

RECENT REVIEWS

Working Americans Series

Working Americans, 1880-1999, Vol. I: The Working Class

Working Americans, 1880-1999, Vol. II: The Middle Class

Working Americans, 1880-1999, Vol. III: The Upper Class

Working Americans, 1880-1999, Vol. IV: Their Children

Working Americans, 1880-2003, Volume V: Americans at War

Working Americans, 1880-2004, Volume VI: Women at Work

Working Americans, 1880-2006, Volume VII: Social Movements

Working Americans, 1880-2007, Volume VIII: Immigrants

Working Americans, 1770-1869, Volume IX: The Rev. War to the Civil War

Working Americans, 1880-2009, Volume X: Sports & Recreation

“The accounts of the families make compelling reading. The overview of the decade that begins each chapter and the economic profile provided for each decade are useful for setting the context of the lives of the families examined. But it is the accounts of each family’s experiences that make for the most compelling reading. Although existing sources contain the economic data and major events of the decades covered, this volume is unique in that it puts a human face on the statistics...Each family profile also provides great insight into the manner in which the challenges and struggles of working-class families has changed across the decades. The volume ‘promises to enhance our understanding of the growth and development of the working class over more than a century.’ It capably fulfills this promise. This work will be a valuable tool for both researchers and educators. It is recommended for all types of libraries.”

–ARBA

“A unique study of the American working class...Overall, this volume engages and informs, contributing significantly and meaningfully to the historiography of the working class in America...A compelling and well-organized contribution for those interested in social history and the complexities of working Americans.”

–*Library Journal*

“This work is highly recommended for school libraries from middle school through high school as well as college libraries from community college through graduate school. It should be found in public libraries of every size.”

–ARBA

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“This eighth volume in the Working Americans series takes a thematic approach, and like the rest of the series, it describes its topic not by focusing on the achievements of the famous but on ordinary people. The volume is arranged by decade, and for each decade, two or three people who typify the immigrant experience are profiled. Accompanying the profiles are time lines, reproduction of period advertisements, excerpts from newspaper and magazine articles, and other items providing a sense of the period.”

–*Booklist*

“Derks adds to the genre of social history known as “history from the bottom up,” which examines the lives of ordinary people... Recommended for all college and university library collections.”

–*Choice*

“Libraries interested in economic and social history will be interested in this new multi-volume set which looks at the working class American, decade-by-decade to see the kind of work, wages, and the hours of labor, as well as the homes, food, clothes and entertainment families bought. Based on government statistics and surveys, social worker histories, family dairies and letters, newspaper and magazine articles, this is a fascinating look at the laborer. [Family profiles] examine income; expenses; and life at home, at work, and in the community. They make it possible to identify and therefore understand the problems and conditions of workers during that era... The whole volume is well illustrated with carefully selected pictures. This is no dull statistical compilation of economic history. It is a very interesting, readable account of life in the United States for the worker or laborer. It would be very useful for undergraduate students researching laborers or working and social conditions.”

–*Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*

“This set looks at what kind of work Americans did, the homes they lived in, the goods they bought, the entertainment they sought and the society and history that shaped their world... The well-organized books are designed to facilitate our understanding of the growth and development as well as the lifestyles and economic life of the working and middle classes over a century... These interesting, unique compilations of economic and social facts, figures and graphs will support multiple research needs. They will engage and enlighten patrons in high school, public and academic library collections.”

–*Booklist*

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