With this analysis, my intention was to demonstrate the presence of oppressive capitalist ideologies and the logic of the discourses they inform within 20th century, leftist protest literature—specifically in *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, *Native Son* by Richard Wright, and *Spartacus* by Howard Fast. I wanted to examine the ways that such discourses are at play in the literature, even in those pieces that sought to criticize the social system in which they were produced. To better analyze the patriarchal, racist, capitalist ideologies and the discourses through which they are expressed, I sought a theoretical foundation with bell hooks’ *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* and Michel Foucault’s *The History of Sexuality, vol. 1*. With the guidance of these two texts, I uncovered ideologies supporting notions of biological determinism and the dominating effects of the Western discourse on sexuality. I lastly drew from M. M. Bakhtin’s collection of essays, *The Dialogic Imagination*, to illustrate the function of the novel in the creation and evolution of meaning within literature. With the final piece of theory, I explored the dynamic nature of literature in light of the guiding ideologies within the active discourses, in that the presence of both does not guarantee a deterministic literary product, yet does guide the eventual conceptual understanding gained from the piece. This duality is illustrative of the special function of the literary novel—to both reflect the dominant culture and its multiplicity of discourses, while at the same time represent the ever-evolving state of the written language.