

The turning point of American literature in the 20th century was marked by a need for new direction and a shift away from outdated romantic plots and 19th-century prose style. Ernest Hemingway developed his own set of American values, while H.L. Mencken advocated for a civilized aristocracy. Sherwood Anderson, a key figure in American literature, introduced modernist techniques to American fiction in "Winesburg, Ohio." Sinclair Lewis's novels satirized American society and its conformity to norms, highlighting the struggles of individuals attempting to challenge or escape their hometowns and conformist cultures. Carol Kennicott and Babbitt in "Main Street" and "Babbitt" attempt to rebel against their towns' values but ultimately fail. Edith Wharton, influenced by Henry James, challenged Victorian norms and portrayed the psychological struggles of women in upper-class society. Lewis's novels criticize middle-class American values without offering alternative solutions.