

depth of theory would have given this book additional weight, Spiers's work still stands as a solid review of the ways that the emergent suburbs of Washington, DC, dealt with questions of growth and its environmental effects throughout the second half of the twentieth century.

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**A History of Occupational Health and Safety: From 1905 to the Present.** *By Michelle Follette Turk. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2018. xii + 356 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. Cloth \$44.95, e-book \$44.95.*

Although this book is a history of occupational health and safety in southern Nevada and not an overarching chronicle as the title promises, it is a highly valuable study. The book's major contribution is asking what happens when we center place in our studies of workplace safety. Most studies of the issue examine a specific industry or a time period, but Michelle Follette Turk looks at workplace safety across a number of industries in one of the most unique economic and physical geographies in the United States. Building upon historians such as Christopher Sellers and Linda Nash, Turk convincingly demonstrates the value of an ecological history of bodies at the workplace. From building the railroad and Hoover Dam to the rise of the Nevada Test Site and the casinos and hotels of Las Vegas, Turk demonstrates a repeated history of employer indifference toward safety rules and workers' lives until it is often too late.

Two opportunities that Turk's approach provides is to bring the natural landscape and climate into stories of workplace health as well as to center local and state politics. Southern Nevada's desert heat provided workplace challenges for any laborer working outside. Despite its aridity, the occasional downpour led to the majority of railroad derailments in the region. Moreover, the heat and isolation of Las Vegas forced the railroad to build medical facilities there and to hire doctors from outside the region for workers and residents. At least seventeen workers died of heat stroke during construction of the Hoover Dam until workers went on strike in 1931 and won demands

to make the workplace safer and have a hospital built. Repeatedly, the region's isolation led to a shortage of hospital beds and doctors as its boom-and-bust economy went through expansionary phases. Nevada's isolation made it the location for the nation's nuclear testing program in the Cold War. The government took workplace safety for nuclear workers more seriously than previous southern Nevada employers. Yet accidents still occurred, and workers died of leukemia they blamed on radiation exposure. In the end, the government marched forward with a nuclear-testing regime that allowed for doses of radiation far higher than what would actually keep workers healthy, leading to widespread cancer among Nevada Test Site employees, which Turk describes as "a tragic chapter in America's occupational health history" (p. 228).

Nevada also billed itself as a business-friendly state, and Las Vegas's entrepreneurs took advantage of that to build its unique economy. While one might not think of casinos as particularly unhealthy or dangerous, Turk demonstrates, in fact, the many real and avoidable problems for workers in this postindustrial workplace. Women faced sexual harassment and violence in an industry where employers carefully monitored female workers' looks and weight and where the possibility of sex attracted tourists. Safety protocols for the new hotels barely existed, and massive fires at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Grand and Las Vegas Hilton in the early 1980s killed both workers and guests. Secondhand smoke, poor indoor air quality, and exposure to cleaning chemicals created health problems that ranged from annoying to cancerous. Successful unionization of the resorts helped lead to improved safety procedures. The open atmosphere of Las Vegas had contributed to some workplace safety problems far earlier, with workers during World War II often showing up drunk, losing their earnings in gambling, and succumbing to high rates of venereal disease, leading to high labor turnover and an inexperienced workforce.

Both the political culture and natural environment added to the general employer indifference to workplace safety to make southern Nevada a more dangerous place for workers than necessary. Six Companies, which built the Hoover Dam, faced lawsuits over the workers who suffered from carbon monoxide poison while digging tunnels, and the company was more concerned about limiting fraudulent cases than fixing the problem. The magnesium plant that opened near Las Vegas during World War II suffered from fires, and workers dealt with gassings. These stories are similar to so many other experiences of workers throughout American industrial history, as Turk notes in detail.

Overall, Turk effectively makes the case that centering place in studies of occupational health and safety adds richness and depth to the story. This is a worthwhile study with which future scholars of the subject will need to reckon.

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**Environmental Justice in Postwar America: A Documentary Reader.** Edited by Christopher W. Wells. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2018. xx + 308 pp. Illustrations, map, tables, and index. Cloth \$90.00, paper \$24.00.

The *Washington Post* had it almost right when it spotted the arrival of an environmental justice movement in the “marriage of civil rights activism with environmental concerns” in the September 1982 protests against a toxic waste landfill in Warren County, North Carolina. An interracial chain of African American civil rights leaders, white environmentalists, and diverse local people had blocked the first of 7,223 planned truckloads of soil laced with polychlorinated biphenyls to be dumped in a predominantly working-class and minority area. As Christopher W. Wells illustrates in *Environmental Justice in Postwar America: A Documentary Reader*, the first book of its kind, beneath the simplicity of the marriage metaphor lurked the reality that the coalescing movement was, in fact, downright antagonistic to a mainstream environmental movement that was mostly white and affluent and more concerned with wilderness preservation than public health. And environmental justice (EJ) did not arrive spontaneously in 1982. Through the book’s structure, in its introduction, and via the primary sources themselves, Wells argues that the EJ movement cannot be understood apart from the landscapes of pollution and inequality created alongside postwar affluence and that EJ still wears the marks of its foundational struggles with mainstream environmentalism and the institutions established to do its bidding in the last three decades of the twentieth century.

Wells organizes the primary sources into three mostly chronological sections, each prefaced by his own brief commentary. The first, “The Nature of Segregation,” illustrates how racist public policy and private action created the postwar landscape of environmental