

Alexis
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Mr. Kandik

The Will of the People Enacted by the Government

The Industrial Era is time period where the advancement of technology for producing goods took place and immigrants migrated from Europe in order to conquer the American Dream. During this era, business owners began to rise within communities and lower classmen were desperate for jobs. Lower classmen could not provide themselves with their basic necessities of food, clothing or shelter, so the government had to step in to enact the will of the people; protecting their life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

The government responded to the constant struggle of lower classmen through legislation, but it was up to the people to decide whether or not they wanted to hold the other end of the stick. The will of the people were enacted during this period because the government did all they could to protect the natural rights of the people, all while attempting to keep a neutral stance within the political system. "The people" includes the society as a whole; both the poor and the rich. The government had to enact the will of all of the people within the US, in which they did, just in different ways depending on the social class.

In the government's attempt to enact the will of the rich and the poor, state laws were legislated that prohibited child labor in response to the injuries, death, and illnesses from the working conditions; business owners had to pay a fee if they chose to oppose these laws. In Upton Sinclair's, *The Jungle*, Stanislaus was taken out of school in order to start working so that he could bring more wages home for his family. Stanislaus was forced to work long hours in horrendous conditions, and although he is young working conditions for him was still dangerous

(Source A), like some children would work jobs in mines where “youngsters often fell to their death down the chute...”(Source E). Parents who struggled would oppose reform movements against child labor because it interfered with their income wages. But, with their children working, parents were able to put a little bit more food on their tables and business owners had people small enough to work their machines tiniest machines; everyone got what they wanted. Young messengers would not waste anytime walking back and forth from home to work in order to sleep. Instead, they would sleep outside in order to get an early start on the job in order to get as much money as they could (Source F). Everyone’s will was enacted because children were able to work a harmless job of delivering newspapers and newspaper businesses were able to gain popularity and good reviews of their daily newspapers. This job was made for children anyway because they were inexperienced with some work fields, and this job was an easy way for them to make some money. Ever heard of the term, “help me, help you?” Well, this is how the will of all the people within the society were enacted—the government allowed business owners and the working class to help one another, help themselves.

The American Dream encourages self-determination for people to work harder in order to have a successful lifestyle, but the government is not responsible for making that happen for the people; the people have to do it themselves. Every day, people were given that chance to pursue that American Dream during the Industrial Era, but only a handful made it. The term ‘rags to riches’ is possible to prosper because a few men “like the ‘Steel King’ Andrew Carnegie, a farmer bobbin boy and machine tender self-made” started right where immigrants did (Source G). The government could only help to provide the people with their basic needs, it’s up to the people to use their resources to either rise, or continue to be suppressed; their fate isn’t in the government’s hands. In *The Jungle*, Jurgis was given a chance to conquer the “rags to riches”

when he began working for Scully, but he ruined that chance by making a dumb decision of attacking Connor once again as if he didn't already lose enough (Source A). It's hard to argue that the will of the people weren't being enacted because some people had bad lifestyles. According to the Constitution, the government is responsible for enacting the will of the people, not to make everyone rich and successful.

During the industrial era, people were given a chance to vote, and through voting, they were given a voice. Their voice provided the government with their request, aware of the corruption within the system, people still voted. Bosses would use patronage in order to get immigrants to vote for whatever party they supported (Source B). Immigrants received many benefits through the corrupted system; they receive money and other bribes that enabled them to feed their families and pay their bills. The system was corrupt, but both the rich and the poor benefitted from it. In *The Jungle*, Stanislaus came home with more money than his family made in a whole month and all he had to do was vote (Source A) Jurgis' family had to constantly struggle, but with bosses handing out money, it help to support their will and protection of their natural rights. This way the bosses got what they wanted, and so did the immigrants. Not everyone was paid for voting; those who weren't, their votes didn't always count, "Do your duty as a citizen and leave the rest to us" (Source C). It isn't the government's decision if citizens vote or not, it is up to the citizens. The government is enacting their will by giving them the freedom to vote, but whether their votes are actually counted isn't the government's fault. They people could just stop voting if they wanted.

The government can never be perfect and not everyone will get what they want. People have to be willing to improvise and sacrifice some things or else there will be complete chaos within the United States. The government's job is to act as political direction over the actions

within the country, not to make sure everyone single person is happy. As long as majority of the people had some of their basic necessities, the government did what they were supposed to do and all they could do to enact the will of the people. The responsibility of a rising from the bottom is left to be conquered by the person their self.