

Regardless of this small concern, the book is critically important to the development and evolution of African American historiography.

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The Glass House Boys of Pittsburgh: Law, Technology, and Child Labor. By JAMES L. FLANNERY. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009. 248 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.)

Progressive Era social reformers made abolishing child labor a holy cause. For several decades, however, the glass bottle industry of western Pennsylvania proved to be one the most impregnable bastions they faced. James Flannery's monograph focuses on Progressive reformers and the interplay among politics, culture, and technological change.

In the first chapter, Flannery describes key organizations committed to abolition of child labor—the National Consumers League (NCL), the American Association for Labor Legislation (AALL), and the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)—and the most important activists, especially Florence Kelley. These organizations approached the issue differently, reflecting a gender divide among Progressive reformers. Male reformers, Flannery suggests, viewed social problems as inefficiencies that needed to be rationalized, and they portrayed themselves as disinterested experts above the political fray. The overwhelmingly male AALL approached child labor in this way. Female reformers like Kelley, Flannery argues, considered child labor a moral issue and tended to be more activist and radical. Both approaches proved useful as reformers tried to push child labor reform through state governments.

Child labor reformers pursued a multipronged legislative strategy. They supported laws that prohibited industrial labor below a certain age, restricted children's night work, made education compulsory so as to keep children out of the labor force, and mandated factory inspections to enforce these regulations. On paper, the Pennsylvania legislature appeared to commit itself to all of these programs. But to the frustration of child labor reformers, child labor persisted in the Pennsylvania glass bottle industry because of weak factory inspection policies and because the legislature repeatedly authorized a glass house exception to statutes that limited child labor in other industries.

Flannery argues that four mutually reinforcing factors enabled child labor to persist in the glass bottle industry. First, the glass manufacturers organized as a potent lobbying group. Second, the glass boys came from poor, immigrant families who opposed child labor reform because they needed multiple income streams. Third, the industry's powerful union collaborated with the glass compa-

nies' lobbying efforts. It did so in response to the fourth factor: technological change. Like most craft unions, the Glass Bottle Blowers Association had opposed child labor both for humanitarian reasons and to prevent cheap child labor from undercutting adult union wage scales. It changed its position, however, after the union's president, Denis Hayes, saw a demonstration of newly patented automatic bottle-making machinery in 1905. Hayes immediately recognized that the new machinery threatened his members' craft with technological obsolescence. When the patent owners decided to introduce the machinery slowly, Hayes realized that union member jobs in firms that did not adopt the new machinery could only be maintained by supporting managerial efforts to cut labor costs. Simply stated, child labor was cheap.

The author closes the volume with a detailed legislative history of the abandonment of the glass house exception, but the book's sudden ending is mildly disappointing. Flannery does not offer a concluding section that places the story into a larger historical context that demonstrates how this case study casts light on larger historical questions. Readers would benefit from a summary and conclusion that reiterate the study's overarching goals.

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The Age of Smoke: Environmental Policy in Germany and the United States, 1880–1970. By FRANK UEKOETTER. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009. 360 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$26.95.)

The Age of Smoke, an English translation of Uekoetter's 2003 German work, fits into recent historiographical trends that have come to understand the history of environmental reform to be more complex than commonly perceived. Reform, in this evaluation, has rarely been the product of upright moral crusaders protecting nature against the wiles of industrial polluters; instead, Uekoetter notes that the history of air-pollution regulation reveals that "while it is clear in some cases who was wearing the white hat and who the black, most look pretty grayish in retrospect" (11). In *The Age of Smoke*, Uekoetter argues that, in both nations, cooperation between public and private interests produced effective air cleanup well before the era of federal legislation.

The Progressive Era saw remarkable success in controlling the coal-smoke "nuisance" in the United States, largely through widespread municipal campaigns that led to local regulation. More significantly, Uekoetter maintains that this success was the result of a process that involved citizen activists, municipal government, and private industry. Industry was not universally opposed to smoke controls, and indeed some business leaders were on the vanguard of city clean-air campaigns. In Germany, the same period saw much more limited air reform, in