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Abstract: Lawrence and Chicago

There were expected and surprising similarities and differences of immigrants' lives and experiences between the textile factories of Lawrence, Massachusetts and the meatpacking factories in the "Packingtown" district of Chicago, Illinois at the beginning of the 1900s. The Bread & Roses strike that happened in Lawrence on January-March 1912 is compared and contrasted with the true events surrounding Packingtown in the 1906 book The Jungle by Upton Sinclair. Topics discussed include the composition of the immigrants, the living conditions, the working conditions, the involvement of unions, and the public and government responses. These two events changed the America's viewpoints on immigrants, laissez-faire capitalism, and the working class.