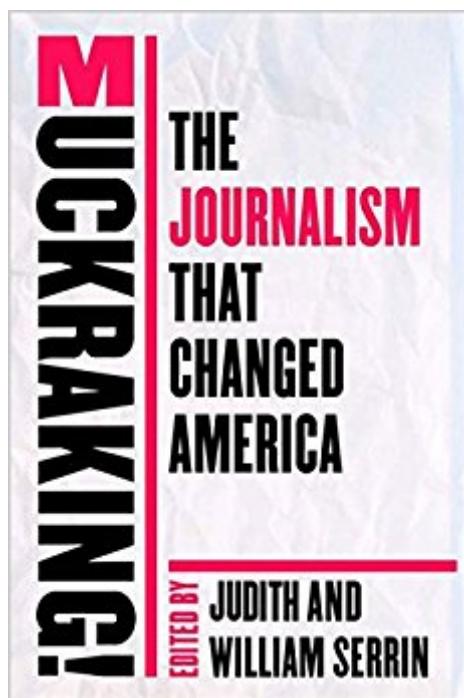


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# Muckraking!: The Journalism That Changed America



## **Synopsis**

In collecting the kind of reportage that all too rarely appears in this age of media triviality and corporate conglomeration, *Muckraking!* documents an alternative journalistic tradition, one marked by depth of vision, passion for change, and bravery. From the Stamp Act to the abolition movement to the Vietnam war, from the fight against patent medicines to the elimination of labor spies, from the integration of baseball to the safety of government atomic workers, and from putting people in jail to getting them out, this book illustrates the great journalism that has made America a better country. With more than 125 entries that range across three centuries, *Muckraking!* brings together the greatest moments of American journalism. Supplying historical context and critical commentary, the book also includes a selection of influential photographs and illustrations. By turns compelling and shocking, *Muckraking!* is an anthology for anyone who feels passionate about the heights that journalism can climb or its ability to illuminate the darkest depths.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is not the first anthology of American investigative journalism, but it is almost surely the most varied, inclusive, and thoughtful. Judith Serrin, a former newspaper reporter, editor, and journalism professor, has teamed with New York University journalism professor William Serrin to select more than 100 examples of investigative journalism of the past 250 years from newspapers, magazines, broadcasting, and book publishing. The editors concede in an insightful introduction that the anthology is of necessity laudatory and subjective. However, the subjectivity is tempered by an

emphasis on reporting that substantially contributed to political, economic, or social change nationally, regionally, or locally. The anthology is divided into types of topics investigated the poor, the working class, public health and safety, women's rights, politics, race, sports, conservation, war, criminal justice, the media, and two catchall categories labeled muckraking and Americana. All entries within each category are presented chronologically and are introduced with one or more paragraphs that provide background on the journalist showcased and the context of that journalist's quest for truth. Recommended for public and academic libraries. Steve Weinberg, Columbia, MO  
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In the spirit of Peter Finley Dunne's quote that the purpose of journalism is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable, the Serrins, journalism professors, offer this outstanding collection of articles that changed lives for the better by uncovering public and private wrongdoing and championing worthwhile causes. Early examples include a report on race riots in Springfield, Illinois, in 1908 that called for change and led to the formation of the NAACP. Also collected are the first reports on the onset of AIDS in San Francisco that brought attention to the impending health crisis. The collection contains John Steinbeck's reporting on migrant workers in the mid-1930s and Michael Harrington's articles on poverty in the 1950s. The book is organized into topics, including social issues, politics, sports, crime and punishment, and war. Each article or book excerpt is preceded by an introduction that provides context for the subjects covered and the eventual impact of the material on American society. Readers interested in history and journalism will love this book.

Vanessa Bush  
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As a history buff and one who appreciates journalism, this book proved to be a teaching tool in my classroom as we moved through both the literature and the history of the early twentieth century. My students were not only able to learn more about the industrial revolution, but to appreciate why new laws were formed to protect our nation from unsafe practices in the workplace, the horror of mental health hospitals and other stories of how and why consumers gained the right to be protected from greedy employers who allowed such tragedies as the meatpacking plants of Chicago to operate.

Great job. Thank you

The book almost like a new one. I got the book on time, very fast. The book be kept very well. And the price also worthy to buy.

This book is a well-edited collection, providing many examples of the power of investigative journalism and editorial opinion. These stories are sensational and mostly ugly, but they're also true and gripping. Especially disgusting to me are the stories about injustice and corruption during the last fifty years. Unfortunately, the need for fearless reporting is no less now than it was during the days of the robber barons. This appears to have been written as a textbook, an invitation to young journalists to be courageous reporters. It would also make a good second or third text in college courses on US history, to show the seamier side of history and the individual tragedies that are frequently the price of progress. I cannot match the writing skills of the previous reviewer, but I agree with his 5-star rating. Such a good book should be receiving more attention.

The original meaning of the word "muck" is "excrement"

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