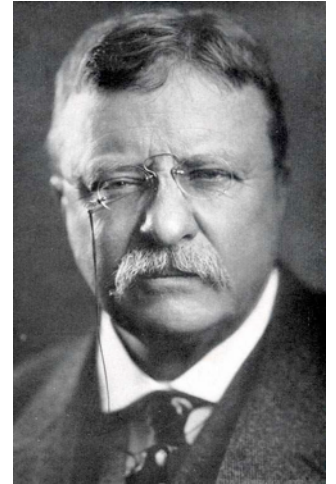


The term “muckrakers” was the result of a 1906 speech by Teddy Roosevelt.

*“Now it is very necessary that we should not flinch from seeing what is vile and debasing. There is filth on the floor, and it must be scraped up with the muck rake; and there are times and places where this service is the most needed of all the services that can be performed. But the man who never does anything else, who never thinks or speaks or writes, save of his feats with the muck rake, speedily becomes, not a help but one of the most potent forces for evil.*

*... There should be relentless exposure of and attack upon every evil man, whether politician or business man, every evil practice, whether in politics, business, or social life. I hail as a benefactor every writer or speaker; every man who, on the platform or in a book, magazine, or newspaper, with merciless severity makes such attack, provided always that he in his turn remembers that the attack is of use only if it is absolutely truthful.*

*... Now, it is easy to twist out of shape what I have just said .... Some persons are sincerely incapable of understanding that to denounce mud slinging does not mean the endorsement of whitewashing....”*



Some of the most famous “muckrakers” (journalists & authors) were:

Ida B. Wells  
Lewis Hine

Ida Tarbell  
Jacob Riis

Lincoln Steffens  
David Phillips

Upton Sinclair  
Nellie Bly