

UNIVERSAL REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

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Universal Reference Publications announces *Working Americans, 1880-2006, Vol. VII: Social Movements*

Universal Reference Publications, an imprint of Grey House Publishing, is proud to announce the publication the seventh volume in the *Working Americans* series.

“...Fighting for change is the American way...The right to protest is one of the distinguishing factors that sets this country apart from many others around the world...As issues are resolved, there are dozens more waiting for their champion[s]. This is America.” (*Working Americans, 1880-2006, Vol. VII: Social Movements*. Scott Derks, Ed. p. viii)

Earlier volumes in the series explore American life throughout history by presenting history-based examples of families and individuals from different time periods. *Working Americans, 1880-2006, Vol. VII: Social Movements* follows the same format, but focuses on individuals involved in that most American of endeavours: Social movements. In a country founded on the ideals of democracy, citizen empowerment and the freedom to effect change through protest, the editors found no shortage of examples upon which to concentrate.

In fact, they’ve created 34 profiles, representing diverse ages, social backgrounds, ethnicities and professions. These profiles are divided into 11 decade-long chapters, each of which begins with a short introduction to the decade and to issues of relevance during that time. Following the introductory essay, the opening sections of each chapter highlight the subject’s life at work, at home and in the community. The focus of the chapter then shifts, with the presentation of historical and economic information for the decade covered. Profiles are accompanied by illustrations, photos and reproductions of advertisements, labels and logos, letters, bills of sale and other historical documents from the time period covered, to help bring the profiled subjects to life.

Interspersed among the profiles are Historical Snapshots that chronicle major milestones of the time; Timelines which allow the reader to follow the progress of the social movement at hand;

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and News Features, which give further insight into opinion and status of each issue. Selected Prices are also included. All of these features help to create a vivid picture for the reader of what life was like during each time period, as well as get a sense of why and how individuals alive during that time felt moved to take action.

Profiled subjects are fictional characters based on real people. Events and all contextual information have been painstakingly researched in order to maintain the utmost authenticity and accuracy. While you will not find actual historic records of the subjects, the editors have put in a thorough research effort to ensure that the lives described in *Working Americans, 1880-2006, Vol. VII: Social Movements* could have actually unfolded as they do in the book.

The social movements in which these 34 characters were involved vary but center around ten major themes. These themes include censorship, religion, environmental issues, medical and health practices and equal rights movements. Subjects range from a mother campaigning against the standard use of metal corsets for women in 1896 to a doctor working to ensure access to birth control literature for all women in 1921; from a young man coordinating aid for Japanese-Americans upon their release from internment camps in 1943 to a high school student participating in the Ban the Beatles campaign of 1966; from a woman involved in the anti-nuclear weapons movement in 1983 to a basketball coach fighting for equal opportunities for female players in 2004.

Already a staple in many high school, public and college libraries, our *Working Americans* series puts Americans under the microscope in order to encourage those living today to feel a strong connection with the past. *Working Americans, 1880-2006, Vol. VII: Social Movements* adds another dimension to this essential collection by illustrating that “every-day” Americans have historically felt compelled to act upon issues important to their lives. Students have always learned about the great social leaders throughout our history, but this book offers a new look, at the ordinary citizen involved in making his or her community and nation a better place through social movement. Our hope is that it will not only help connect the people of today with their heritage, but that it will also inspire its readers to become involved in social movements that are relevant to their own lives.

Working Americans, 1880-2006, Vol. VII: Social Movements

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