Jane Addams and the Peace Movement

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First Year Seminar: Gender Activism and Social Change 140, Section 07-08, Professor Jean Mills

Achievements

- Established Hull House
- 1905: Was appointed to Chicago’s Board of Education and chairman of School Management Committee
- 1905: Was the first woman elected at the National Conference of Social Work
- 1906: Wrote the book Newer Ideals of Peace
- 1910: First female president of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections
- 1911: First vice-president of National American Women Suffrage Association
- 1913: Elected second to Thomas Edison in Independent magazine’s poll for “Who Was the Most Useful American?”
- 1915: Organized the Women’s Peace Party and the International Congress of Women
- 1919: Elected the first president of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
- 1931: Only social worker awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

Controversies

- Jane Addams was known for her social work but as World War I was coming, she changed her views dramatically.
- Her new passion was to be a radical pacifist against World War I. Addams was called a socialist, communist and anarchist at times.
- In 1915, Addams delivered a speech at Carnegie Hall saying that soldiers in Europe were plied with alcohol before going into battle. This made her into a punching bag for the press. She was pretty much booed from the stage and escorted out by an agent of the Department of Justice.
- Addams’ Hull House was criticized as a model for the New Deal and Great Society programs that were viewed as bloated.
- She risked censorship and the loss of public favor in addressing the causes of poverty and working for peace during a “popular” war.
- Criticized for working with groups committed to nonviolence and human rights because she was against the Versailles peace talks.
- Her views were sometimes called dangerously radical.

Background

- In 1881, Jane Addams graduated as valedictorian from the Rockford Female Seminary. She planned to study medicine but fell ill. After her recovery, she toured Europe in search of her future objective.
- On her second tour of Europe, she visited the settlement houses with her friend, Ellen Starr.
- In 1889, Jane Addams and her friend leased a home built by Charles Hull. The two friends made it their mission “to provide a center for a higher civic and social life, to institute and maintain educational and philanthropic enterprises, and to investigate and improve the conditions in the industrial districts of Chicago.”

Research Question

How did Jane Addams contribute to the Peace Movement?

Jane Addams

Lasting Impact

- Jane Addams became an important advocate of internationalism during the peace movement.
- Addams undertook several projects, such as Hull House to give empowerment to women and to improve the Chicago community in which the first Hull House opened.
- There were men who lived at Hull House, but the leadership positions were predominantly held by women.

References

- B. Nicole Jane Addams 1860-1935. retrieved from http://www2.webster.edu/~woolflm/janeadams.html