

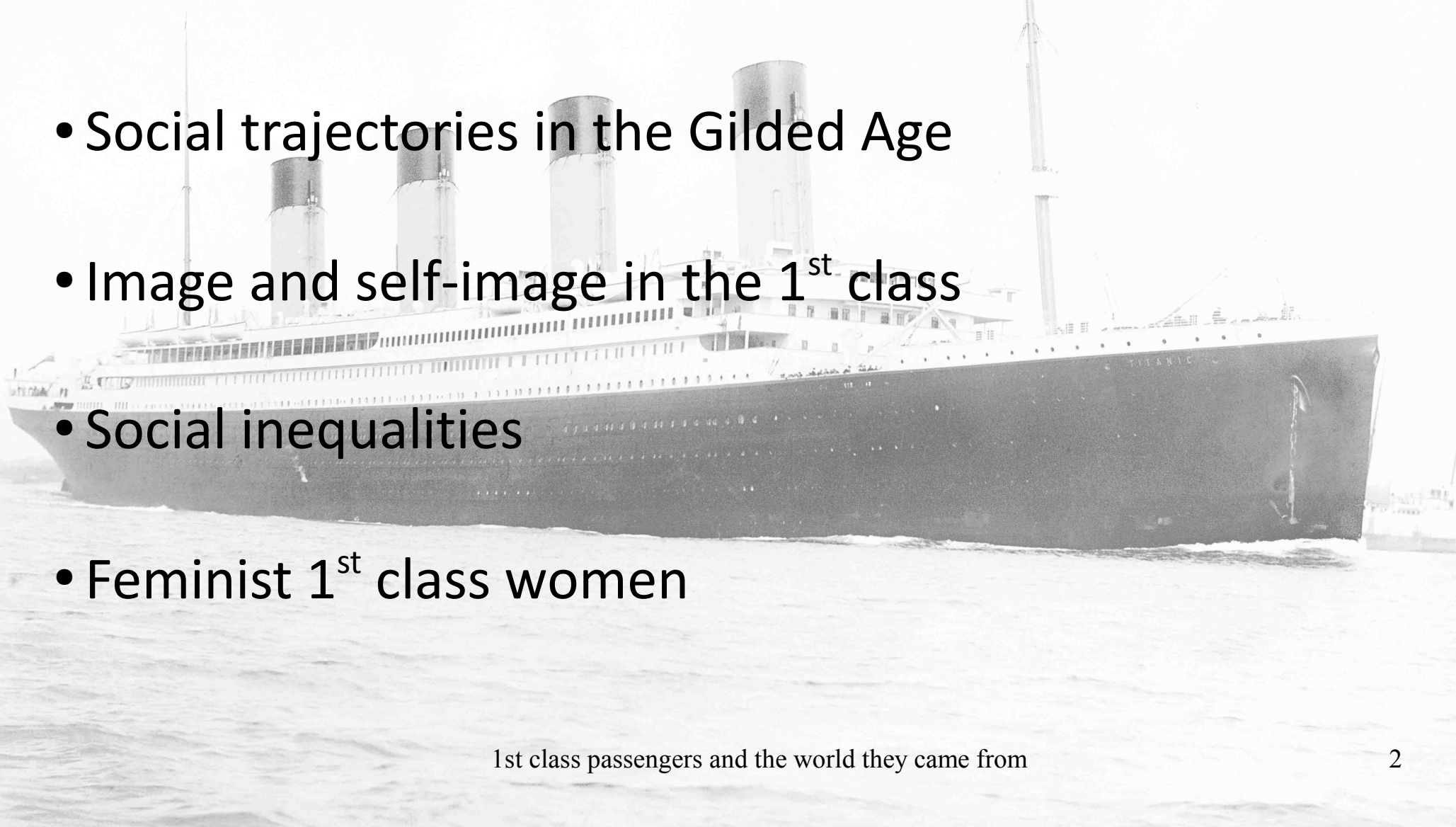
A black and white photograph of the RMS Titanic, a large ocean liner, sailing on the ocean. The ship is viewed from a side-on perspective, showing its four funnels and multiple decks. The name "TITANIC" is visible on the side of the hull. The sky is overcast and the water is choppy.

*1st class passengers
and the world they came from*

Camille Carré, Maud Lecacheur, Alice Milor, Loïc Toraille

1st class passengers and the world they came from

- Social trajectories in the Gilded Age
- Image and self-image in the 1st class
- Social inequalities
- Feminist 1st class women



- Social trajectories in the Gilded Age



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The Fortunes of the Gilded Age

- From 1870's to 1890's
- Definition : “from a provincial and largely agrarian country to a modern nation with a continental reach and aweinspiring potential.” Rodney Carlisle
- Industrialization -> huge social inequaities
- “Robber baron”, Mathew Josephson, 1934

John Jacob Astor IV (1864-1912)



- A family empire
 - inheritance : he is the great-grandson of John Jacob Astor the fur trader and real estate dealer
- A monopoly on real estate

*“The great fortunes that were made in this era through the rapid industrialization of the country came **by controlling the driving forces of expansion.** In practice this meant **domination** of steel, oil, finance, and most importantly, the railroads.” Rodney Carlisle*

Benjamin Guggenheim (1865-1910)



- He had inherited his fortune from his father
- A smelting and mining tycoon
- His wife, Peggy, is linked to many artistic organisations around the world (London, Venice, New York, etc)

*“...great **benefactors to society**, giving fortunes that promoted education, museums, and other charitable good works.” Rodney Carlisle*

Lady Duff-Gordon (1863-1935)



- A self-made woman
 - divorced
 - a dressmaking business
- The success of « The Maison Lucile »
 - the spread around the world

"Many of these tycoons came from humble backgrounds and had to struggle and apply themselves to succeed." Rodney Carlisle

- Image and self-image in the 1st class

How were 1st-class people such as those present on the Titanic viewed by the rest of society at the time?

How did 1st-class people view themselves?



How did they see themselves?

- The way they look and appear is all-important to them: they feel that they have a role to play:

“I took plenty of time in dressing.”

“At the White House, Archie often changed clothes six times a day.”

- They think they are indestructible:

“The first-class travellers, at least, were more concerned with inspecting the ship’s much-vaunted facilities [than they were concerned with the security].”

- They feel like they are more important than anything:

Hugo Ross (who was sick) refused to leave his cabin, saying that it would take more than an iceberg to get him out of bed.

How did they see themselves?

- They feel superior to the rest of the world:

“People like ourselves.”

“I heard him remark to the head steward that he did not want to sit near any second-class looking crowd.”

- They patronize the lower class:

“I thought it was the steerage in rafts that were all hysterical.”

- There still are some exceptions:

“A steward found her and apologized for putting her with the third-class passengers. “What difference does it make?” René thought.”

How did the world see them?

- They want to know everything about the upper-class' lives:

The Daily Mail informed the world about the lives of 5 famous people; while telling about the lack of lifeboats.

The Shipbuilder produced a special issue in the summer of 1911 to describe in detail the sumptuous accommodation provided for first-class passengers.

- They are admiring of the upper-class' way of living:

"I never saw such composure and cool bravery in my life."

"As there remained nothing more to do, the officer told us, 'Gentlemen, each man for himself, goodbye.' He gave a military salute and then fired a bullet into his head. That's what I call a man!!!"

- They refer to the upper-class' authority:

[Margaret Brown] worked to organize the disembarkation of the steerage women and help with their travel arrangements.

How did the world see them?

- Some resent the superiority with which the upper-class behave:

Example of Bruce Ismay who stepped into a lifeboat whereas there still was some women and children around.

- Some are quite realistic about the upper-class' real authority:

“The millionaires certainly did not run the ship [...] they were just standing by and doing what they were told like anyone else.”

• Social inequalities

« The titanic was built as much for the immigrants as for 1st class passengers. »

Charles A. Haas, Titanic, The Death Of A Dream

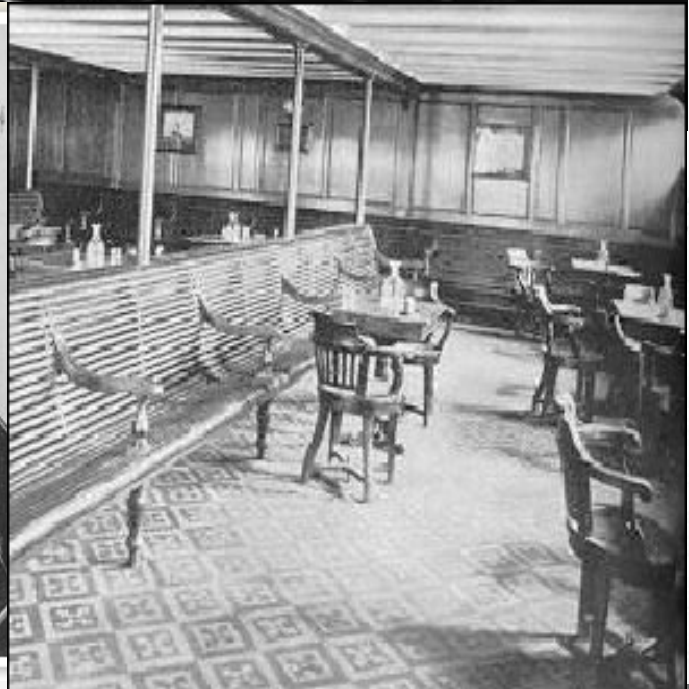
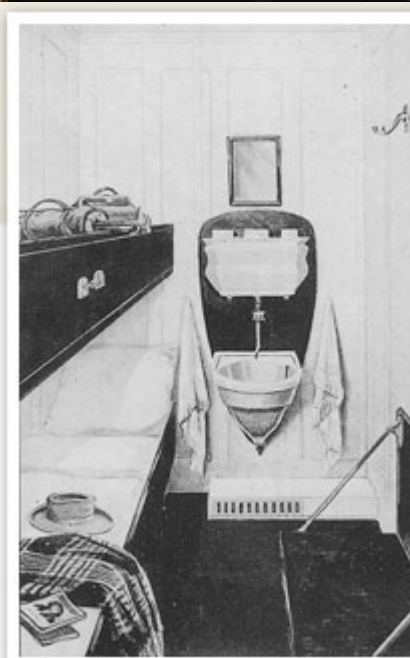
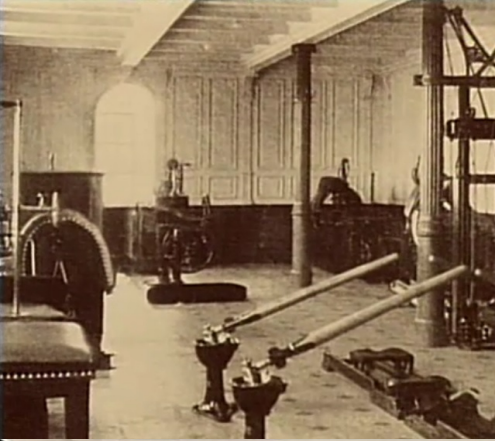
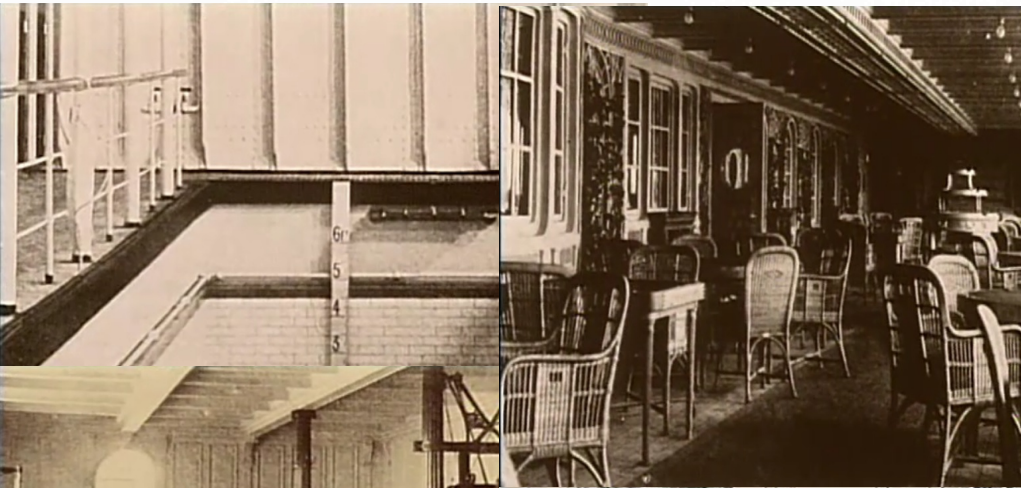


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Accommodations

- 1st class

- 3rd class



Warnings

- 1st class

knock on doors and try to convince people to come and convince them there was a problem

- 3rd class

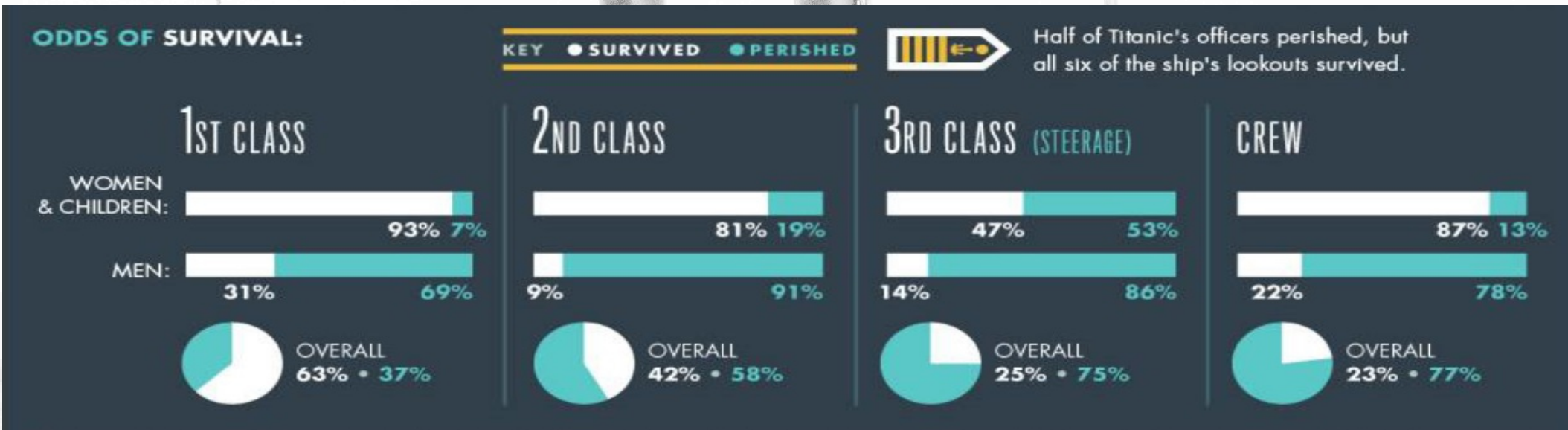
throw doors open and scream at people chaos because many people didn't speak english

Surviving rate

« Amongst the saved, the discrimination based on class was enormous : more 1st class men survived than 3rd class children. »

Titanic, The Legend Lives On

	1 st class	2 nd class	3 rd class
Survivors	201	119	180
Identified victims	123	160	534



« Class boundaries still separated titanic victims, even after death: if a body appeared to be from 1st class it was stored in a coffin on deck, 2nd, 3rd class and crew were sewn into canvas bags and stored in ice before being returned to shore. Unidentifiable bodies thought to be crew or steerage were often buried at sea. »

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Titanic, The Legend Lives On

- Feminist 1st class women



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Margaret Molly Brown (1867-1932)

• « the Unsinkable Molly Brown »



“Women first’ is a principle as deep rooted in man’s being as the sea ... to me it is all wrong. Women demand equal rights on land—why not on sea?”



Helen Churchill Candee (1859-1949)



- A journalist :
« How women may earn a living »
- A writer : « *Sealed Orders* »
- A designer



Woman Suffrage Parade, March 1913

Edith & Elsie Bowerman

→ Two Suffragettes
Members of the
WSPU

→ Close to Christabel
Pankhurst

→ Witness of the
Russian Revolution

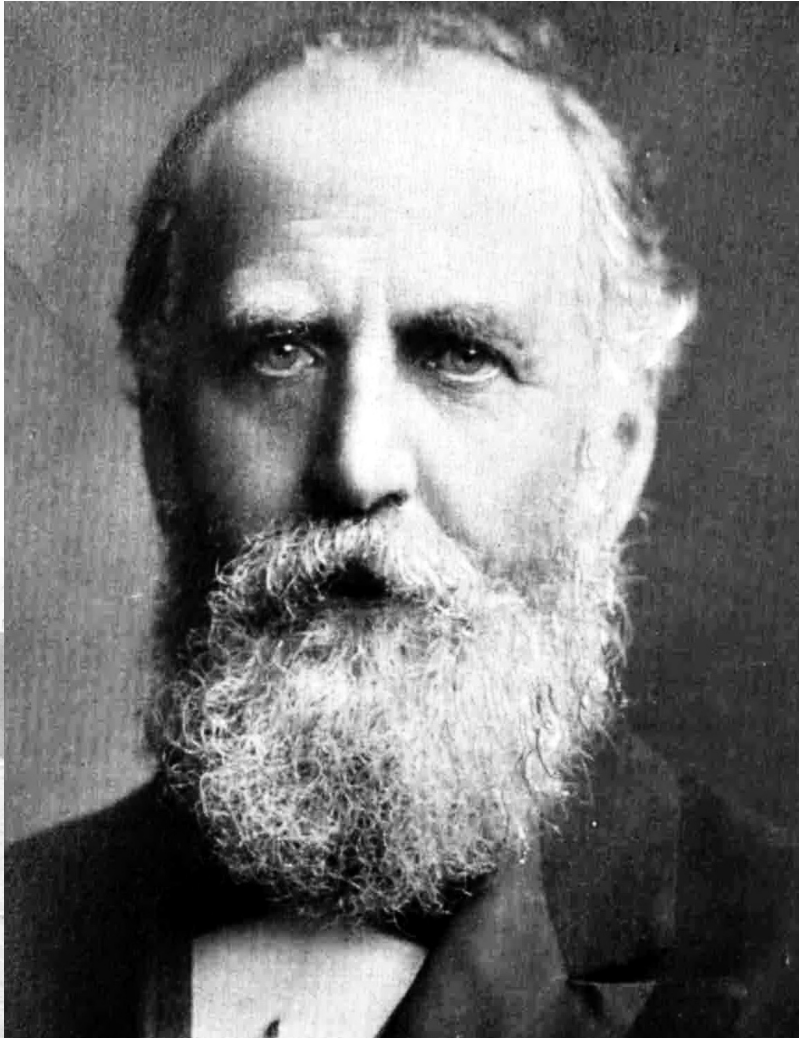
→ UN Commission on
the Status of Women



- Edith Bowerman injured in
Parliament Square, 1910

- Elsie Bowerman : first woman
barrister

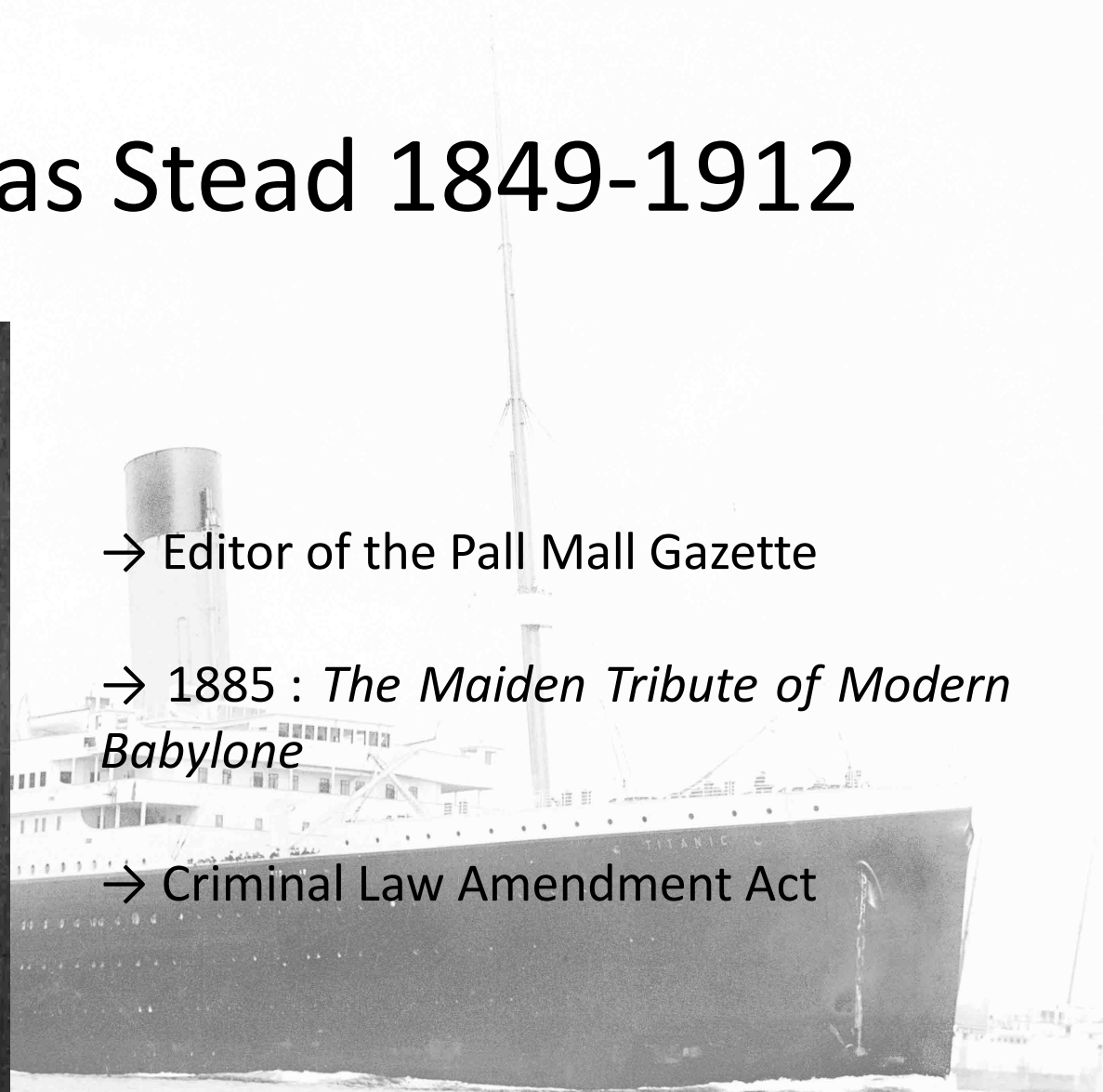
William Thomas Stead 1849-1912



→ Editor of the Pall Mall Gazette

→ 1885 : *The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylone*

→ Criminal Law Amendment Act



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Thank you for your attention!

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