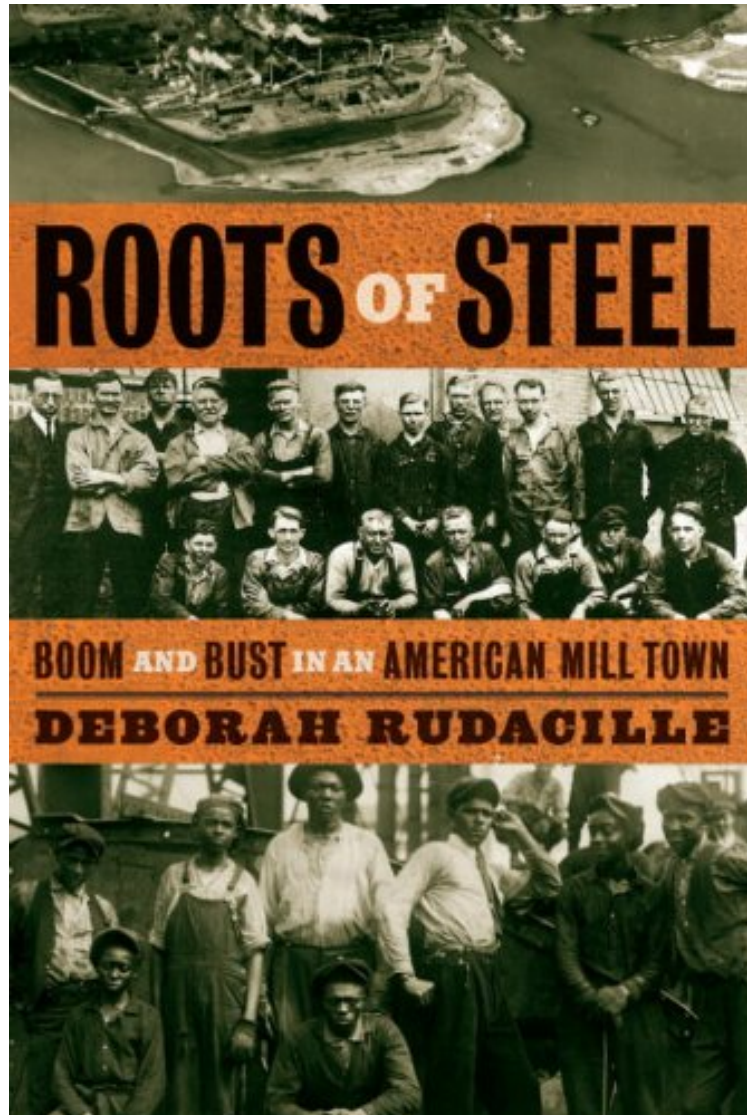


[Read free ebook] Roots of Steel: Boom and Bust in an American Mill Town

Roots of Steel: Boom and Bust in an American Mill Town

Deborah Rudacille

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#971620 in eBooks 2010-03-18 2010-03-23 File Name: B0036S0F76 | File size: 21.Mb

Deborah Rudacille : Roots of Steel: Boom and Bust in an American Mill Town before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roots of Steel: Boom and Bust in an American Mill Town:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Intriguing Look at B'more History Culture By Allie-IA An intriguing look at how race, politics, and corruption shaped the city of Baltimore. Many insights in this book help to inform the reader of the journey the city of Baltimore grew to become the diverse, troubled American city that it is today. As a Baltimore resident for over 20 years, I enjoyed learning historical information on the neighborhoods, places, and people who are part of my city's legacy. Subject matter of this nature can be dry, but Rudacille did a great

job of keeping it interesting. Since I read this book, two friends have both eagerly borrowed it and enjoyed it as well. I plan to read it again when I get it back! :-)

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting history of Sparrows Point. By craftypat. Being from the area, and married to a steelworker, I found this book very educational. There was so much in it that I didn't know. It was nice to read about some of the people I personally know or knew in school. This business was such an integral part of Edgemere, Sparrows Point, and surrounding communities. To see what it has done to the neighborhoods, and to peoples' lives, is so sad and tragic. How unfortunate that the heads of the company in various stages looked out for themselves first and the workers who made them last!! I don't think America will ever be the great nation it once was.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting read of what life was like working in the Steel Industry. By Jhobbs. Very interesting read of what life was like working in the Steel Industry. My only gripe was that the book did not have any photos.

When Deborah Rudacille was a child growing up in the working-class town of Dundalk, Maryland, a worker at the local Sparrows Point steel mill made more than enough to comfortably support a family. But in the decades since, the decline of American manufacturing has put tens of thousands out of work and left the people of Dundalk pondering the broken promise of the American dream.

In *Roots of Steel*, Rudacille combines personal narrative, interviews with workers, and extensive research to capture the character and history of this once-prosperous community. She takes us from Sparrows Point's nineteenth-century origins to its height in the twentieth century as one of the largest producers of steel in the world, providing the material that built America's bridges, skyscrapers, and battleships. Throughout, Rudacille dissects the complicated racial, class, and gender politics that played out in the mill and its neighboring towns, and details both the arduous and dangerous work at the plant and the environmental cost of industrial progress to the air and waterways of the Maryland shore.

Powerful, candid, and eye-opening, *Roots of Steel* is a timely reminder, as the American economy seeks to restructure itself, of the people who inevitably have been left behind.

From the Hardcover edition.

From Booklist: The American mill town in Rudacille's book is Dundalk, Maryland, developed as Bethlehem Steel's company burg for its enormous Sparrows Point complex near Baltimore. In this account of town and factory, Rudacille spans the century-plus since construction of a steel mill began, in 1887. Delivering a rust-belt story in outline, the author in substance recounts the tough conditions of steel-mill work, bargaining between the company and the union, and the racial and ethnic sociology of the workforce. A daughter of a Bethlehem steelworker, Rudacille deploys her familiarity with the steelmaking life to the benefit of her narrative, peppering it with her own anecdotes as well as those of her interviewees. Now-retired workers recollect the 1950s as the acme of prosperity, when production and employment peaked, while to others, occupational hazards such as asbestos exposure, pollution of surrounding waters, and racial discrimination belie the golden-age memory of a strong union and high wages and benefits. Capturing workers' experiences with a company emblematic of America's decline, Rudacille's work is a poignant contribution to American labor history. --Gilbert Taylor [An] affecting portrait of a decaying loop on the Rust Belt . . . Rudacille has delivered a book that would do Studs Terkel proud, partaking of his oral-historical approach to the past at turns, imbued with his pro-labor spirit throughout. Required reading for activists and for those wondering where things went wrong for America's working people. --Kirkus [With a rare combination of personal empathy and clear-eyed reportage, Deborah Rudacille has gone to the heart of Dundalk, Maryland and emerged with a careful, cohesive case-study of the American dream abandoned. For a relatively brief period, the United States reached its apogee on the world stage by validating its workers and their basic aspirations. In tough and unforgiving places like Baltimore's Bethlehem Sparrows Point complex, the world's most vibrant middle-class--indeed, a consumer class beyond any prior reckoning--was forged to fuel the economy of a great power. But now, only rust. *Roots of Steel* is nothing less than a chronicle of a great society unmoored, and Rudacille, at the heart of this reflection, aptly quotes the prescience of union stalwart John L. Lewis: "The future of labor is the future of America." God help us.] --David Simon, creator of *The Wire* Deborah Rudacille's latest book is a well-informed, engagingly written elegy to Baltimore steel as it's gone to rust--by an excellent writer with every reason to take this story personally.] --Madison Smartt Bell, author of *Devil's Dream* and *All Souls* Rising Deborah Rudacille's dirty and beautiful history of Baltimore steel is also a history of America. The steel manufactured in these Baltimore plants helped to build American icons like the Golden Gate Bridge, Madison Square Garden, and the U.S. Supreme Court. . . . About the Author Deborah Rudacille is a science writer and the author of *The Riddle of Gender: Science, Activism, and Transgender Rights* and *The Scalpel and the Butterfly: The War Between Animal Research and Animal Protection*. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.