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*A History of Occupational Health and Safety: From 1905 to
the Present* by Michelle Follette Turk (review)

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(Review)

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and her fellow cycliennes demonstrate how much the bicycle was a revolutionary piece of technology that transformed how men and women interacted, exercised, and lived their lives.

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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. Pp. ix, 356. \$44.95 hardcover)

The industrial and postindustrial landscape introduced an ever-evolving series of risks to the American worker, their communities, and the environment. To manage these dangers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, and workers worked together to develop the field of industrial health. The second half of the twentieth century saw industrial health expand into occupational health as recognition grew that industrialization posed threats that reached beyond the workplace. Occupational health investigates the intersection of industrial safety, legal practices, federal policies, medicine, the environment, immigration, and so much more. While the historiography of occupational health is rich, few historians have attempted to produce a broad synthesis uniting these elements to create a large-scale narrative explaining safety shifts from the nineteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first. Michelle Follette Turk's *A History of Occupational Health and Safety: From 1905 to the Present* starts to fill that void.

Turk organizes this massive endeavor in two ways. First, she limits the scope of her project to Nevada. The state had a close relationship with the federal government, providing a rich pool of corporate and public-work projects with which to explore the relationships between the federal and state governments, the medical community and legal system, and industry and labor. To unite these narratives together, Turk uses her second major organizational tool: the occupational health regime. Building upon the work of historians Christopher Sellers and Joseph Melling, Turk's concept of an occupational health regime includes the range of interests involved in managing industrial risks and the widespread damage they produced. These dynamic regimes emphasize the role of medicine, work, and safety programs in safety and health.

Turk breaks the history of occupational health in Nevada into three distinct periods. The first covers the era from the start of industrialization in the United States to World War II. As Americans died from disease, the environment, and most often accidents, companies and the federal government came to learn that safety campaigns and worker medical care helped profits and efficiency. Chapter one explores the industrial health regime, so called because it was limited to the workplace that emerged from the construction of a railroad connecting Salt Lake City to Los Angeles. Workers suffered from heat stroke, violence, and, more often, accidents caused by human error. Building upon statistical and scientific advances, the railroad eventually built a town and developed medical care to improve the efficiency of their workforce. Throughout, the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad (LA&SL) continually refused to accept any responsibility for their workers' safety and health.

The same era witnessed the construction of the Hoover Dam, a story recounted in chapter two. The dam was a federal project involving two states, a massive reconstruction of the land, and numerous accidents ascribed to human error. To protect their workforce, a consortium known as Six Companies, Inc. followed many of the same steps as the LA&SL, building a town and providing health insurance. The Hoover Dam project expanded occupational health regimes in several ways, most significantly by laying the groundwork for employer liability claims in the coming decades. And finally, chapter three ends the analysis of this first era of occupational health by examining the risks involved in the operation of Basic Refractories, Inc.'s magnesium plant during World War II. The plant employed more than twice the number of employees as the Hoover Dam. While many patterns of the period persisted, the war helped to bring occupational health to the national stage, strengthening challenges to employer and federal laissez-faire approaches to worker health and safety.

The fourth chapter begins the examination of Turk's second period of occupational health extending from the end of World War II to the 1970s. During this era, statewide nuclear testing introduced a new concept of workplace risk. As radiation poisoning demonstrated that workplace risks could develop over a lifetime, industrial health broadened into occupational health. The nuclear contractors always concerned themselves with employee safety, but it would take time to understand workplace risks could emerge long after employment. As lawsuit after lawsuit commenced, knowledge about radiation's long-term effects became public and the legal system helped to reinforce the notion that employers and the federal government had

responsibility for their workers' health and safety. The development of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OHSA) at the beginning of the 1970s represented a broader acceptance of this new relationship.

The fifth and final chapter uses the Las Vegas Strip to highlight the dangers of the postindustrial workplace. The rise of the megaresorts helped to make hospitality one of the largest fields of employment in Nevada. While the pressure to finish construction led to accidents reminiscent of the past, other injuries like respiratory issues, dermatitis, and carpal tunnel emanated from the work environment. These risks were harder to define and required a broader occupational health regime.

Michelle Follette Turk's *Occupational Health and Safety: From 1905 to the Present* is a detailed overview recounting the complex stories behind five case studies. A strong addition to the historiography of occupational health, the study provides a wealth of material for any historian interested in the field. Her work could benefit from a clearer framework that foregrounds the significance of these stories within a larger American history. For example, in the conclusion Turk argues that her work highlights three themes: workplace hazards can reemerge, disasters do not necessarily lead to safety improvements, and industry is not the only actor in creating risks. All are useful insights, but the reader might wonder about how connections to broader historical trends like concepts of risk, for example. Turk's work is an important, instructional, and interesting contribution to the historiography of occupational health, one that will be of use to anyone interested in Las Vegas, occupational health, business history, medical history, and liability history.

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Hopi Runners: Crossing the Terrain between Indian and American. By Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2018. Pp. 296. \$27.95 hardcover; \$17.87 ebook)

On the day before I began my field research for my dissertation, I sat with anthropologist Peter Nabokov in his office at UCLA. He looked at me, smiled, and quoted William Blake: "When you get out there, I don't want you to get lost in the narrowness of your topic. I want you to see the world in a grain of sand." This is what historian and American Indian studies professor Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert has done in his