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Period: 1

Throughout the history of the United States, mass media has greatly influenced the United States and American society whether it's with political, economic or social life of citizens. The different forms of these types of media include pamphlets, newspapers, books, magazines, posters, photographs, radio, films and television.

Since the United States became an independent nation racism has gone on in the country. Slavery was abolished in 1865 after the North defeated the South in the Civil War. At the end of the Civil War, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were passed to grant African Americans rights and citizenship along with the Civil Rights Act of 1865. In retaliation the South passed Jim Crow laws which stated the African Americans and whites were separate but equal, but that wasn't true. Blacks were being treated unfairly and denied their rights that they had which led to them protesting. During the protests police would beat, attack, gas and spray the protesters with fire hoses and no one else in the country knew what was going on in the South. Eventually over time photojournalism came into play and the pictures of African Americans being violated and assaulted during the protests started to be seen and shown around the country. With the invention of the television in 1948 pictures of African Americans being assaulted would be shown and broadcasted on the news. These pictures and videos included blacks being sprayed with fire hoses, attacked by state troopers and their dogs, and them running away in fear. Whites would also lynch black African Americans. These men would then take pictures of them and a bunch of other white people standing under the dead body and put it on postcards to send to their families. If it wasn't for photojournalism, then blacks would still be fighting for their rights that were fought for back then in the 60s and times before that. The good things about photojournalism is that people get to see what is going on in their country. If people haven't seen what was going on in their country then African Americans wouldn't have the rights they have now and they wouldn't have had as much help protesting about their rights. Photojournalism

lead to the government making legislative decisions to help them out. It lead to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Act of 1965.

Poverty has always been a problem in American history especially during the Industrialization Era and the Gilded Age. During those times in American history there was a lot of immigration going on and a lot of people were homeless. Some people had homes, but these homes at horrible living conditions. These places were called tenements. Tenements are tightly packed and sometimes very dirty. In these tenements it was hard to move around, bad electricity and sometimes no running water. Due to these conditions diseases spread easier among everybody and people would throw their trash into the alleys. These conditions led to Muckraker Jacob Riis writing a book called *How The Other Half Lives* and explained the problems these people had to go through. In this book he would write about the living conditions and take pictures of what these people looked like, their houses and how miserable they were since nobody else cared about them. With this book American citizens got to see and read about what poor people went through during this time period. This book also led to people such as Upton Sinclair to expose problems that are going on in America. All these problems would lead to laws being passed to help these people out such as the minimum wage being created and the Social Security Act in the next couple of decades. This book lead to the government also making state and local laws that require the government or fire department to make codes that required them to make sure that each tenement was inspected so that it was safe for people to live in.

Mass media has helped open people's eyes with problems going on in the world such as poverty and racism and influence them to help fight these problems. If it wasn't for mass media people wouldn't have the same rights today and there would be a lot more poverty in America.