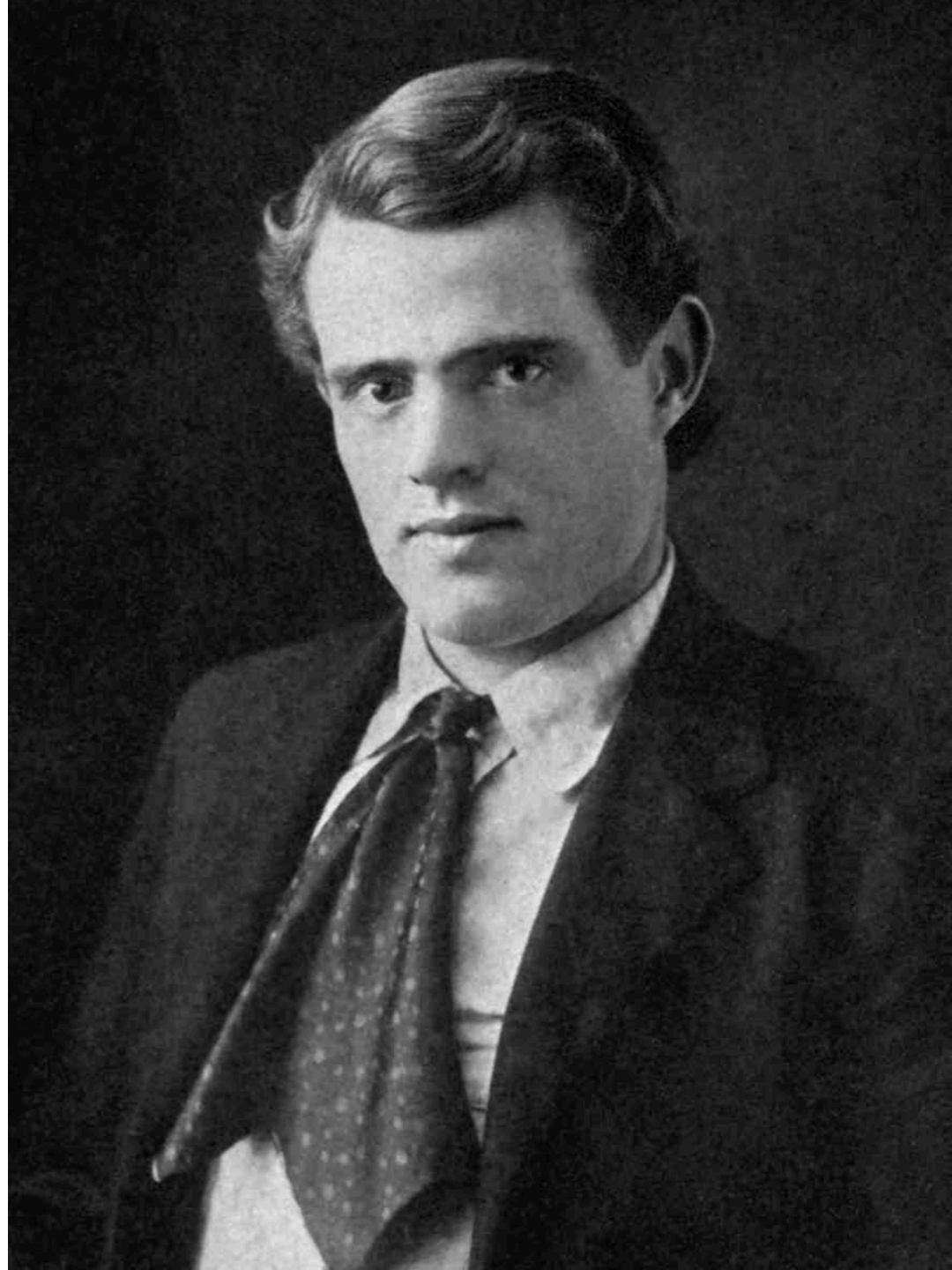


“The Iron Heel”
(1908)
Jack London

Peace Chung



Circumstances of the Times

- Depression of 1873
- Pittsburgh Railroad Strike, July Riots of 1877 (response to lowered wages)
- Haymarket Riot of 1886 (bombing)
- Great Panic of 1893 (depression)
- Industrialization, Monopolies, Trusts
- Utopian/Dystopian texts published
- Influences of socialist thinkers (Karl Marx)

Governance/Economics

- 3 main classes
- Capitalist rule challenged by socialism
- Karl Marx's theory of surplus value
- Fight over power of machines and trusts



Human Rights

- Jackson's case
 - Blood dripping on her gowns and rooftops
- Freedom of speech and press
- Plutocrats abuse power, control people's rights



Religion

- Bishop Morehouse = symbol of vulnerable church
- “Church is not teaching Christ these days...the Church is supported by the capitalist class” (Ch. 2)
- “The Bishop obeyed Christ’s injunction and got locked up in a madhouse...Society has spoken” (Ch. 12)



Conclusion

- Meredith's footnotes and forward give insight, from 700 years into the future
- Multiple Revolts against the Iron Heel for hundreds of years
- Iron Heel eventually topples, due to its own vulnerabilities rather than to a successful revolution