

# Upton Sinclair & Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: Sailing in the Boat to the Same Direction

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## Abstract

We are in front of two amazing novelists who dedicated their emotions and literary skills to noble causes. Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah* drawn a landscaping space aiming at giving birth to a world free of injustice, inferiorities, inequality, and unfairness. These two masterpieces helped to change many of the ugly faces of life to be much better to the people to live in integrity and equality.

The article highlighted the features and similarities between both Upton Sinclair and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. They share the subject matters and themes in their writings. They have the same concerns as regards their communities' agonies, pains, shortcomings, deficiencies, dreams and hopes. Both were amazing as imaginative story tellers. They expressed thoroughly in their writings the ideas and thoughts aiming at achieving social reform and social justice as well.

Undoubtedly, the processing and the way handled by each other was different, but the objective is the same. The difference was related to the environment and background of each of them. Upton Sinclair was one of the muckraking movements of the progressive era, while Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was one of the cross-border culture of the African background came from Nigeria expressing the multi cultures amalgamated with the local, regional, and international reality.

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## Introduction

Undoubtedly, when we review both writers, we do find that they both share many similarities and peculiarities. Upton Sinclair dedicated his life to seeking social reform and social justice. He elaborated on the meat packing industry and worked hard as disguised in the slaughterhouse to be well acquainted with what was going on these slaughters (SPEJ, 2017).

He shed the lights on the life of the immigrants and on the unsanitary work conditions in which these immigrants were working. He is a journalist with talents of telling the truth and reality. He was one of the progressive movements and muckraking writers. Sinclair was one resembling Charles Dickens in diagnosing deficiencies and sickness of his society. Dickens' writings were all addressing the social issues and helping to find out the solutions (Summer, 1914).

He felt the agonies and sufferings of the workers in the slaughterhouse, sympathized with the immigrants who are looking for the dream that, unfortunately, became the nightmare for Jurgis and his wife. We might call Sinclair, the spokesman of his age as regards to the social agonies, pains and hopes. Therefore, his masterpiece; *The Jungle* was the transcript that drafted all the emotions, interactions, and reflections as well.

Beyond the literature entertainment and eloquence, he adopted a reforming plan aiming at ending the poverty in California which was known as EPIC (Emmanuella, 2019).

## Sailing in the Boat in the Same Direction

To be a writer and to be a social critic, at the same time, it requires human sense to share the public their concerns. Sinclair was a journalist of critical eyes debating the ideas of helping and depicting the true picture to be introduced to the officials as clear as it on the reality. In *The Jungle*, he managed

successfully to reflect the reality, where *The Jungle*, was the microscope visualized all the problems and deficiencies in the system. *The Jungle* was the main reason behind the legislation amendments and drafting the acts of the purity of food and drug as well as meat packing act.

President Roosevelt met him and asked about what mentioned in *The Jungle*; Is it true? He answered yes, it is true. In 1934, President Rosevelt proposed to the Congress with his social insurance act, that let Sinclair to defer his EPIC plan (Emmanuella, 2019).

What really combined both Sinclair and Adichie are all what said about Sinclair. Adichie dedicated her writings on social reforming perspectives as for the American Africans. She wrote about the immigrants' alienations and sufferings from the discrimination and racism. Both were the advocators for equality and social justice. Moreover, Adichie addressed the issues of color and race. Both were looking forward to promoting the human respect, man is the always the same of flesh and blood (SSOHP, 2024).

Adichie in her masterpiece; *Americanah* expressed about the cultures from Nigeria to USA and undoubtedly, how much such cross-border culture might be a torch of lighting to the others. Sinclair in the *Jungle* basically was interested to aware the public about the shortcomings and problems in both the workplaces and conditions as well as the immigrants' problems as well.

He said; "I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident, I hit it in the stomach." (Sinclair, 1906). These one of the Sinclair's impacts, the same as for *Americanah* of Adichie, it conveyed the concerns of the immigrants and discrimination based on the color and race to be a public issue that affected and helped to be expressed in Obama Medical Care Program and other aspects of life as well in the American society (Logan, 1965).

Both were of literary talent; novelists, essayists and article writers in the magazines and

newspapers, in addition Adichie in her perspective blogging as well. Both have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Sinclair and Orange Prize for Adichie for Fiction National Book for Critics.

The profound resonance between the literary legacies of Upton Sinclair and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie transcends mere storytelling, encapsulating a shared commitment to social justice and human dignity. As we navigate the rich tapestry of their narratives, it becomes evident that both authors wielded their pens not only as instruments of literary expression but also as tools for effecting tangible change in the world around them.

Upton Sinclair's groundbreaking work, epitomized by *The Jungle*, stands as a testament to his unyielding dedication to exposing the injustices inherent within the meatpacking industry and beyond. Through meticulous research and immersive storytelling, Sinclair illuminated the plight of the disenfranchised, sparking public outrage and catalyzing legislative reforms aimed at improving working conditions and food safety standards. Yet, Sinclair's ambitions extended far beyond the printed page; his involvement in movements such as EPIC underscored his commitment to addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of social reform.

Similarly, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's literary oeuvre, characterized by works such as *Americanah* and *We Should All Be Feminists*, serves as a powerful indictment of systemic oppression and discrimination. Through her nuanced exploration of race, gender, and identity, Adichie challenges prevailing narratives and advocates for a more inclusive society. Her unapologetic advocacy for feminism and gender equality resonates deeply with readers worldwide, inspiring a new generation of activists to confront entrenched power structures and envision a world free from the constraints of patriarchal norms.

Yet, it is perhaps the convergence of their ideals that truly distinguishes Sinclair and Adichie as

kindred spirits in the pursuit of social justice. Both authors, despite the geographical and temporal chasm that separates them, share a common vision of a more equitable and compassionate world. Sinclair's focus on economic justice and Adichie's advocacy for racial and gender equality intersect at the intersection of human dignity, forging a bond that transcends the boundaries of time and place.

## Conclusion

Undoubtedly, both Sinclair and Adichie have extended their influence beyond the realm of literature, leveraging their platforms to amplify the voices of the marginalized classes and made effect tangible change in their societies. Sinclair's social reforming plans aimed at eliminating poverty from California and Adichie's relentless advocacy against racism and discrimination served as powerful testaments to the transformative power of literature as a catalyst for social change.

In essence, Upton Sinclair and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie stand as beacons of hope in a world fraught with inequality and injustice, their literary legacies serving as guiding lights for future generations of activists and advocates. As we reflect on their profound contributions to the fabric of social reform, let us heed the lessons embedded within their works, striving to build a world that honors the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status. For in the words of Sinclair and Adichie, we find not only inspiration but a clarion call to action, urging us to sail boldly towards a future defined by compassion, equity, and justice for all.

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