

Alaska have bucked the postwar trend toward deregulation and, with the aid of conservative lawmakers and businessmen, jettisoned the free market for a regulatory regime that has limited access, diminished competition, and implemented quotas.

Some will complain that this book is too optimistic. For example, Blackford heralds Wal-Mart and other retailers for promoting sustainability, but aren't these retailers responsible for overconsumption (and overfishing) in the first place? Some will suggest that the lessons of Alaska are not readily applicable to other global fisheries, such as those in Africa, where poor, unstable nations have allowed their fisheries to be exploited at unsustainable levels. Some will note that this book focuses too little attention on the global perspective (which comes primarily in the conclusion) and too much attention on overfishing as the main source of fisheries decline, with little discussion of factors such as habitat destruction, from which Alaska has been uniquely protected. But all critiques aside, Blackford has written a book that aspires to the old ideal of actually seeing what we can learn from history, which makes this book a worthwhile read for anyone interested in fisheries, environmental sustainability, public policy, and political economy.

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Blue Sky Metropolis: The Aerospace Century in Southern California. Western Histories Series. Edited by Peter J. Westwick. (Berkeley: University of California Press; San Marino: Huntington Library, 2012. xii + 308 pp. Illustrations, table, notes, bibliography, index. \$44.95, £30.95.)

The creation of machines that gave individuals the ability to fly is arguably the most important technological development of the twentieth century. The eons-old dream to

shed the bonds of Earth became a reality with the first flight of the Wright brothers in 1903. The air industry started out quite small and dispersed throughout the United States but grew quickly; many of its largest firms were located in Southern California. By World War II, this industry had grown into a huge sector of the U.S. economy, employing more than 1 million workers and contributing more than 5 percent to the gross domestic product. During the Cold War era, in the latter half of the twentieth century, the relationship of Southern California to the industries, economies, and culture of flight remained tightly interlocked, and this relationship has continued in the twenty-plus years since the demise of the Soviet Union.

Blue Sky Metropolis is an essential work in any effort to understand the significance of aerospace technology in the life and culture of Southern California. Editor Peter J. Westwick, who has provided exemplary leadership of the Aerospace History Project, sponsored by the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, has assembled a creditable collection of essays. Some chapters are more interesting and valuable than others, but collectively, they are a useful whole. Some are personal essays, such as those by D. J. Waldie and M. G. Lord. Others are standard research papers that build on existing knowledge to deepen understanding, such as those by Mihir Pandya, Sherman N. Mullin, Dwayne A. Day, Glenn E. Bugos, and Wade Graham. And some, such as those by Anita Seth, Stuart W. Leslie, Westwick, Patrick McCray, and Zuoyue Wang, break new and important ground. Some are part of the new social history in the best sense of the term, especially Wang's study of Chinese American scientists and engineers and Seth's essay on aerospace labor relations.

Especially useful is Westwick's essay on the relationship between Hollywood special effects technicians and aerospace

visualization (such as what NASA produces about planetary exploration for public consumption). Also fascinating is McCray's investigation of the relationship between right-wing "cold warriors" and ideas of space colonization emphasized in such pro-space groups as the L5 Society. Finally, Leslie's contribution on aerospace modernism breaks new ground in the relationship between these two arenas in the twentieth century.

This very strong collection includes some pathbreaking essays, an interesting photo essay, and a selective bibliography (with the emphasis on "selective"). Raising as many questions as it answers, *Blue Sky Metropolis* opens intriguing new avenues for investigation.

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Plague, Fear, and Politics in San Francisco's Chinatown. By Guenter B. Risse. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. xii + 371 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, index. \$39.95.)

Guenter B. Risse's meticulously researched work on San Francisco's outbreak of bubonic plague, *Plague, Fear, and Politics in San Francisco's Chinatown*, contributes to the flourishing scholarship on that city's Chinatown. Nayan Shah has ably demonstrated the relationship between disease and the racialization of the Chinese in the United States. Risse focuses on one aspect of Shah's larger story to add further detail to our understanding of the conflicts between Chinese and white communities, finally concluding that the plague brought a measure of cooperation between them. Risse's training as both physician and historian allows him to offer rich insight into the culture, politics, and society of early twentieth-century San Francisco as well

as the conflicts between Eastern and Western understandings of death and disease and the development of public health regulation in the Progressive Era.

The book consists of two parts, the first of which addresses a series of thematic "pre-plague" topics, including the cultural context of early twentieth-century Chinatown, Chinese understandings of disease, the earliest plague cases in the city, and the respective response of local and national health officials and Chinese community leaders. The second half, which is organized chronologically, walks the reader through the century's first five years, as periodic outbreaks of plague terrified city residents and complicated local, state, and national relations with Chinese immigrants, merchants, and officials.

Risse uses Chinese-language sources and existing research on Chinese history and culture to develop a finely textured portrayal of the world in which Chinese immigrants lived and worked. His choice to begin with the Chinese rather than the American context reinforces his desire to show the cultural construction of disease and reminds us that most of those affected by the plague were Chinese. He argues that Chinese cultural understandings of death and disease affected the Chinese response to the outbreak while a spectrum of political and social concerns shaped the white response, ranging from the familiar story of the campaign to move Chinatown to political conflicts between U.S. immigration officials and city leaders worried about the plague's effects on California's economy. Risse effectively weaves these stories together to conclude that although the plague certainly contributed to the racial Othering of the Chinese—well-documented by other scholars—in other ways the experience brought Chinese and white communities closer together. As he notes, "Early disdain and aggression by eager sanitarians . . . transformed into greater toleration, reciprocated by some Chinese willing to