

GRACE ABBOTT: REFORMING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Sara Al-Rishawi

Senior Division

Exhibit: 498 words

Process Paper: 428 words

Left Panel

children

"Child Labor and poverty are inevitably bound together and of you continue to use the labor of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labor to the end of time"
-Grace Abbott

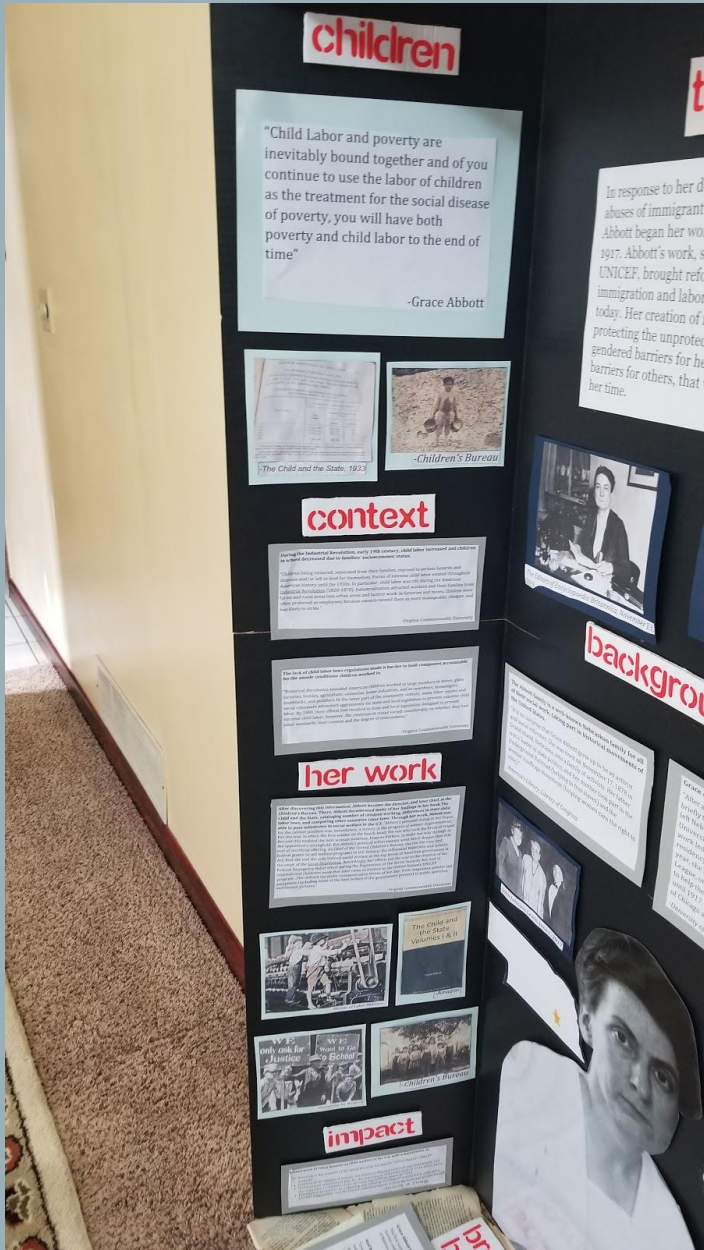
In response to her denunciations of abuses of immigrant children, Abbott began her work in 1917. Her work, supported by UNICEF, brought reform to immigration and labor laws today. Her creation of the Children's Bureau protected the unprotected and removed barriers for her time.

context

background

her work

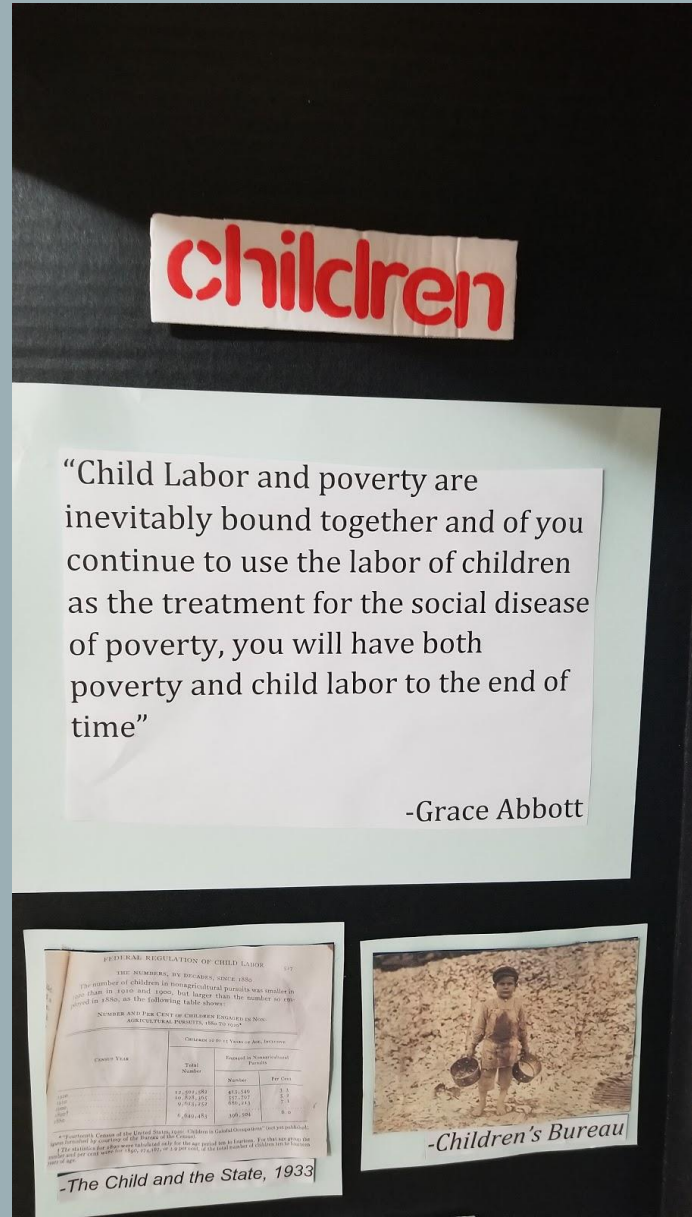
impact



children

"Child Labor and poverty are inevitably bound together and of you continue to use the labor of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labor to the end of time"
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The Child and the State, 1933



context

During the Industrial Revolution, early 19th century, child labor increased and children in school decreased due to families' socioeconomic status.

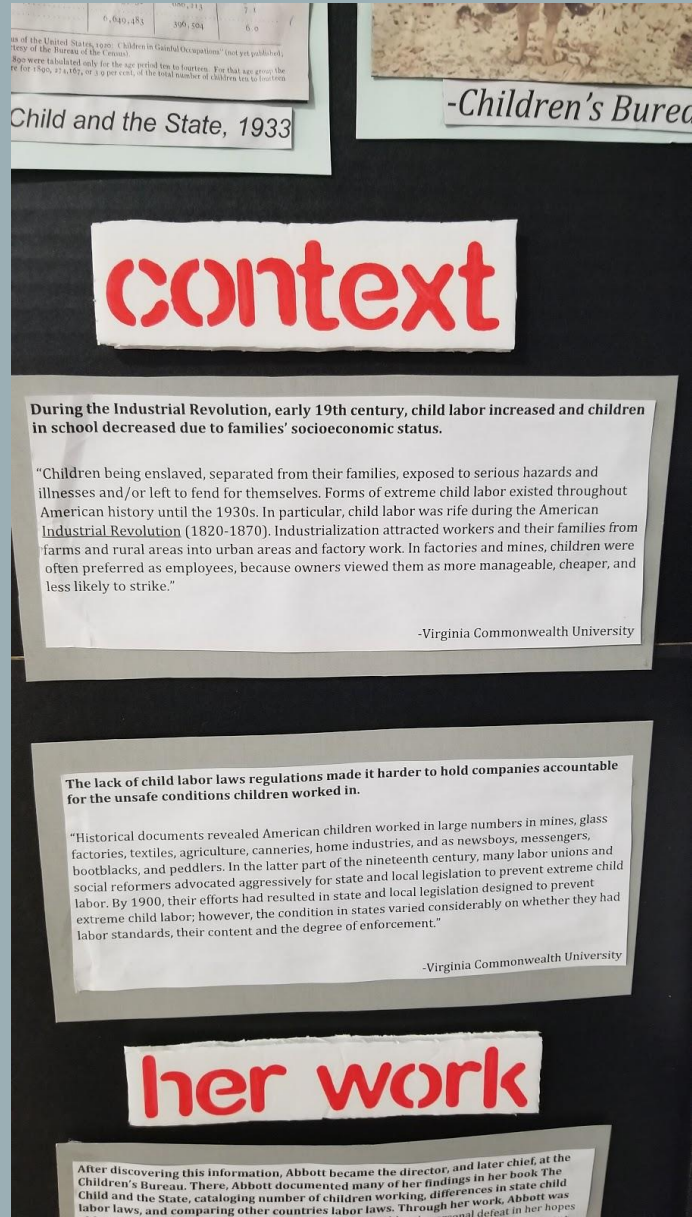
"Children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves. Forms of extreme child labor existed throughout American history until the 1930s. In particular, child labor was rife during the American Industrial Revolution (1820-1870). Industrialization attracted workers and their families from farms and rural areas into urban areas and factory work. In factories and mines, children were often preferred as employees, because owners viewed them as more manageable, cheaper, and less likely to strike."
-Virginia Commonwealth University

The lack of child labor laws regulations made it harder to hold companies accountable for the unsafe conditions children worked in.

"Historical documents revealed American children worked in large numbers in mines, glass factories, textiles, agriculture, canneries, home industries, and as newsboys, messengers, bootblacks, and peddlers. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, many labor unions and social reformers advocated aggressively for state and local legislation to prevent extreme child labor. By 1900, their efforts had resulted in state and local legislation designed to prevent extreme child labor; however, the condition in states varied considerably on whether they had labor standards, their content and the degree of enforcement."
-Virginia Commonwealth University

her work

After discovering this information, Abbott became the director, and later chief, at the Children's Bureau. There, Abbott documented many of her findings in her book *Child and the State*, cataloging number of children working, differences in state child labor laws, and comparing other countries labor laws. Through her work, Abbott was a social defeat in her hopes



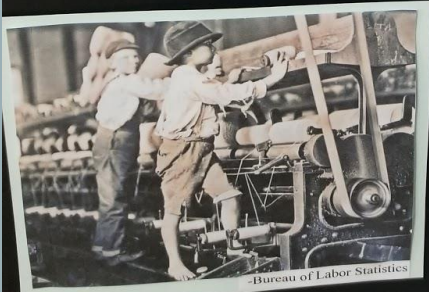
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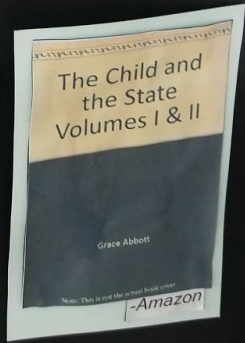
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After discovering this information, Abbott became the director, and later chief, at the Children's Bureau. There, Abbott documented many of her findings in her book *The Child and the State*, cataloging number of children working, differences in state child labor laws, and comparing other countries labor laws. Through her work, Abbott was able to pass milestones in social welfare in the U.S. "Abbott's personal defeat in her hopes for the cabinet position was, nonetheless, a victory in the progress of women in government. For she was, in effect, the first soldier on the beach-head; the one who took the brunt of sniper-fire and this enabled the next woman-nominee, Frances Perkins, to make her way through to the opposition's stronghold. But Abbott's political achievements went much deeper than this sort of sacrificial offering. As Chief of the United Children's Bureau, she ran the very first federal grants-in-aid welfare programs in U.S. history: the influential Maternity and Infancy Act. And she was the only trained social worker at the top levels of American government at the onset of the Great Depression. Accordingly, her efforts led the way to the creation of the Federal Emergency Relief effort during the Depression, of the Social Security Act, and of international childrens work that later came to fruition in the United Nation's UNICEF program...She utilized the many communication forum of her day: from magazines articles and pamphlets (including some of the best-sellers of the government presses) to public speeches and motion pictures."

-Virginia Commonwealth University



-Bureau of Labor Statistics



-Amazon



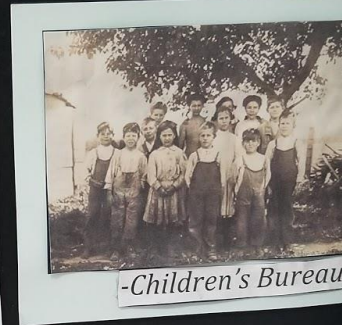
-Bureau of Labor Statistics



-Amazon



-Humanities for Wisdom



-Children's Bureau

impact

Abbott's work (1920s) focused on child welfare in the U.S. with achievements of,

- Assisting in the creation of the Social Security Act and the United Nation's UNICEF program
- Creation of the Sheppard Townner Act which established maternal and child health care
- Developed an enforcement plan for the first federal child labor laws in 1916 which led to the inspection of compliance for all major hip building plants by 1919
- Established the process for collecting and utilizing sociological data to track child labor juvenile delinquency, and the law for making progress at both the local and private levels

-University of Chicago



Grace Abbott broke new ground as the first woman nominated to the first UNICEF...
 And her legacy...
 Grace Abbott's attention to child labor problems were a...
 Her...
 the...
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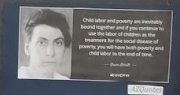
Center Panel

thesis

In response to her desire to help others and to the abuses of immigrant rights and child labor, Grace Abbott began her work in American social welfare in 1917. Abbott's work, such as Social Security and UNICEF, brought reform and change to America's immigration and labor system that is still in use today. Her creation of many policies included protecting the unprotected, and broke many gendered barriers for herself, and ethnic and age barriers for others, that were implemented during her time.



The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, November 1919



Child labor and poverty are inseparable, hand in glove, and the only way to deal with them is to deal with the child laborer as a human being, not as a machine.

background

The Abbott family is a well-known Nebraska family for all of their social work, taking part in historical movements of the United States. It is no surprise that Grace Abbott grew up to be an activist and social reformer. She was born on November 17, 1878 in Grand Island, Nebraska, into a family of activists. Her father was a leader in the public, and her mother took part in the Underground Railroad (helping to free slaves) and the women's suffrage movement (helping women earn the right to vote).

Grace did follow through with her family's footsteps. After attending the Grand Island Baptist College, Miss Abbott briefly taught English in Grand Island and then from there she left Nebraska in 1907 to pursue graduate study in law at the University of Chicago. She had developed interest in social work and led to stop with a Ph.D. in 1909. She took up residence with her father, Paul Brown in 1909, and that same year she became director of the Immigrants' Protective League, organized to protect immigrants from exploitation and to help them adjust to American life. She continued as director until 1917. For several years she also taught at the University of Chicago and the Chicago School of Civic and Philanthropy.



John Johnson, Grace, John T. 1911

"To me there was something about Grace Abbott which always suggested Joan of Arc."

-U.S Representative, Edward Keating 1939



context

her work

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- Grace Abbott -

AZQuotes

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-America's Library, Library of Congress

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-University of Chicago



-John Johnson Lewis, June 1, 2017

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broken barriers conclusion

Right Panel

esis

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immigrants

"They are the lotus-eaters, who prefer to live in a gray twilight in which there is neither victory nor defeat. It is impossible for them to understand: that to have had a part in the struggle-to have done what one could-is in itself the reward of effort and the comfort in defeat."
-Grace Abbott, 1930

context

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, many immigrants came to the U.S. seeking haven, economically or politically, only to be welcomed by a wave of discrimination.

her work

In response to harms against immigrants, Abbott began to reform the American System through tracking trends.

background

impacts

Immigrants lacked protection from and by laws, leading to many harms from just their existence.

her work

immigrants

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During the late 1800s and early 1900s, many immigrants came to the U.S. seeking haven, economically or politically, only to be welcomed by a wave of discrimination.

"America's first European settlers also were America's first immigrants. In some cases, they were welcomed by Native Americans, and in other cases, they were seen as a threat. By the 19th century, the pattern had been repeated many times, with each new wave of immigrants encountering mixed reactions from already established Americans. The German, Irish, and Italian immigrants who arrived in America during the 1800s often faced prejudice and mistrust. Many had to overcome language barriers. Others discovered that the challenges they had fled from, such as poverty or religious persecution, were to be encountered in America as well."

-Laura Leddy Turner, June 25, 2018

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In response to harms against immigrants, Abbott began to reform the American System through tracking trends.

"By that time Abbott had become director of the newly formed Immigrants' Protective League, which she had organized with Sophonisba Breckinridge and others. Her work with the league led to her involvement in securing protective legislation, her studies of conditions at Ellis Island (the main point of entry for immigrants, in New York Harbor), and her testimony before Congress against immigration restrictions. In a series of weekly articles ("Within the City's Gates," 1909-10) in the Chicago Evening Post, she attacked the exploitation of immigrants. Her book *The Immigrant and the Community* was published in 1917. During 1910-17 she was also on the faculty of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy (later the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Social Service Administration)."

-University of Chicago

The Immigrant and the Community during the year ending June 30, 1914. (Source: the following table.)

Nationality	No. arrested	No. deported	Percentage of total arrested
Austria	10	1	10.0
Belgium and Holland	1	0	1.0
Canada	1	0	1.0
China	1	0	1.0
France	1	0	1.0
Germany	1	0	1.0
Italy	1	0	1.0
Japan	1	0	1.0
Latin America	1	0	1.0
Poland	1	0	1.0
Russia	1	0	1.0
Sweden	1	0	1.0
Switzerland	1	0	1.0
U.S. born	1	0	1.0
All others	1	0	1.0
Total	10	1	10.0

This table shows that so far as the records of the immigration service are concerned a larger per cent of arrests are found among the immigrants from western Europe than among those from southern and eastern Europe.

-The Immigrant and the Community, 1917

The Immigrant and the Community

Type of Work Offered	Agencies Satisfying Men Only	Agencies Satisfying Both Men and Women	Total
"Gang work"	49	1	50
Restaurant or hotel work	2	5	7
Factory work	8	0	8
City jobs	61	24	85
Total	5	3	8
Total number agencies counted twice	50	21	71

This table shows that 50 per cent of the agencies counted twice on the railroad. It seems to be a general defect of the Commission-General of Immigration.

-The Immigrant and the Community, 1917

The Immigrant and the Community

Year	Total	Men	Women
1910	100	50	50
1911	100	50	50
1912	100	50	50
1913	100	50	50
1914	100	50	50
1915	100	50	50
1916	100	50	50
1917	100	50	50

-The Immigrant and the Community, 1917

Abbott did not let her gender stop her from accomplishing her goals, nor the race of those she was aiming to help.

Abbott did not let her gender stop her from accomplishing her goals, nor the race of those she was aiming to help

"In her time at the IPL, Miss Abbott worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for immigrants. Her achievements included securing new state legislation protecting immigrants from exploitation by private employment agencies and private immigrant "banks" and devising a state plan to enforce compulsory school attendance for immigrant children. In 1912, she successfully persuaded President William Howard Taft to veto an act of Congress requiring literacy tests for entry into the country."

-The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, Nov 13, 2019



-Virginia L. Salmon



-Paul Pirrotta, Hartford Courant



-Los Angeles Times

impacts

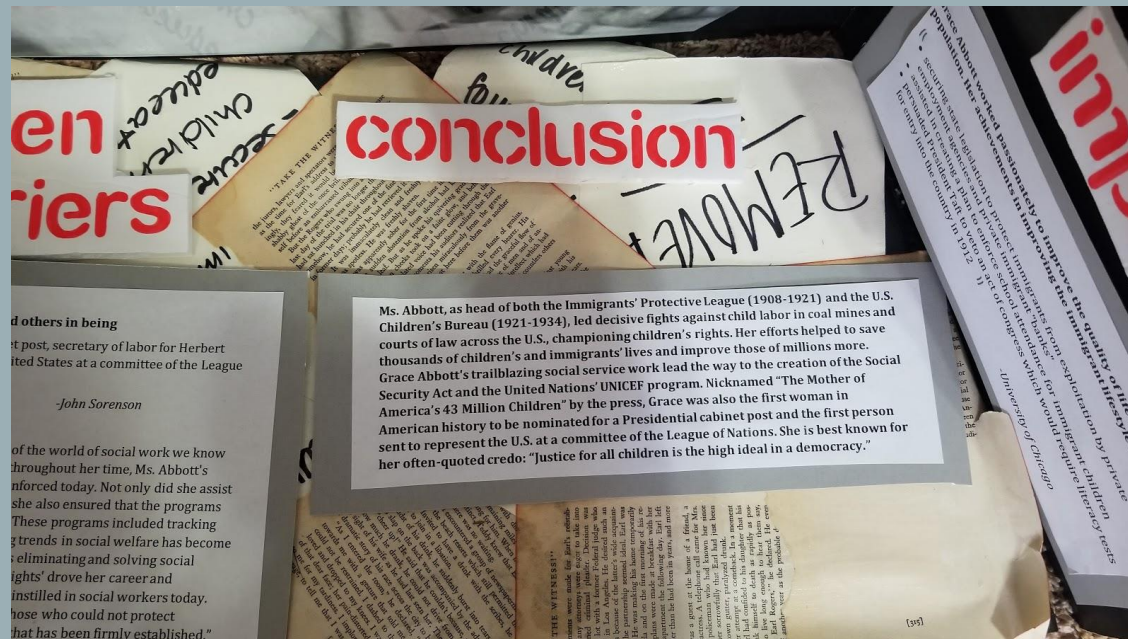
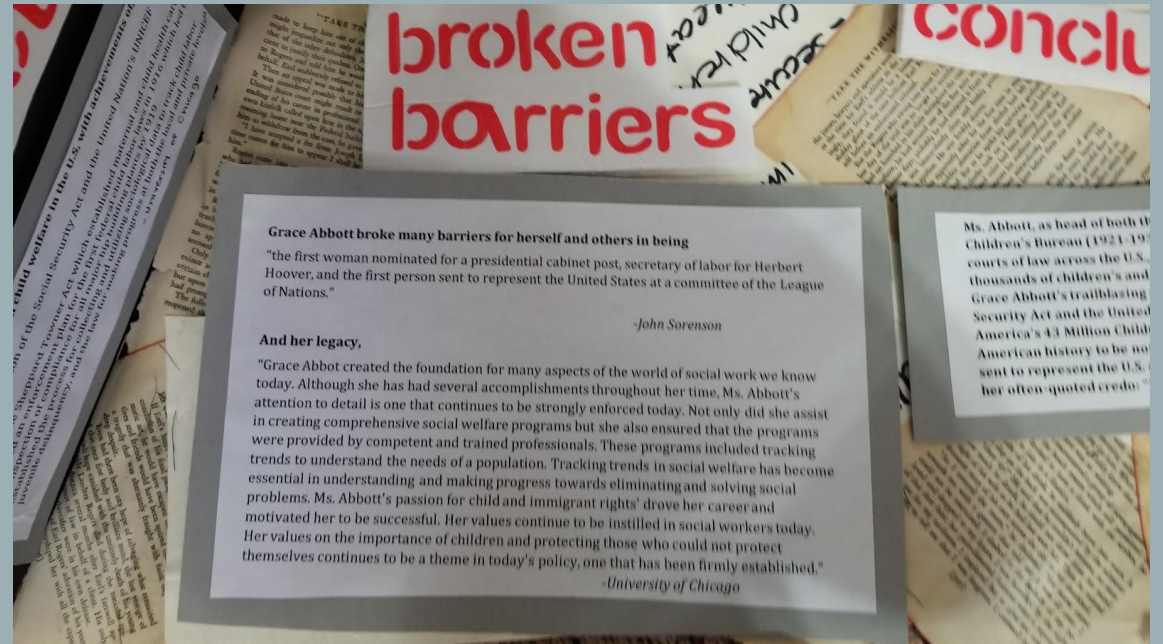
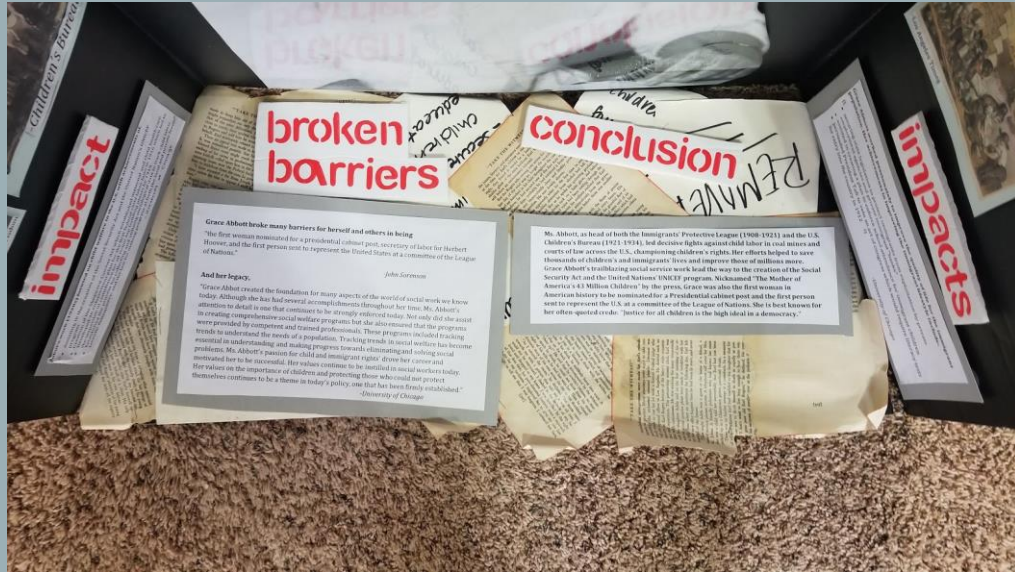
Grace Abbott worked passionately to improve the quality of life for the immigrant population. Her achievements in improving the immigrant lifestyle include:

- securing state legislation to protect immigrants from exploitation by private employment agencies and private immigrant "banks"
- assisted in creating a plan to enforce school attendance for immigrant children
- persuaded President Taft to veto an act of congress which would require literacy tests for entry into the country in 1912

-University of Chicago

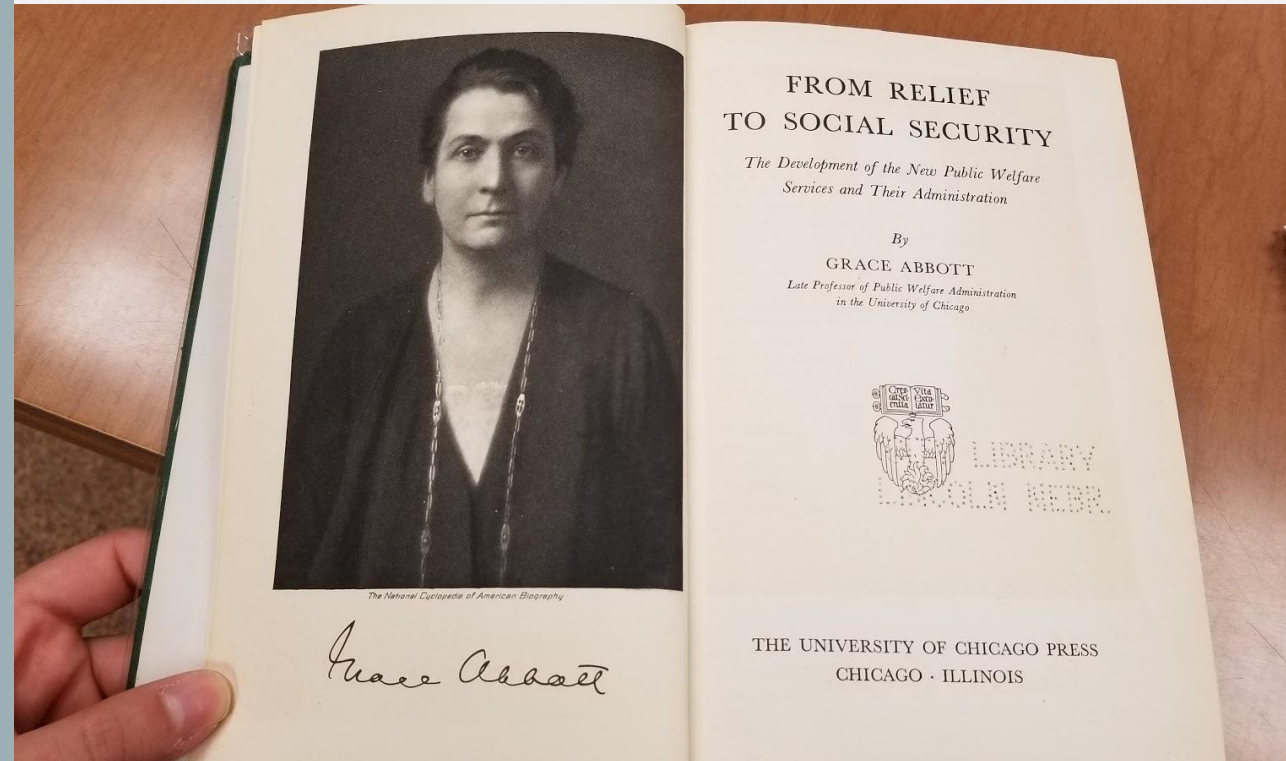
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Bottom Panel



GRACE ABBOTT'S BOOK

Checked from Love Library, YNL



STUDENT COMPOSED TEXT: LEFT

1. During the Industrial Revolution, early 19th century, child labor increased and children in school decreased due to families' socioeconomic status.
2. The lack of child labor law regulations made it harder to hold companies accountable for the unsafe conditions children worked in.
3. After discovering this information, Abbott became the director, and later chief, at the Children's Bureau. There, Abbott documented many of her findings in her book "The Child and the State", cataloging number of children working, differences in state child labor laws, and comparing other countries labor laws. Through her work, Abbott was able to pass milestones in social welfare in the U.S.
4. Abbott's work (1920s) focused on child welfare in the U.S., with achievements of,

Headings:

1. Children
2. Context
3. Her Work
4. Impact

STUDENT COMPOSED TEXT: CENTER

1. In response to her desire to help others and to the abuses of immigrant rights and child labor, Grace Abbott began her work in American social welfare in 1917. Abbott's work, such as Social Security and UNICEF, brought reform and change to America's immigration and labor system that is still in use today. Her creation of many policies included protecting the unprotected, and broke many gendered barriers for herself, and ethnic and age barriers for others, that were implemented during her time.
2. The Abbot family is a well-known Nebraskan family for all of their social work, taking part in historical movements of the United States.
3. Grace did follow through with her family's footsteps.

Headings:

1. Thesis
2. Background

STUDENT COMPOSED TEXT: RIGHT

1. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, many immigrants came to the U.S. seeking haven, economically or politically, only to be welcomed by a wave of discrimination.
2. Immigrants lack protection from and by laws, leading to many harms from just their existence.
3. In response to harms against immigrants, Abbott began to reform the American system through tracking trends.
4. Abbott did not let her gender stop her from accomplishing her goals, nor the race of those she was aiming to help.
5. Grace Abbott worked passionately to improve the quality of life for the immigrant population. Her achievements in improving the immigrant lifestyle include:

Headings:

1. Immigrants
2. Context
3. Her Work
4. Impacts

STUDENT COMPOSED TEXT: BOTTOM

1. Grace Abbott broke many barriers for herself and other in being,
2. And her legacy,
3. Ms. Abbott, as head of both the Immigrants' Protective League (1908-1921) and the U.S. Children's Bureau (1921-1934), led to decisive fights against child labor in coal mines and courts of law across the U.S., championing children's rights. Her efforts helped to save thousands of children's immigrants' loved and improve those of millions more. Grace Abbott's trailblazing social service work lead the way to the creation of the Social Security Act and the United Nations' UNICEF program. Nicknamed "The Mother of America's 43 Million Children" by the press, Grace was also the first woman in American history to be nominated for a Presidential cabinet post and the first person sent to represent the U.S. at a committee of the League of Nations. She is best known for her often-quoted credo: "Justice for all children is the high ideal in a democracy."

Headings:

1. Broken Barriers
2. Conclusion

Grace Abbott: Reforming the American Dream

Sara Al-Rishawi

Senior Division

Individual Exhibit

Process Paper: 428 words

Exhibit: 498 words

Process Paper

The way in which I chose my topic was by doing research on local Nebraskans that caused a great change to the way that the United States functions. I kept in mind that I did want to find a female rather than a male to show gender barriers broken. I stumbled upon Grace Abbott through the University of Lincoln-Nebraska archives, and upon doing more research, that she was exactly what I was looking for. Her family is well known for working in social welfare, and she herself did so to. She was passionate about child welfare and immigrants rights, something that I am passionate about too, and was the one who created many policies that are still in place today, such as the Social Security Act and UNICEF, which are things that affect me today.

The way in which I conducted my research was first by getting a brief summary of what she did and why she matters in history. There I discovered that she was heavily involved in child labor and immigrants' rights during the early 19th century. This led to me dividing my work into two parts: immigrants and children. This allowed me to break down each of the topics, and made my research much more focused in terms of impacts, her solutions, and other relevant outside information. I also read the three books that she published that documented her work and her arguments.

I selected the exhibit because it is one that I was confident in my skills to make, and knew that I liked to do more hands on work rather than create a project on a computer screen. The way in which I created my project was by first drawing out exactly how I wanted my poster to look and how I wanted to organize it. I then started to slowly gather supplies and build it piece by piece, and made sure that all my information was cohesive and easy to read, along with making them easily removed for future changes.

Grace Abbott relates to breaking barriers because she was many firsts in American history. She was the first woman to be appointed to the president's cabinet, the first to be sent as U.S. representative at the committee at the League of Nations, and she created policies that protected children and immigrants, who had no say in politics at that time. She also created policies such as UNICEF and Social Security to help make sure that the laws are being checked back upon, one of firsts in increased government involvement by the people.

Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

"Abbott, Grace (1878-1939) ." *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains* , edited by John Sorensen, plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.pg.002. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. The Encyclopedia of the Great Plains is a Nebraskan based resource with first hand accounts to topics that relate to Nebraska's history. This was used in the Children side of the poster to outline Grace Abbott's work.

"Grace Abbott ." *Britannica* , 13 Nov. 2019, www.britannica.com/biography/Grace-Abbott. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. Britannica is a well known, well-checked, encyclopedia that contains all of the necessary information about Grace Abbott along with access to other resources that contributed to the article. This was used in terms of explaining what her work involved, along with analytical statements.

"Grace Abbott ." *My Blog* , sites.google.com/site/graceabbott605/home/cynthia-s-new-shops. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. This is a website that has taken all of the information from the University of Chicago and Abbott's books, and condensed it into the main big ideas. This was used to outline Abbot's impacts and legacy in terms of her work.

"Grace Abbott ." *Spartacus Educational* , edited by John Simkin, Dec. 2014, spartacus-educational.com/USAWabbottG.htm. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. Spartacus Educational is a known resource that provides free content and resources about Grace Abbott and other topics, along with consistent check-backs on their information. This was used in order to formulate analytical arguments, and in terms of conclusion, wrapping up together all her work.

"Grace Abbott ." *The University of Chicago School of Service Administration* ,

www.ssa.uchicago.edu/grace-abbott. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. The University of Chicago is a well-renowned college and is where Grace Abbott began much of her social work and teachings at the university. This was used in order to explain the impacts of Grace Abbott as well as what her work consisted of.

"Grace Abbott ." *Women's Intellectual Contributions to the Study of Mind and Society*,

faculty.webster.edu/woolfm/gabbott.html. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. This is a website that is focused on the contributions of women in society and how they have impacted/changed American society, usually for the better. This was used in terms of referencing Abbot's books and analytics.

"Grace Abott: Social work pioneer, reformer, Hull House resident and chief of the Children's Bureau." *Social Welfare History Project*, edited by John Sorenson, 2011,

socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/organizations/childrens-bureau/abbott-grace/. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. Social Welfare History Project is owned and operated by Virginia

Commonwealth University, making it a credible source as universities have regulations to make sure that presented information is accurate. This was used on the Children side of the exhibit to explain Abbott's work.

Hansen, J. "The American Era of Child Labor ." *Social Welfare History Project* , 2011,

socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/programs/child-welfarechild-labor/child-labor/. Accessed

25 Nov. 2019. History Project is owned and operated by Virginia Commonwealth

University, making it a credible source as universities have regulations to make sure that

presented information is accurate. This was used on the Children side of the exhibit to explain the abuses that were occurring due to child labor.

"Reformer Grace Abbott was born ." *America's Story from America's Library* ,

www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/gilded/jb_gilded_abbott_3.html. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019.

America's Library is owned and operated by the Library of Congress, which has all of the old archives, or copies of, information regarding Grace Abbott, her life, and her work.

This was used in terms of setting up what Grace's background was like growing up and what influence her work.

Turner, Laura Leddy. "Challenges Faced by Immigrants in the 19th Century ." *The Classroom* , 25 June 2018,

www.theclassroom.com/challenges-faced-immigrants-19th-century-9525.html. Accessed

25 Nov. 2019. Laura Leddy Turner has worked in the newspaper industry as an illustrator, columnist, staff writer and copy editor, including with Gannett and the Asbury Park Press. Turner holds a B.A. in literature and English from Ramapo College of New Jersey, with postgraduate coursework in business law, meaning she has the proper resources and experience for the article. This was used in order to create context to the lives of immigrants in the 19th century.

Primary Sources

Abbott, Grace. *The Child and the State* . Vol. 1, 1939. 2 vols. This is Grace Abbott's book that she wrote and published, making it first hand accounts on the issues she is involved in. This was used for date tables included.

---. *From Relief to Social Security* . 1941. This is Grace Abbott's book that she wrote and published, making it first hand accounts on the issues she is involved in in terms of how to go about with her proposed welfare systems to be implemented in the United States. This was used for date tables included and analysis

---. *The Immigrant and the Community* . 1917. This is Grace Abbott's book that she first wrote and published, making it first hand accounts on the issues she is involved in in terms of immigration issues in the United States. This was used for date tables included.

"The Children and the State Volumes 1 & 2 ." *Amazon* ,
www.amazon.com/Child-State-Volumes-II/dp/B007BPXQYE. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019.
This is a website in which one can purchase the books of Grace Abbott in their updated format. This was used for a picture of Grace Abbott's book.

"Children's Bureau Timeline ." *Child Welfare Information Gateway* ,
www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/resources-from-childrens-bureau/timeline1/.
Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. This is the website that is owned and operated by the Children's Bureau, in which Abbott founded. This was used for two images used on the children side of the exhibit.

"Convention 182 and World Day Against Child Labour." *International Labor Organization* ,
www.ilo.org/century/history/iloandyou/WCMS_180170/lang--en/index.htm. Accessed 25

Nov. 2019. This an international organization and website that is monitored and checked regularly by the United Nations, and has quotes and information about those who have influence labor laws in history. I used this to derive one of Grace Abbott's quotes.

"Facts about Grace Abbott ." *Fix Quotes* ,

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