

Reading Passage

Socialism refers to an ideology and the state of government based on that ideology. Socialists claim to stand for the values of equality, social justice, cooperation, progress, individual freedom, and happiness, and socialists seek to realize these values by the abolition of the private-enterprise economy and through its replacement by public ownership, a system of social or state control over production and distribution. Throughout history, the poor have always been oppressed by the rich, ruling class, and under socialism, the bourgeois, or middle class, would rule while practicing equality of all classes.

One of the foremost advocates of socialism in the first half of the 20th century was Upton Sinclair. Born in 1878 in Baltimore, Upton witnessed the best and worst of the American social classes. His father, Upton Beall, was an heir of an affluent Southern family, a salesman, and an alcoholic. Sinclair's childhood was spent in poverty and moderate wealth. One night, he would sleep in a vermin infested slum while the next he would sleep in a posh home. This lifestyle gave birth to his quest for social justice with only his writing as a tool. Upton's understanding of both worlds caused him to realize that it was not fair for some people to be rich while many others were relegated to live in squalor, regardless of their hard efforts and continued work in factories and on production lines. Alcoholism caused Upton's father's death as well as Upton's promotion of Prohibition, and Sinclair's 1931 book, *The Wet Parade*, was his appeal to America for Prohibition.

Upton graduated from the College of the City of New York and then became a graduate student at Columbia University. He was drawn to the Romantic poets, such as Shelley, and as a result he was inspired to write serious literature which used romantic idealism as the central theme. He combined the romantic style of writing with his strong socialist beliefs, and often-times he focused on the abuses of capitalism and promoted socialism as a cure. He founded Helicon Home Colony, a cooperative socialist colony, in 1906 in Englewood, New Jersey, and, in 1934, he almost won the governorship of California.

Questions

1. According to the passage, which of the following is true?
 - a. Under socialism, the bourgeois would assume ownership of all property
 - b. Upton founded the Helicon Home Colony when he was only 28 years old
 - c. Upton studied with Shelley at Columbia University
 - d. Socialists claim to stand for the right to own private businesses
 - e. While campaigning for governor of California, Upton was a champion of Prohibition

2. Which of the following titles best describes the main ideas of the passage?
 - a. Socialism -- Opportunities and Social Justice
 - b. Upton Sinclair -- a Champion for the Middle Class
 - c. Socialism -- an Ideology for the Masses
 - d. Sinclair's Wet Parade
 - e. Prohibition, America, and the Politics of Upton Sinclair

3. Which of the following best describes the author's tone in the passage?
 - a. solemn and prolific
 - b. serene and questioning
 - c. cautious and optimistic
 - d. tenacious and admiring
 - e. sanctimonious and supportive