

# Progressive Era Photography

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US History II

# PHOTOGRAPHER #1

- As we look at the following photographs make observations
    - Take a “walk” around the photo: what’s happening at the top? The bottom? Close to you/in the foreground? Far away from you/in the background? How would you describe any people or objects in the photograph?
    - What is the relationship between any people in the photograph?
    - Where do you think the photographer wants us to look?
    - What do you think the photographer wants us to notice?
    - What is the place in this photo. Be descriptive.
    - What is the viewpoint of the photographer? What are they trying to communicate?
    - Once the caption is revealed does that change your observations?
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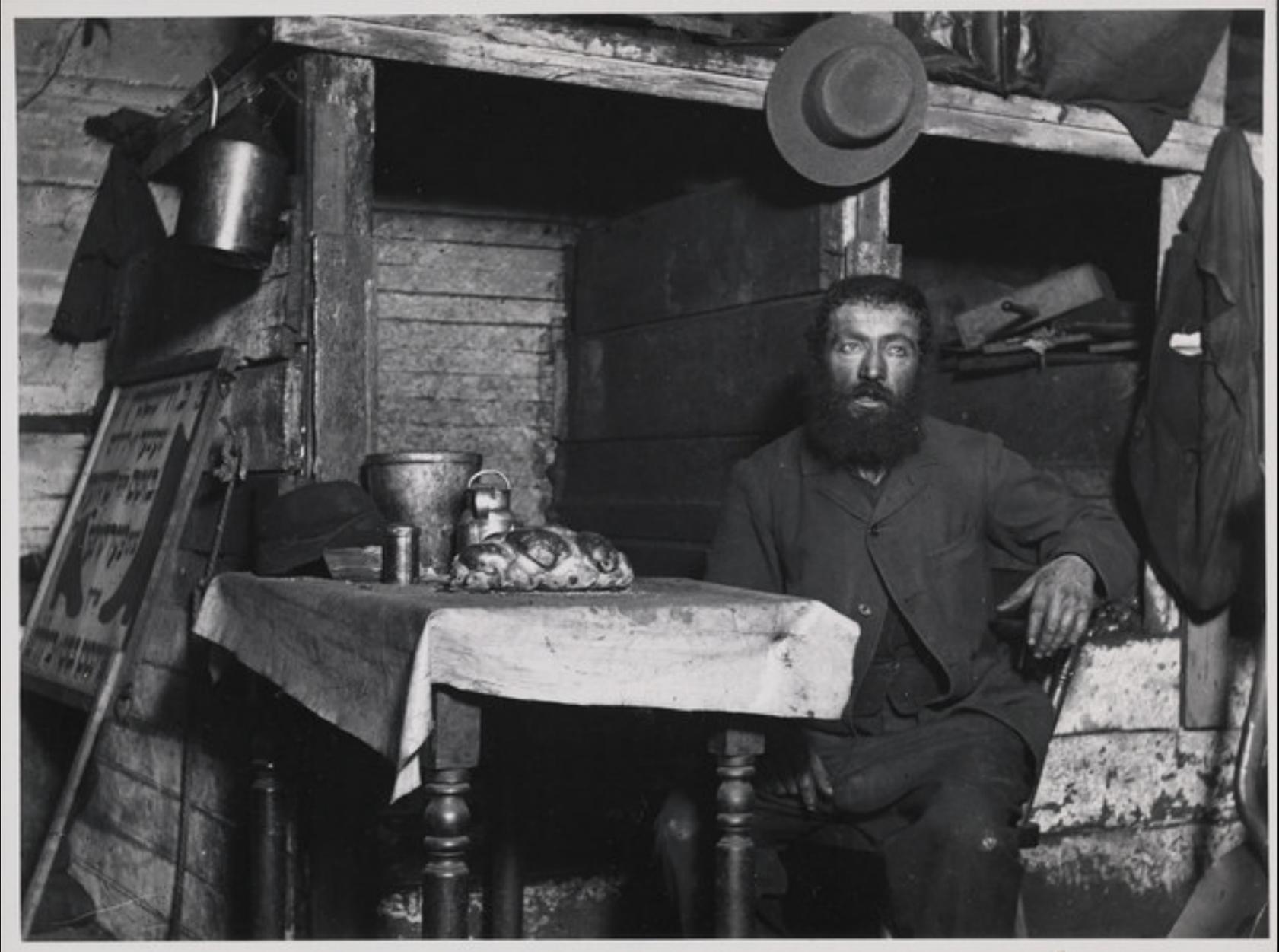
“Slept in the Cellar Four Years, 1890-92”



"Scene on the Roof on the Mott Street Barracks"



"Ready for Sabbath Eve in a Coal Celler" A Cobbler in Ludlow Street



"Five Cent a Spot" Unauthorized Lodgings in a Bayard Street Tenement





Tentment Yard  
How the Other Half Lives

# PHOTOGRAPHER #2

- As we look at the following photographs make observations
  - Take a “walk” around the photo: what’s happening at the top? The bottom? Close to you/in the foreground? Far away from you/in the background? How would you describe any people or objects in the photograph?
  - What is the relationship between any people in the photograph?
  - Where do you think the photographer wants us to look?
  - What do you think the photographer wants us to notice?
  - What is the place in this photo. Be descriptive.
  - What is the viewpoint of the photographer? What are they trying to communicate?
  - Once the caption is revealed does that change your observations?

“On the ferry boat leaving Ellis Island, Italian family,” 1905





122 Sullivan St. 2nd Floor rear. Leveroni family. Earn 4 cents a gross making violets. Can make 20 gross a day when children work all day. Father has work. Mrs. Leveroni; Tessie Leveroni, age 9; Stephen Leveroni, age 6; Margaret Leveroni, age 7; Josephine Cordono, age 10. These children work on Saturdays on afternoons after 3 o'clock, and evenings until 8 or 9.



Miners: A young driver in the Brown Mine. Has been driving one year. Works 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Brown, West Virginia.



Pastimes and Vices: Richard Pierce, age 14, a Western Union Telegraph Co. messenger. Nine months in service, works from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Smokes and visits houses of prostitution. Wilmington, Delaware.

Rhodes Mfg. Co., Lincolnton, N.C. Spinner. A moments glimpse of the outer world Said she was 10 years old. Been working over a year. Location: Lincolnton, North Carolina.



Little Salesmen: In business for himself. Boston, Massachusetts.



WHAT DIFFERENCES DO YOU NOTICE  
BETWEEN THESE TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS?

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# PHOTOGRAPHER #1 JACOB RIIS

- His book *How the Other Half Lives* helped the middle and upper classes in NYC see how more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the population lived
- Believed environmental changes could improve the lives of immigrants by appealing to the Victorian desire for cleanliness & social order.



"Long ago it was said that 'one half of the world does not know how the other half lives.' That was true then. It did not know because it did not care. The half that was on top cared little for the struggles, and less for the fate, of those who were underneath, so long as it was able to hold them there and keep its own seat."

- Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*

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# TECHNIQUES USED BY RIIS



1. Shocking conditions of neighborhoods
2. Appealing to mothers through children
3. Challenging the idea of “home”
4. De-emphasizing the individual

“Riis's lack of experience as a photographer sometimes worked to his advantage. His blurred, half-lit images both fascinated and frightened his audiences.”

## PHOTOGRAPHER #2: LEWIS HINE

- Pioneer of documentary photography
- Hired by the The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) to travel across the country to help get rid of child labor
- Photographs were put in exhibits, articles, posters, and magazines such as *McClure's*
- “The great social peril is darkness and ignorance.” – Lewis Hine



# TECHNIQUES USED BY HINE

## 1. Composition

- Posing, lighting and subject matter to appeal to viewers emotions

## 2. Humanizing subjects through “quiet dignity”

## 3. Detailed captions



WHICH PHOTOGRAPHER DO YOU FIND  
MORE APPEALING: RIIS OR HINE? WHY?

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