



DANGER
LIVE WIRE

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2023 | ISSN 2515 - 0456

JUNEAU END OF TUNNEL
1242 LHP

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

Modern American History (MAH) showcases top-quality, emerging research on the history of the United States since the 1890s. Aiming to stimulate debate and make meaningful connections between the subfields of this vibrant and expansive field, the journal publishes compelling peer-reviewed articles as well as substantial review essays, forums, and other special features.

Executive Editors

Darren Dochuk, University of Notre Dame, IN, USA

Sarah B. Snyder, American University, DC, USA

Editorial Assistants

Cleveland Coleman, University of Notre Dame, IN, USA

Sean Raming, University of Notre Dame, IN, USA

Editorial Board

Thomas G. Andrews, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Beth Bailey, University of Kansas, KS

Katherine Benton-Cohen, Georgetown University, DC, USA

Amanda Cobb-Greetham, University of Oklahoma, OK, USA

Jefferson Cowie, Vanderbilt University, TN, USA

Pero G. Dagbovie, Michigan State University, MI, USA

William Deverell, University of Southern California, CA, USA

Ashley Farmer, University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA

Lauren Jae Gutterman, University of Texas at Austin, TX, USA

Claudrena Harold, University of Virginia, VA, USA

Madeline Y. Hsu, University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA

Sarah E. Igo, Vanderbilt University, TN, USA

Kevin M. Kruse, Princeton University, NJ, USA

Adriane Lentz-Smith, Duke University, NC, USA

Melani McAlister, George Washington University, DC, USA

Shaul Mitelpunkt, University of York, UK

Teasel Muir-Harmony, National Air & Space Museum, DC, USA

Margaret O'Mara, University of Washington, WA, USA

Leslie Paris, University of British Columbia, BC, Canada

Kimberly Phillips-Fein, New York University, NY, USA

Andrew Preston, University of Cambridge, UK

A. K. Sandoval-Strausz, Pennsylvania State University, PA, USA

Axel R. Schäfer, Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz/Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Germany

Cover image: Early-twentieth-century mining tunnel in Juneau, Alaska. Frank and Frances Carpenter collection (Library of Congress)

ISSN (Print): 2515-0456 ISSN (Online): 2397-1851

© Cambridge University Press and the individual contributors, 2023. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America

www.cambridge.org/mah

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

Volume 6, Issue 1, March 2023

Editors' Foreword 1

Articles

The German Plague: Contagion and Conspiracy in First World War America

Cameron James Givens

Why during World War One did Americans believe German saboteurs intentionally spread disease to unsuspecting humans and animals? 2

Selling Selective Anti-Statism: The Conservative Persuasion Campaign and the Transformation of American Politics since the 1920s

Peter Roady

How conservatives mobilized the full power of the burgeoning public relations profession to deliver billions of messages devaluing domestic policy, diminishing government oversight, and championing anti-statism as pure political doctrine 21

“A New Non-Entity”: Border Commuters, the Peyton Strike, and the Adverse Effect Standard in Immigration Law, 1958–1972

Sean Parulian Harvey

A case study of how labor unions operating in the borderlands adopted and advanced a language of immigration restriction and ultimately helped make the 1965 Hart-Cellar Act more exclusionary 44

Below the Fold

Forum: RIGHTS

How have conceptions of rights expanded? Why have existing rights been challenged? What obstacles remain to their realization?

U.S. Imperialism and Rights

A. Naomi Paik 64

Christianity, Human Rights, and American Political Polarization

Gene Zubovich 69

Abolition, Community Control, and the Right to the City

Simon Balto 74

“Gundamentalism”
Jennifer Tucker 78

Should Constitutional Rights Reflect Popular Opinion? Interpreting *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*
Mary Ziegler 88

Health Care Capitalism and the Precarious Right to Bodily Autonomy in the United States since the Rights Revolutions
Jonathan Bell 93

Q&A: The Writer’s Studio with Kelly Lytle Hernández

A leading scholar of Mexican American history, African American studies, and urban and borderlands history answers questions about researching unconventional sources, writing “rebel history” with purpose and urgency for today, and the inspiration of parents 98

The Soapbox

The Infrastructural Turn in Historical Scholarship
Mary Bridges
“Infrastructure” as a new way of researching and seeing the field 103

Into the Stacks

Children Saving Children: Humanitarianism, World War I, and American Childhood
Emmanuel Destenay
The American campaign to “adopt” (sponsor) French children during World War I and the centering of children in histories of war and humanitarianism 121

Corrigenda

U.S. Imperialism and Rights — CORRIGENDUM
A. Naomi Paik 132

Christianity, Human Rights, and American Political Polarization—CORRIGENDUM
Gene Zubovich 132

Abolition, Community Control, and the Right to the City—CORRIGENDUM
Simon Balto 133

“Gundamentalism”—CORRIGENDUM
Jennifer Tucker 133

Should Constitutional Rights Reflect Popular Opinion? Interpreting *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*—CORRIGENDUM

Mary Ziegler

134

Health Care Capitalism and the Precarious Right to Bodily Autonomy in the U.S. since the Rights Revolutions—CORRIGENDUM

Jonathan Bell

134