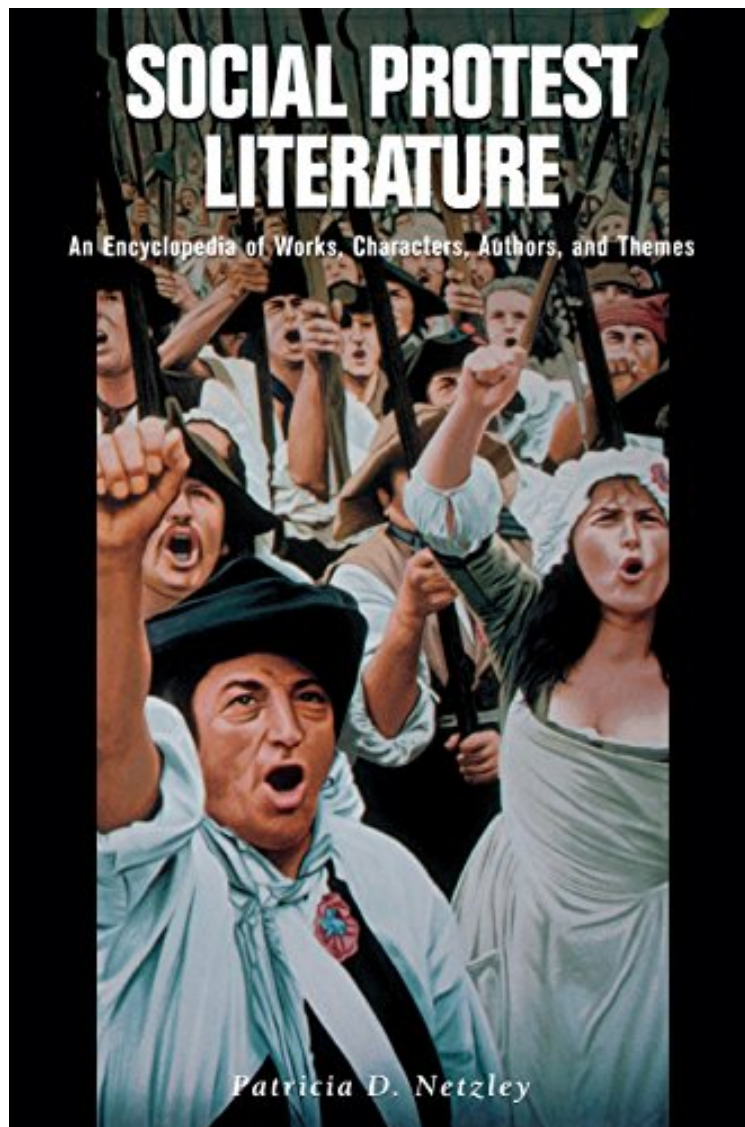


(Download free ebook) Social Protest Literature: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes

## Social Protest Literature: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes

*Patricia D. Netzley*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#5213963 in Books ABC-CLIO 1999-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x .75 x 7.011, 1.95  
Binding: Library Binding 295 pages | File size: 74.Mb

**Patricia D. Netzley : Social Protest Literature: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes**  
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Social Protest Literature: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes:

Impassioned social protest writers inspire readers to relive injustice, empathize with its victims, and take action. The more than 450 entries in this volume survey the most important protest works of our time as well as the classics of the past. Extensive cross-references direct readers to other works with similar themes. A comprehensive bibliography suggests further reading.

From *Library Journal* Grade 9 Up-Concentrating on literary works with a social conscience, this book provides plot summaries, along with information on the lives of authors, major characters (e.g., the Joad family from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Prince Nekhludof from Leo Tolstoy's *Resurrection*, etc.), and themes from over 130 works. The articles are arranged alphabetically; character, theme, and biographical entries are relatively brief (100-250 words), while the plot summaries are a bit more detailed (800-2000 words). Though verse is mentioned, few poems besides Allen Ginsberg's "Howl" receive individual attention. Students looking up poetry in the index will find only a reference to the introduction, an article on the "Beat Movement," and a see-also note to look for specific poets and poems. If readers don't know the names of specific poets, they won't know where to turn. And why are there no entries for Amiri Baraka or Wendell Berry, and what about the feminist poets of the '60s and '70s? There are a few holes in the encyclopedic nature of this book, but it is readable and concise and it will be useful. Black-and-white photographs, reproductions, and a number of stills from film adaptations of the works are included. Herman Sutter, Saint Agnes Academy, Houston, TX Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From *Booklist* Since ancient times, society's so-called rebels and activists have looked for ways to lend their voices in defense of freedom, equality, justice, and dignity, and against unjust conditions. One tool for initiating positive action is literature, and this volume surveys more than 100 writers and 130 works (primarily novels but also some poems and plays) that "encourage readers to empathize with those who suffer from a particular social problem." The author teaches and lectures on writing. Writers range from Alcaeus, an ancient Greek poet who wrote a short poem called "Poverty," to Toni Morrison, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, and Kurt Vonnegut. Works include Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country*, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, all dealing with racism; Thomas Hood's *The Song of the Shirt* and Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, which probe labor issues; and Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange* and Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, which demonstrate how protest is expressed in science fiction and fantasy. There are also entries for more than 150 characters (e.g., Celie, from Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*; Mrs. Jellyby, from Dickens' *Bleak House*; the Joad family, from Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*) and 32 themes, such as Apartheid, Mexican-American literature, and Slavery. Entries for works are generally the longest (sometimes several pages) and usually provide a summary of the literary work, with emphasis on the relevant social conditions or themes. Entries for authors and characters are usually less than a quarter page and emphasize their relationship to the social conditions being exposed. At the beginning of the volume, entries are listed alphabetically and also by category (authors, works, characters, and themes). Entries are extensively, although not always consistently, cross-referenced. There is an index as well as a bibliography following the main text. The black-and-white illustrations are mostly author portraits and stills from movies.

All in all, *Social Protest Literature* is an interesting if somewhat specialized addition to the literature reference field because of its unique perspective. It could be a useful teaching tool as well as a starting point for research. Recommended for larger high-school, public, and undergraduate library collections.

*Reference Books in brief* The following is a list of additional recent and recommended reference sources. "Recommended for public and academic libraries." - *Library Journal* "an interesting if somewhat specialized addition to the literature reference field because of its unique perspective. It could be a useful teaching tool as well as a starting point for research. Recommended for larger high school, public, and undergraduate library collections." - *Booklist* "This work provides a good springboard for students searching for fictional works to illustrate a societal issue. Appropriate for high school and lower undergraduate students." - *Choice*