Twenty Years At Hull House

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TWENTY YEARS AT HULL HOUSE

JANE ADDAMS
AUTHOR OF Democracy And Social Ethics

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** Synopsis **

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** Book Information **

Paperback: 140 pages  
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (July 18, 2011)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 1463682476  
Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.3 x 10 inches  
Shipping Weight: 11.7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #790,348 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #143 in Law > Administrative Law > Emigration & Immigration  #1134 in Social Sciences > Emigration & Immigration  #1539 in Sociology > Urban

** Customer Reviews **

Like many of her fellow "Progressives," Jane Addams was born in the midwest and received an exceptional scholastic and religious education. She was strongly devoted to her father and shared with him a reverence for Abraham Lincoln not just as a man, but as a living ideal against which all men should measure their ideas and actions. Typical of many reformers of her era, Addams was not attracted to evangelical duty. Missionary work left her with a sense of futile detachment from the wretched social conditions she witnessed in East London. After visiting Toynbee Hall, Addams decided to establish a similar settlement house in the rapidly-growing city of Chicago, where "the evil and vices of American life seemed to be exaggerated." Her experiences at this settlement house are the subject of this book. Although, on the one hand, Addams seemed the typical Progressive; on the other hand she did not follow many of the ideas of the more radical reformers. She was very practical and refused to be swayed by the claims of certain social movements and untried panaceas. she did not become a socialist. Although she greatly admired Tolstoy, she found
his message "confused and contradictory" and doubted its suitability to the situation in Chicago. She deplored any violent tactics associated with socialist and anarchist groups despite their "noble motives." Addams demonstrated an understanding of the ways in which strikes had a detrimental effect on people outside the labor movement (her dying sister was unable to see her family because the transportation system was blocked due to the Pullman strike. Unlike most reformers, she also had respect for the immigrant cultures represented at Hull House.

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