Zweig has the final word about the importance of this book: "Class understanding will help us to illuminate and ground the ethical dimensions of our politics . . . ."

Ellen Dammin
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The Archaeology of Collective Action.
140 pp. $24.95 paper.
DOI: 10.1177/0160449X08318572

As a new father, archaeologist Dean J. Saitta was emotionally moved by the excavation of baby spoons, diaper pins, and steel-jacketed bullets from what had been a cellar beneath one of the tents of the striking workers at Ludlow, Colorado. The artifacts showed that this long-departed family shared his Italian heritage on that fateful April day in 1914 when twenty-five working men, women, and children fell to the bullets of the Colorado militia. We do not know or remember their names because "Memory takes continuous work" that neither the media nor most historians are willing to do on behalf of a working class that corporate ideology makes invisible.

To most students, history is a boring recitation of names and dates. Saitta's archaeology confronts a range of evidence beyond the often class-biased written record and exaggerated hand-me-down memories to develop a more complete history to put at the service of the living. In rendering the invisible visible he attends to race, nationality, and gender as well as class.

This book takes a step in the restoration of the memory of the Ludlow massacre even though "The coal mining West is not the West that people want to see or hear about." It is the West that the capitalist class would like historians to continue to shroud in the mythologies of individualism boundless freedom, and wide-open spaces for tourists to conjure in place of the realities of a rapacious war on the working class in which, as robber baron Jay Gould boasted, a capitalist could, "hire one half of the working class to kill the other." Saitta points out that these processes of capitalism have been exacerbated under the Bush administration's assault on labor, knowledge, and memory.

The majority of visitors to the monument at the massacre site who expect to learn about an Indian massacre are testament to the expurgation of class and class warfare from popular history. How many of those tourists would know that the United States is virtually the only country that does not celebrate Labor Day on May 1 in commemoration of the violence against workers at Chicago's Haymarket that was emblematic of the Progressive Era?
A steel mill executive faced with hard bargaining in contract negotiations complained that workers were still mad about the Ludlow Massacre. The whole world is still mad about the Haymarket Massacre. It’s time Americans caught up and believed what we see in front of our eyes in our daily lives, a long and protracted class war that we are losing whenever we accept the corporate ideology that neoliberal ideologies, markets and corporate depravations are natural, inevitable, and necessary. The author persuasively argues that it’s time that academics stopped purveying this ideology in our research, writing, and teaching; stop making class and class warfare invisible in our work and teaching, and engage the politics of the living.

Saitta’s book provides an accessible grounding in archaeological theory to explain the importance of realistic engagements with the material remains of historical events for understanding social processes. Students and teachers of labor history will appreciate this book for its straightforward writing and its inclusiveness. Archaeologists will appreciate its frank engagement of theoretical, empirical, and political issues. It shows that far from being an esoteric and remote subject, archaeology is not only relevant, it’s important.

Paul Durrenberger
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Wobblies on the Waterfront: Industrial Unionism in Progressive-Era Philadelphia
DOI: 10.1177/0160449X08318576

How did an interracial union not only manage to organize but to thrive in Progressive Era Philadelphia? What factors led to that union’s eventual downfall? What lessons does this episode in labor history offer to us today? These questions are raised by Peter Cole in his fascinating new study of the IWW-affiliated Local 8, representing Philadelphia’s dockworkers from 1913 to 1922.

That Local 8 emerged in Philadelphia is remarkable in its own right, Cole tells us, as the city’s waterfront was the site of fierce competition for jobs, and this competition often divided dockworkers by race and ethnicity. Employers benefited from and even encouraged these divisions among workers, so that the emergence of a union committed to racial equality was not only difficult to maintain but critical to the successful organization of dockworkers. Moreover, Wobbly tactics and ideology encouraged direct action on the job, the place where Philly’s dockworkers had the most power. During the booming wartime economy, Local 8 effectively controlled hiring on the docks, and won improved working conditions and pay. Cole’s discussion of the reasons Local 8 was successful are among the book’s many strengths.

Local 8 managed to hang on, and even grow, during the postwar Red Scare of 1919–20, but ultimately Local 8 succumbed to a combination of internal divisions,