging with residents and documenting their daily struggles. His background as a police reporter gave him access to the underbelly of the city, enabling him to gather authentic and often distressing stories.

Innovative Use of Photography

One of Riis's most groundbreaking contributions was his use of photography as a tool for social change. Prior to this, photographs were primarily used for portraiture or documentation without an explicit agenda. Riis's images were stark and unflinching, capturing the realities of poverty with a clarity that words alone could not convey. He employed magnesium flash powder to illuminate the dark interiors of tenements, a technical innovation that allowed for unprecedented visual documentation of squalid conditions.

Thematic Exploration in How The Other Half Lives

Urban Poverty and Tenement Life

At the core of how the other half lives by jacob riis is a detailed examination of urban poverty. Riis highlights the overcrowding, lack of ventilation, poor sanitation, and rampant disease that characterized tenement housing. Families often lived in single-room spaces with insufficient light or fresh air, contributing to health crises like tuberculosis and cholera.

The book's detailed accounts reveal not just physical conditions but also the psychological toll of such environments, including despair, crime, and social fragmentation.

Immigration and Social Stratification

Riis's investigation also touches upon the wave of immigration shaping New York's demographic landscape. Many of the poor were recent arrivals from Europe, including Irish, Italian, German, and Jewish communities. While Riis aimed to generate empathy for these groups, his writing occasionally reflects the racial and ethnic prejudices of his era. Nevertheless, the book underscores the social stratification and economic disparities that marginalized immigrants faced, positioning them as victims of systemic neglect rather than individual failings.

Reform and Advocacy

Unlike a detached reportage, Riis's narrative is imbued with a reformist zeal. He explicitly calls for improved housing regulations, sanitation, and public health measures. *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis serves as an advocacy tool, urging city officials and citizens to recognize their responsibility toward the less fortunate. The book's influence extended beyond awareness-raising; it became a catalyst for concrete legislative and philanthropic interventions.

Impact and Legacy

Influence on Urban Policy

The publication of *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis had a measurable impact on urban policy in New York and beyond. The vivid portrayal of tenement conditions pressured lawmakers to enact and enforce stricter housing codes. The Tenement House Act of 1901, which mandated improvements such as better ventilation, fire safety, and access to light, reflected the direct influence of Riis's work. Additionally, Riis's efforts helped inspire settlement houses and charitable organizations dedicated to poverty alleviation.

Contribution to Photojournalism and Social

Documentary

Jacob Riis's pioneering use of photography to document social issues laid foundational groundwork for future photojournalists and documentary photographers. His blending of narrative and visual storytelling demonstrated how images could evoke empathy and spur reform. Subsequent figures like Lewis Hine and Dorothea Lange would build upon this legacy during the early and mid-20th century.

Criticism and Controversy

While Riis's contributions are widely acknowledged, his work has also faced criticism, particularly regarding his portrayal of immigrant communities. Some scholars argue that his descriptions sometimes perpetuated stereotypes and reflected a paternalistic attitude typical of Progressive Era reformers. Moreover, the focus on physical conditions occasionally overshadowed deeper systemic issues such as labor exploitation and economic inequality. Nonetheless, these critiques do not diminish the book's historical importance.

Relevance in Contemporary Context

More than a century after its publication, *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis remains relevant as a case study in urban poverty and social reform. Modern cities continue to grapple with housing affordability, homelessness, and unequal living conditions. Riis's work serves as a reminder of the power of investigative journalism combined with visual media to illuminate hidden social realities.

The book also invites reflection on how narratives about poverty are framed and the importance of approaching social issues with nuance and respect for affected communities. In an era dominated by digital media, the foundational principles exemplified by Riis—immersive reporting, ethical storytelling, and advocacy—retain their vitality for journalists and activists alike.

Key Lessons from *How The Other Half Lives*

- **Visibility Matters:** Exposing hidden social problems can lead to meaningful reform.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Combining narrative and photography enhances impact.

- **Empathy and Advocacy:** Reporting with a purpose beyond documentation can encourage societal change.
- **Critical Reflection:** Awareness of bias and context is crucial in social reporting.

In essence, Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives* remains an instructive example of how dedicated journalism can serve as a catalyst for social justice. Its enduring legacy underscores the ongoing need to shed light on marginalized communities and to pursue equitable urban development.

[How The Other Half Lives By Jacob Riis](#)

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Originally published in 1890, *How the Other Half Lives: Studies among the Tenements of New York* is an early publication of photojournalism by Jacob Riis, documenting squalid living conditions in New York City slums in the 1880s. It served as a basis for future muckraking journalism by exposing the slums to New York City's upper and middle classes. This work inspired many reforms of working-class housing, both immediately after publication as well as making a lasting impact in today's society. Table of Contents PREFACE. INTRODUCTION. CHAPTER I. GENESIS OF THE TENEMENT. CHAPTER II. THE AWAKENING. CHAPTER III. THE MIXED CROWD. CHAPTER IV. THE DOWN TOWN BACK-ALLEYS. CHAPTER V. THE ITALIAN IN NEW YORK. CHAPTER VI. THE BEND. CHAPTER VII. A RAID ON THE STALE-BEER DIVES. CHAPTER VIII. THE CHEAP LODGING-HOUSES. CHAPTER IX. CHINATOWN. CHAPTER X. JEW TOWN. CHAPTER XI. THE SWEATERS OF JEW TOWN. CHAPTER XII. THE BOHEMIANS-TENEMENT-HOUSE CIGAR MAKING. CHAPTER XIII. THE COLOR LINE IN NEW YORK. CHAPTER XIV. THE COMMON HERD. CHAPTER XV. THE PROBLEM OF THE CHILDREN. CHAPTER XVI. WAIFS OF THE CITY'S SLUMS. CHAPTER XVII. THE STREET ARAB. CHAPTER XVIII. THE REIGN OF RUM. CHAPTER XIX. THE HARVEST OF TARES. CHAPTER XX. THE WORKING GIRLS OF NEW YORK. CHAPTER XXI. PAUPERISM IN THE TENEMENTS. CHAPTER XXII. THE WRECKS AND THE WASTE. CHAPTER XXIII. THE MAN WITH THE KNIFE. CHAPTER XXIV. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE. CHAPTER XXV. HOW THE CASE STANDS. APPENDIX. STATISTICS BEARING ON THE TENEMENT PROBLEM. Footnotes

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York* Jacob A. Riis, 2019-11-19 Jacob A. Riis' groundbreaking work, '*How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York*,' provides a harrowing and eye-opening exploration into the living conditions of impoverished immigrants in late 19th century New York City. Riis employs a mix of investigative journalism and photography to vividly depict the squalid tenement buildings and the struggles faced by those living in them. His writing style is both informative and empathetic, shedding light on the harsh realities of urban poverty during this time period. This book serves as a seminal piece of social reform literature, calling attention to the need for improved housing and living conditions for the underprivileged. Riis' meticulous research and firsthand accounts make this book a must-read for anyone interested in the history of social welfare and urban development in America. It is a poignant reminder of the inequalities that plagued society in the past and continue to be relevant today.

how the other half lives by jacob riis: How the Other Half Lives Jacob August Riis, David Leviatin, 1996

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the Other Half Lives* Jacob August Riis, 1914

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the Other Half Lives* Jacob Riis, 2022-01-13 Jacob Riis's famed 1890 photo-text addressed the problems of tenement housing, immigration, and urban life and work at the beginning of the Progressive era. David Leviatin edited this complete edition of *How the Other Half Lives* to be as faithful to Riis's original text and photography as possible. Uncropped prints of Riis's original photographs replace the faded halftones and drawings from photographs that were included in the 1890 edition. Related documents added to the second edition include a stenographic report of one of Riis's lantern-slide lectures that demonstrates Riis's melodramatic techniques and the reaction of his audience, and five drawings that reveal the subtle but important ways Riis's photographs were edited when they were reinterpreted as illustrations in the 1890 edition. The book's provocative introduction now addresses Riis's ethnic and racial stereotyping and includes a map of New York's Lower East Side in the 1890s. A new list of illustrations and expanded chronology, questions for consideration, and selected bibliography provide additional support.

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *Jacob A. Riis* , 1973

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the Other Half Lives (Illustrated)* Jacob Riis, 2019-11-13 AN HISTORICAL CLASSIC *How the Other Half Lives* is an overview of the terrible living conditions in New York City at the end of the 19th century. It is cited as an influence of later muckracking journalism. DETAILS: Includes the Original Illustrations

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the Other Half Lives* Jacob A. Riis, 2022-02 Jacob Riis's classic is an open window into a world unknown to most. Originally published in 1890, this classic inditement of slum life remains an outstanding example of the value of investigative journalism and its potential to change the world for the better. Riis was one of the earliest muck-rakers, which President Theodore Roosevelt defined as, taking the rake to uncover the most unpleasant conditions in American society. In the case of Riis, the issue at hand was the dire predicament of thousands of immigrants living and working in horrendous conditions in the tenements of New York City in the late 1800s. *How the Other Half Lives* is a well thought out non-fiction work documenting the filth of the tenements, injustices of the sweatshops, and perils of child labor (among other wrongs) personally witnessed by Riis. Jacob Riis, a Danish immigrant from the city of Ribe, was one of fifteen children. Upon reaching adulthood, Riis first apprenticed as a carpenter in the city of Copenhagen. Discouraged by the lack of employment available, he immigrated to the United States in 1870 at the youthful age of 21. In New York, he eventually found his way to a career in journalism. After accepting a position with The New York News Association, he started writing articles that covered both the wealthy and the impoverished. Riis' career, and platform from which he could campaign for change, took a big step up when he took a job at the New York Tribune. In his new position, he began writing articles with the intent of enlightening the public on *How the Other Half Lives*. He decided to make it his purpose to explore and photograph this sad reality, hoping the exposure would help alleviate the terrible living and working conditions of the penniless. Riis did just that by illuminating the filthy and revolting conditions of the lower classes to those in the upper and middle class best suited to make a difference. Riis' work was not in vain. His book led to decades of housing, sewer, and garbage collection improvements in the Lower East Side of New York City. This edition, which is illustrated with the photos he used, brings to life the experience of Jacob Riis as he uncovered the truth of *How the Other Half Lives*.

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the other half lives* Samuel Burgum, Katie Higgins, 2022-03-22 We are, all of us, intimately familiar with inequalities. Whether finding somewhere to live, walking in the street, following the news, negotiating international travel, or in our working and personal lives, subtle and crude hierarchies shape our lived experience. *How the other half lives* contributes detailed, multidisciplinary, and qualitative explorations of the everyday social and spatial realities of inequality, drawing new lines from Manchester to Milan, from Brighton

to Bologna. Uniquely structured as a series of oppositions between peaks and troughs, with each chapter focusing on a specific subject, including: housing, urban design, place-making, the state, cultures of inequality, and transnational mobility. This book is a resource to navigate an unequal world, oriented around three key understandings of inequality as contingent, intersectional, and interrelated. This book is relevant to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10, Reduced inequalities

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how the other half lives by jacob riis: How the Other Half Lives (1890). By: Jacob Riis Jacob Riis, 2018-04-15 Jacob August Riis (May 3, 1849 - May 26, 1914) was a Danish-American social reformer, muckraking journalist and social documentary photographer. He is known for using his photographic and journalistic talents to help the impoverished in New York City; those impoverished New Yorkers were the subject of most of his prolific writings and photography. He endorsed the implementation of model tenements in New York with the help of humanitarian Lawrence Veiller. Additionally, as one of the most famous proponents of the newly practicable casual photography, he is considered one of the fathers of photography due to his very early adoption of flash in photography. While living in New York, Riis experienced poverty and became a police reporter writing about the quality of life in the slums. He attempted to alleviate the bad living conditions of poor people by exposing their living conditions to the middle and upper classes. Early life: Born in Ribe, Denmark, Jacob Riis was the third of the 15 children (one of whom, an orphaned niece, was fostered) of Niels Edward Riis, a schoolteacher and writer for the local Ribe newspaper, and Carolina Riis (née Bendsine Lundholm), a homemaker. Among the 15, only Jacob, one sister, and the foster sister survived into the twentieth century. Riis was influenced by his father, whose school Riis delighted in disrupting. His father persuaded him to read (and improve his English via) Charles Dickens's magazine *All the Year Round* and the novels of James Fenimore Cooper. Jacob had a happy childhood, but he experienced tragedy at the age of eleven when his brother Theodore, a year younger, drowned. He never forgot his mother's grief. At age eleven or twelve, he donated all the money he had and gave it to a poor Ribe family living in a squalid house if they cleaned it. The tenants took the money and obliged; when he told his mother, she went to help. Though his father had hoped that Jacob would have a literary career, Jacob wanted to be a carpenter. When he was 16, he became fond of Elisabeth Gjørtz, the 12-year-old adopted daughter of the owner of the company for which he worked as an apprentice carpenter. The father disapproved of the boy's blundering attentions, and Riis was forced to complete his carpentry apprenticeship in Copenhagen. Riis returned to Ribe in 1868 at age 19. Discouraged by poor job availability in the region and Gjørtz's disfavor of his marriage proposal, Riis decided to emigrate to the United States.

how the other half lives by jacob riis: How the Other Half Lives Jacob A. Riis, 1981-04 This famous journalistic record of the filth and degradation of New York's slums at the turn of the century is a classic in social thought and of early American photography. Over 100& photographs.

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other half, was also a crucible for experimentation in photography, film, literature, and visual technologies. This book takes an unprecedented look at the practices of observation that emerged from this critical site of encounter, showing how they have informed literary and everyday narratives of America, its citizens, and its possible futures. Taking readers from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, Sara Blair traces the career of the Lower East Side as a place where image-makers, writers, and social reformers tested new techniques for apprehending America--and their subjects looked back, confronting the means used to represent them. This dynamic shaped the birth of American photojournalism, the writings of Stephen Crane and Abraham Cahan, and the forms of early cinema. During the 1930s, the emptying ghetto opened contested views of the modern city, animating the work of such writers and photographers as Henry Roth, Walker Evans, and Ben Shahn. After World War II, the Lower East Side became a key resource for imagining poetic revolution, as in the work of Allen Ginsberg and LeRoi Jones, and exploring dystopian futures, from Cold War atomic strikes to the death of print culture and the threat of climate change. How the Other Half Looks reveals how the Lower East Side has inspired new ways of looking-and looking back-that have shaped literary and popular expression as well as American modernity.

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how the other half lives by jacob riis: *The Social Construction of American Realism* Amy Kaplan, 1992-12-15 Kaplan redefines American realism as a genre more engaged with a society in flux than with one merely reflective of the status quo. She reads realistic narrative as a symbolic act of imagining and controlling the social upheavals of early modern capitalism, particularly class conflict and the development of mass culture. Brilliant analyses of works by Howells, Wharton, and Dreiser illuminate the narrative process by which realism constructs a social world of conflict and change. [Kaplan] offers some enthralling readings of major novels by Howells, Wharton, and Dreiser. It is a book which should be read by anyone interested in the American novel.—Tony Tanner, *Modern Language Review* Kaplan has made an important contribution to our understanding of American realism. This is a book that deserves wide attention.—June Howard, *American Literature*

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the Other Half Lives, New York (Annotated)* Jacob a Riis, 2020-06-30 Differentiated book- It has a historical context with research of the time-The purpose of realizing this historical context is to approach the understanding of a historical epoch from the elements provided by the text. Hence the importance of placing the document in context. It is necessary to unravel what its author or authors have said, how it has been said, when, why and where, always relating it to its historical moment. *How the Other Half Lives: Studies Between New York's Neighborhood Houses* (Original title in English *How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York*) was one of the pioneering works of photojournalism by Jacob Riis in 1888. The Originally illustrated with halftones and engravings based on his photographs, the book denounces the living conditions in the working-class neighborhoods of New York City in the 1980s; it was a model of the way in which journalism and, in particular, photo journalism, could echo marginal situations that occurred in the middle and upper classes of a society. During the 80s of that century, the city's middle and upper classes ignored the difficult and dangerous conditions of marginalization of poor immigrants.

how the other half lives by jacob riis: *How the Other Half Lives* Jacob a Riis, 2021-03-27 *How the Other Half Lives: Studies among the Tenements of New York* explained the living conditions in New York slums as well as the sweatshops in some tenements, which paid workers only a few cents per day. The book explains the plight of working children; they would work in factories and at other jobs. Some children became garment workers and newsies (newsboys). Riis describes the system of tenement housing that had failed, as he claims, because of greed and neglect from wealthier people. He claims a correlation between the high crime rate, drunkenness, and reckless behaviour of the poor and their lack of a proper home. Chapter by chapter he uses his words and photographs to expose the conditions inhabited by the poor in a manner that spoke directly to people's hearts.

Written by Jacob A. Riis.

how the other half lives by jacob riis: Civilizing the Child Katharine S. Bullard, 2013-11-26
In *Civilizing the Child: Discourses of Race, Nation, and Child Welfare in America*, Katherine S. Bullard analyzes the discourse of child welfare advocates who argued for the notion of a racialized ideal child. This ideal child, limited to white, often native-born children, was at the center of arguments for material support to children and education for their parents. This book illuminates important limitations in the Progressive approach to social welfare and helps to explain the current dearth of support for poor children. *Civilizing the Child* tracks the growing social concern with children in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The author uses seminal figures and institutions to look at the origins of the welfare state. Chapters focus on Charles Loring Brace, Jacob Riis, residents of the Hull House Settlement, and the staff of U.S. Children's Bureau, analyzing their work to unpack the assumptions about American identity that made certain children belong and others remain outsiders. Bullard traces the ways in which child welfare advocates used racialized language and emphasized the "civilizing mission" to argue for support of white native-born children. This language focused on the future citizenship of some children as an argument for their support and protection.

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