Steffens, (Joseph) Lincoln

STEFFENS, (Joseph) Lincoln

(1866-1936), American journalist, born in San Francisco, and educated at the University of California and in Germany and France. Between 1902 and 1911 he wrote articles exposing corruption in business and in city government for McClure's Magazine, American Magazine, and Everybody's Magazine. These articles, published under the titles Shame of the Cities (1904), The Struggle for Self-Government (1906), and Upbuilders (1909), created a sensation. Steffens, along with such other crusading journalists as Samuel Hopkins Adams, Ray Stannard Baker (1870-1946), Upton Sinclair, and Ida Tarbell, created the so-called muckraking movement of the first decade of the 20th century. They aroused America's social consciousness and created the necessary support for reform movements. An account of this and other liberal and radical movements of Steffens's time and of the evolution of his own political ideas is contained in The Autobiography of Lincoln Steffens (1931). The work is noteworthy for its literary value and as a sociological study.

Citations

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