

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry, by Priscilla Long. New York: Paragon House, 1989. xxv, 420 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ALLAN KENT POWELL, UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Where the Sun Never Shines is an ambitious effort to provide the first comprehensive history of America's coal industry. It traces the use of coal beginning in China and medieval England through the development of coal mining as part of the industrial revolution up to 1920 when John L. Lewis became president of the United Mine Workers of America.

The book is divided into two parts. Part one contains a general examination of coal mining in America up to 1900, including the topics of work, values, and conflict. Part two, "Coal in the American West: Catalyst of Conflict and Change," consists of a study of coal mining in Colorado, climaxing with the Colorado Strike of 1913-14 and its aftermath with corporate attempts to organize consent through public relations programs, company unions, and more effective manipulation of the federal government.

A relative newcomer to the study of America's coal industry, Priscilla Long has published previous essays on Mother Jones and on women of the Colorado fuel and iron strike of 1913-1914. Nevertheless, her writing reflects an impressive grasp of the complex world of coal mining. She recognizes the importance of a technical understanding of coal and coal mining. In her prologue she gives a helpful and articulate summary of coal. Other chapters describe the different types of coal mines, how coal was mined, why mines were so unsafe, and changing technology in the mines. She also covers child labor, mine owners, the professional manager, coal company abuses, the impact of immigration and ethnicity in the coal fields, coal miners and the Civil War, and the rise of worker associations culminating in the establishment of the United Mine Workers of America in 1890 and its first decade of activity. Part one, then, is a synthesis of coal mining in the United States up to 1900.

Part two looks at one specific and important area of the country—Colorado during the first fifty years of coal mining (1870-1920). While other accounts of the Colorado Strike of 1913-1914 (notably George S. McGovern and Leonard F. Guttridge, *The Great Coalfield War* [1972]; Zeese Papanikolas, *Buried Unsung: Louis Tikas and the Ludlow Massacre* [1982]; and Barron B. Beshoar, *Out of the Depths: The Story of John R. Lawson, A Labor Leader* [1942]) provide more detail on the strike, Long's summary of the history of Colorado coal mining up to 1913 is the most complete and most useful.

Where the Sun Never Shines is carefully researched, well written, useful, and insightful. Nevertheless, the book is not the comprehensive study of America's coal industry that it claims to be. With the focus on Pennsylvania and Colorado, Long ignores mining in the rest of the country. Residents of most other coal-mining states—including Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri—will search in vain for any reference to events and developments in their states. Ending the story of coal mining in 1920 with the rise of John L. Lewis to the United Mine Workers' highest office excludes a seventy-year period that is just as dramatic and significant in American history as the period up to 1920. A comprehensive study of coal mining in America remains to be written. *Where the Sun Never Shines* is not that comprehensive history, but it is still an impressive and useful synthesis of many of the aspects of coal mining. It significantly enhances our understanding of coal mining in America.

Pure Food: Securing the Federal Food and Drugs Act of 1906, by James Harvey Young. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1989. xiii, 312 pp. Notes, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY MARY YEAGER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Beware. Food, drugs, and meat may be hazardous to your health. They can be ingested and digested in many forms and different amounts; they can be adulterated with different substances in various ways with ambiguous effects on consumer health and well-being. Distinguishing which substances in what amounts will have which particular effects is a very risky business, which is probably why many societies, at some point or another, have transferred the risk and the costs associated with their detection to the government. In the United States, the federal government first assumed broad responsibilities for regulating the food and drug supply in 1906, some fifty-eight years after passing the first law against imported adulterated drugs, and long after England and Europe had done so.

In *Pure Food*, historian James Harvey Young sets out to explain why the United States took so long to safeguard the public's food and drug supply. Having already exposed *The Toadstool Millionaires* and *Medical Messiahs* in two previous eponymously titled books, Young is well poised to synthesize the vast literature on the 1906 law and to impose his own vision on the crusade for pure food. That vision, fine-tuned by years of meticulous research in congressional documents and hearings and a short stint on former President Carter's National Food and Drug Advisory Council, derives from Young's conceptuali-

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