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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular *Defining Documents in History Series: The 1900s (1900-1909)*

Defining Documents in American History: The 1900s offers in-depth analysis of a broad range of historical documents and historic events that shaped the first decade of the twentieth century in American history. This text closely studies thirty primary source documents and delivers a thorough examination of events and movements in the U.S. from 1900 to 1909.

The 20th century in the United States opened under both auspicious and inauspicious circumstances. On the positive side, a sustained period of relative economic prosperity was in place under Republican leadership (in both executive and legislative branches of government). Part of that stability, though, was attributable to artificial trade protection measures (the Dingley Tariff), which raised rates on imported goods up to 57 percent. The Gold Standard Act of 1900, arguably, also played a role; it made paper money redeemable only in gold (not silver), helping to rationalize industrial capitalism but favoring bankers and the investor class. Contributing to the positive economic picture, too, was the fact that the Sherman Antitrust Act and the Interstate Commerce Act had both been severely weakened by the courts, thus fostering an amalgamation of business (and political) interests.

Defining Documents in American History: The 1900s is organized under five broad categories

- Politics and Reform
- Foreign Challenges
- African American Debates
- Native American Life
- Religion and Philosophy

The 1900s contains 30 primary source documents – many in their entirety. Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. Readers will appreciate the diversity of the collected text, including journal entries from James Audubon, pamphlets from political leaders such as Eugene V. Debs and Vladimir Lenin, speeches from activists such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, religious and philosophical tracts from Rudolf Steiner and Rufus Jones, laws such as the American Antiquities Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act, editorials from writers such as Samuel Gompers, trial notes relating to decisions that pertained to labor laws and sex discrimination, and a turn-of-the-century photograph by Edward Curtis, among other genres. An important feature of each essay is

a close reading of the primary source that develops evidence of broader themes, such as the author's rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. In addition, essays are organized by section themes, highlighting major issues of the period, many of which extend across eras and continue to shape life as we know it around the world.

Each section begins with a brief introduction that defines questions and problems underlying the subjects in the historical documents. A brief glossary is included at the end of each document, highlighting keywords that are important in the study of the primary source. Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research.

About the Series

Defining Documents consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in American history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in American history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout American history. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in American History since 1492.

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In addition, *Defining Documents in American History: The 1900s (1900-1909)* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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