

Democrats undercut social advances in the South. As convict laborers, African Americans influenced daily mining operations and administrative policy through strikes, arson, and other forms of resistance. They used prison reforms to gain early release, expose contractors' abuses, and maintain communication with their families. Moreover, through their experiences in the prison mines, they became strongly class conscious. Many black ex-convicts in Alabama subsequently joined the local Knights of Labor and United Mine Workers, where they helped build a tradition of labor militancy in the region, though they often faced racial discrimination within the movement.

Curtin discusses the black leadership's opposition to the lease system and the predicaments of men and women caught in the southern legal system. She engages the literature on resistance in contemporary black history, though, inexplicably, she does not draw on work of Robin D. G. Kelley, who brought James C. Scott's "hidden transcripts" thesis to the field. Curtin draws parallels between the convict-lease system of the nineteenth century and the "prison-industrial complex" of today. Both involve the linking of race and criminality and the use of inmates to generate private profit. In light of the legacies of the past, she concludes, current incarceration policies raise the question of "whether a highly disproportionate number of African Americans in prison indicates deep social inequities" (p. 216). Well-researched and -argued, Curtin's work is appropriate for both upper-level undergraduate and graduate-level courses.

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*The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction.* By Linda Gordon (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999. Pp. xii, 416. Maps, illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95).

Linda Gordon's book focuses on the placement of forty Irish-Catholic orphans with Mexican copper-mining families in Arizona. Protestant Anglos in Morcenci-Clifton seized the children and refused to return them to either the Mexican families or the New York Foundling Hospital. The episode provides Gordon with an opportunity to explore numerous variables such as whiteness, race, religion, and gender. Anglo women who saw the arrival of the "orphan train" expected the children to be available to them for adoption. When they were not allowed to adopt the children they launched a crusade to take them from the Mexicans. While under other circumstances, Catholic children being given to Catholics would have been seen as appropriate, white Protestants framed the issue not as kidnaping, but rather as saving the children from the "abuse" of Mexican homes, which by their definition were unfit environments for white children.

Tracing the events to the U.S. Supreme Court case, Gordon explores the dynamics of the border culture by race, class, ethnicity, religion, occupation, and gender. She studies the changing group dynamics following the expulsion of Chinese miners and the strike of 1903 and argues that skilled better-paid Mexicans, who had achieved some acceptance, were redefined as “other” and excluded from whiteness. Whether the strike, the kidnaping, or economic transformation was the key factor is unclear, since other mining towns underwent similar changes.

Gordon demonstrates that women, whether Foundling Hospital nuns, Anglos, or Mexicans, were not as passive in the public sphere as is sometimes assumed. Mexican women had a role in adopting the orphans, as did Anglo women in the kidnaping and mob activity. Labor, benefit societies, and child welfare policies also constitute elements of Gordon’s narrative and analysis.

Her discussion of whiteness, while not original, as Gordon’s extensive footnotes acknowledge, is a fine example of current literature that wrestles with the multifaceted nature of how people define themselves and others. Considering the paucity of documentation, Gordon does a fine job piecing together the Mexicans’ role.

There are problems, many of which could have been eliminated by good editing. Lists of characters, chapters without numbers, and maps that reverse the normal way of showing geographical areas annoy the reader. There are also many typos. Gordon has, at times, an awkward style and an odd vocabulary. But her end notes are helpful and easy to use.

The book is well worth reading, as she uses the narrative of the orphans’ kidnaping to examine the complex issues of definition of self in two mining camps that were changing from the fluidity of the frontier into settled communities.

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*The Korean War: No Victors, No Vanquished.* By Stanley Sandler. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1999. Pp. xiv, 330. Maps, illustrations, notes, select bibliography, index. Cloth-bound, \$42.00; paperbound, \$19.00.)

The military encounter in Korea was one of the most important events in the Cold War. The events on this peninsula helped to define the nature of international conflict during the long period of the U.S.—Soviet confrontation. Yet, despite this significance, the level of attention historians have accorded Korea is sparse compared to the “good” war that preceded it and the divisive but strategically insignif-