

1 Muckrakers and Whistleblowers

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2 Muckrakers and Whistleblowers

Muckrakers are types of journalists who report the harsh truth of businesses and the government. Whistleblowers are journalists who report and expose any activity that violates the law in any way. Muckrakers emerged during the Progressive Era of the United States, meanwhile accounts of whistleblowing date as far back as the 7th Century.¹ Today, muckrakers can be known as simply, “investigative reporters,” meanwhile for whistleblowers, the name remains the same. Though many may believe that muckrakers and whistleblowers are simply just journalists, these writers have made many positive changes in our country and state and without them, our nation would be a drastically different place.

Though muckrakers are a more recent type of journalist, whistleblowers have been writing since as far back as the seventh century in Europe. Taking place in England during 695 is the first recorded account of whistleblowing.² Back then, whistle blowers were known as the *qui tam*, which is a shorter version of a Latin phrase.³ Today, lawmakers have given them the name whistleblowers, which are those who sue or expose corrupt companies for their government. Whistleblowers still exist in today’s society, writing to expose corrupt businesses or government.⁴ They have laws in place to protect them and they have caused many changes to our country. Muckrakers became popular during the Progressive Era, when they wrote to expose the harsh and sometimes harmful conditions of businesses in our country.⁵ Originally, they were known as investigative journalists, however, president Teddy Roosevelt gave them the name of muckrakers and the term stuck.⁶

¹ www.WhistleblowersInternational.com - Whistleblowing History Overview

² Reference Above

³ Reference Above

⁴ www.globalresearch.co - A History of America’s Whistleblowers and Journalists Since 9/11

⁵ www.biography.com - Dispatches From The Jungle - The Writers Who Reformed America

⁶ www.study.com - The Muckrakers of the Progressive Era: Definition and Influence

3 Muckrakers and Whistleblowers

Muckrakers, or investigative journalists, were very prominent during the Progressive Era of the United States, which was from the 1890 through the 1920. During the Progressive Era, some muckrakers' works were fiction, trying to push the government to pass different laws. An example of this is Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle," which was a book of fiction about the hazards and unsafe conditions in the meatpacking industry.⁷ Upton Sinclair's work in *The Jungle* influenced lawmakers to pass laws that required the oversight of food safety in the United States.⁸ Another muckraker who caused changes in our country was Samuel Hopkins Adams, who worked for "The Sun" in New York City, wrote eleven articles on the medicine patenting industry, and all of these articles were later compiled into a book called "The Great American Fraud."⁹ Samuel Hopkins Adams' nonfiction work led to the drug related portion of the Pure Food and Drug Act.¹⁰ Therefore, muckrakers played a big role in exposing many hazards and conditions that led to the passing of many laws that ensure the safety of Americans. Without muckrakers, there would be much more corruption and unsafe conditions in our country.

Whistleblowers made their appearance in the 7th century, however, they are still writing and reporting in today's society as well. However, whistleblowers are not very common, due to the fact that there are laws protecting employers, corporations, and the government from "retaliatory action for voluntarily disclosing information about dishonest or illegal activities occurring within a government organization."¹¹ An example of a modern whistleblower is Edward Snowden, who in 2013 wrote published information that proved government officials to be untruthful.¹² Edward Snowden is now hiding out in Russia to escape punishment.¹³

⁷ www.biography.com - Dispatches From The Jungle: The Writers Who Reformed America

⁸ Reference Above

⁹ Reference Above

¹⁰ Reference Above

¹¹ www.WhistleblowersInternational.com - Whistleblowing History Overview

¹² Reference Above

¹³ Reference Above

4 Muckrakers and Whistleblowers

Whistleblowers are very crucial to the history of our country because they report on the illegal and unfair ways of the government and employers.

Muckrakers and whistleblowers have a very important role in the history of our country and without them, things would be very different. There are many ways that these journalists have improved our country for us. For example, one immense change muckrakers made was the Pure Food and Drug Act.¹⁴ This is the act which brought about the FDA, which is the food and drug administration that inspects food and drugs to ensure they are safe for the public.

Whistleblowers make citizens aware of illegal, unfair, or untruthful actions made by government officials and employers. This causes those people to be fired so that the citizens under their rule are treated correctly, and that the citizens know all of the unlawful actions of those reported by whistleblowers.

Muckrakers, or investigative journalists, are journalists who report harsh truths of businesses and the government. Whistleblowers report the illegal and unfair actions of employers and government officials. These journalists have made many changes to our country that have given citizens more safety and knowledge of the actions of government and other national corporations, such as food and drug businesses. Muckrakers are the reason we are safe from harmful food and drug conditions.¹⁵ Whistleblowers inform citizens on the unfairness and illegal ways of employers and government leader. Without these journalists, the United States would be very different than the country it is today.

¹⁴ www.biography.com - Dispatches From The Jungle And The Writers Who Reformed America

¹⁵ Reference Above

5 Muckrakers and Whistleblowers

1. Joachim Hagopian, "A History of America's War on Whistleblowers and Journalists Since 9/11" (www.globalresearch.co, January 6, 2015)
2. Joe McGasko, "Dispatches From The Jungle: The Writers Who Reformed America." (www.biography.com, February 26, 2016)
3. Author Unknown, "Whistleblowing History Overview."
(www.whistleblowersinternational.com, date unknown)
4. Author Unknown, "The Muckrakers of the Progressive Era: Definition and Influence."
(www.study.com, date unknown)