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Period 2

At the earliest days of the nation, mass media has influenced the political, economic and social life of the United States and society. The mass media includes, pamphlets, newspapers, books, magazines, posters etc. An example of mass media is a book written by Jacob Riis **How the Other Half Lives**. This book showed American society it showed the issues and struggles that people in poverty had to go through. The poorer people had to live in the streets or in the filthy tenements among say 10 or more people in one tenement. The tenements were nasty and disgusting. Children who were poor rarely went to school because of how they were. If the children's parents couldn't find a job or have enough food the children would die. The parents had no support on raising their children and not getting food or a job for support. On the other hand, there were wealthy families, but didn't care enough to help. People lost their jobs and wealthy or upper class got paid a salary not a wage like the poor people do.. But the wages weren't enough to support or their families plus manage to keep money in the house for food.. People would lose their jobs, because of the upper class to make more profit for the company. He also used photojournalism to show the public the truth about how the other side of wealth looked like. The landlords who owned the tenements, didn't check on the apartments and keep from overcrowding in apartments. Tenements probably had at least one to two people working in the household and at least five to ten or more people staying home, to tend to the apartment. While others that lived in the house went out to search for food or look for a job. They sometimes couldn't afford proper body care like soap, lotion, etc. When they could afford food it was very little and it wouldn't last long. It was hard times because children sometimes wouldn't go to school because of how hungry they were. The other half lives in

areas where, it's hard to find work and food to support small and/or large families. The wealthy took very little pity on the poor because they didn't have to worry about such issues with society. They didn't care because it wasn't them and it wasn't their problem to help or deal with them. The wealthy or upper class took most of the jobs which left very little jobs left for the poorer society.

Another example of mass media is yellow journalism started by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer. This showed citizens what was happening, behind closed doors of big businesses and that the citizens deserved to know, what was going on that was kept from the public. This lowered businesses power, stocks and value due to newspapers, and articles about corruption in big businesses. Secrets were kept from the public and investors didn't think to ever tell society about corruption. Corruption began to increase, because there wasn't any real money being made. Just money being borrowed and not being put back into the company's money. With this going on, citizens were starting to become more aware about corruption in businesses