Melville Attwood closed the operation in 1858.

Similarly, Woodland explores the seventy companies organized to operate in Australia, only ten of which sent miners to the goldfields. The author's previous book was a history of the one successful gold bubble company, the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company. Two chapters here discuss the company's initial failures, colonial conflicts with miners ("diggers" in Australia)—including the famous Eureka stockade rebellion—and the final ability of the company to evolve into an ore-processing firm, eventually a very profitable one. Its success coincided with the beginning of large-scale vein mining in the goldfields.

The book ends with a succinct review of the reasons for failure: distance, lack of capital, absence of vision or competence by board members, less-than-exceptional field managers, faulty machinery, and a number of government policies too outdated to facilitate investment. Woodland concludes that the development of a climate more friendly to corporations was unquestionably hastened by the sudden gold bubble demand. He writes that the bubble "exposed the need for sweeping reforms in both corporate governance and government legislation and regulations" (241). These policies would evolve, as did technology, gold mining skill, and management, in the following years.

The book benefits by the inclusion of an appendix containing all of the companies and their activities. Period illustrations and a few photographs are sprinkled throughout the text, as are a number of helpful maps.

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Susan F. Hirsch and E. Franklin Dukes. ***Mountaintop Mining in Appalachia: Understanding Stakeholders and Change in Environmental Conflict.*** Athens: Ohio University Press, 2014; 157 pp., 8 b&w illus., map, notes, ref., ind., paper, $23. ISBN: 9780821421109

The authors of *Mountaintop Mining in Appalachia* are Susan Hirsch and E. Franklin Dukes. Hirsch is a cultural anthropologist in the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University and Dukes is a mediator, teacher, and researcher who directs the Institute for Environmental Negotiation at the University of Virginia.

When I was asked to review this book I have to admit I began reading with the feeling that it was most likely biased against mining. After reading the acknowledgements, I had hope that the authors would present a balanced study of the issues and the stakeholders involved. At that point, I was encouraged that the book would be a fair portrayal of a very contentious issue, one that has become the focal point for anti-mining forces nationwide.

As I read the book though, I began to sense a disguised and subtle bias. Companies were generally portrayed as faceless entities, while environmental activists and big environmental groups were characterized as being for the people and portrayed as heroes. The authors do make the point that all of society is a stakeholder in mining, from the standpoint of both its impacts and benefits. Mining companies and owners are made up of people—many of whom are from the region—and provide not only a medium for profit to the owners and investors, but also benefit to the people of the region and nation.

I have read and reread the book in an attempt to be fair in my review. It repeatedly echoes the environmental activists' mantra and accepts many of their unproven claims about the damages to people and the Appalachian region caused by mining. I acknowledge that there are those with legitimate complaints against mining activities. Mining has a footprint that has to be dealt with and responsible mining companies do so.

The book falls short, however, by not accurately defining some of the technical issues behind mining and its environmental impacts. One glaring deficiency is the lack of a full discussion of the benefits of mountaintop mining and the beneficial uses of the reclaimed mine lands in the region. Throughout the book there seems to be an underlying assumption that mountaintop mining is wrong and should be outlawed.

Mining companies and those associated with them are portrayed as generally unwilling to participate in public discussions. Non-participation in public forums can be understood to some degree when, more often than not, the organizers, moderators, other participants, and the audience are stacked with opponents who can intimidate or threaten. I say that from personal experience with forums organized by journalist and activist Ken Ward, who is profiled in the book. The book intimates that it is the industry that tries to intimidate and threaten the activists, but seems to condone and glorify as simple civil disobedience acts of eco-terrorism against property owners and companies.

The best part of the discussion in the book is that on building consensus among stakeholders. When there is a fair and balanced attempt to do that the outcomes are better for everyone. Brad Kreps of The Nature Conservancy, who is highlighted in the book, is someone I know and with whom I have worked. He set an example of how collaboration can work. I participated in the 2007 symposium that is referenced in the book. Most other groups cited in the book have an agenda that is uncompromising and seemingly has but one goal: the abolition of coal mining.

Mountaintop removal mining has become the lightning rod for all opponents of coal mining nationwide. Another thing *Mountaintop Mining in Appalachia* does not adequately define or discuss is the difference between mountaintop removal mining and mountaintop mining. While there is a technical difference in the mining methods, the Environmental Protection Agency, in its 2005 Environmental Impact Statement on mountaintop mining, essentially redefined all surface mining in the Appalachian Region as mountaintop mining.

Another point of discussion that is missing is the issue of private property rights. My experience has shown that the vast majority of property owners in the region would prefer to have their property mined by mountaintop removal mining or mountaintop mining. Some of the most valuable property in the region is the reclaimed mountaintops.

Another misnomer in the discussion of mountaintop mining is the attempt to correlate and discuss coal refuse and slurry impoundments. In general terms, coal slurry impoundments are an absolute necessity with underground mining, but are not necessarily required with surface mining. Many environmental activists try to make the connection that slurry impoundments exist because of mountaintop removal mining or mountaintop mining. This book does not make the distinction.

For those not familiar with mountaintop removal mining and mountaintop mining, this book is, at best, an incomplete analysis of the issues and it does not give equal treatment to the viewpoints of miners, public supporters of the industry, industry stakeholders, and property owners. From a historic standpoint, the book does not go back to the roots of the mining method, the technological advances that made mountaintop removal mining possible.

Mountaintop removal mining was actually encouraged by the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. I state that from my experience of being involved in the industry during the writing and passage of the Act, and of working on government-funded research-and-development projects designed to enhance mountaintop removal mining. In another section of *Mountaintop Mining in Appalachia* the broad topic of "environmental justice" is discussed. An interesting point not mentioned in relation to environmental justice is that the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act is one of the most comprehensive pieces of federal legislation when it comes to dealing with environmental justice.

The final paragraph of *Mountaintop Mining in Appalachia* highlights again an underlying bias. Sprinkled throughout the book are short biographies and descriptions of particular stakeholders, however none of them include anyone representing miners, company officials, industry representatives, or the land owners whose land is being mined—an obvious omission. The book would have been more balanced had there been equal time given to those stakeholders. To be fair to the authors, perhaps they attempted to get more participation and input from the industry side.

My recommendation is to read the book and draw your own conclusions. It is actually more of a case study of how to successfully oppose mining projects. The takeaway for those involved in mining, regardless of where and what type, is to be more involved in community outreach up front to make sure the mining project is designed in the most responsible manner possible.

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Catherine Holder Spude. ***Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory.*** Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015; 344 pp., 24 b&w illus., 3 maps, 3 tabls., 2 append., notes, bib., ind., cloth, $25. ISBN: 9780806146607

Catherine Holder Spude has drawn upon her decades of experience and interest in Skagway, Alaska, to write a social and political history of its vice activities—drinking, gambling, and prostitution. With occasional reference to other Alaskan cities, particularly those in the panhandle, *Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory* is mostly a case study of Skagway from the gold-rush of 1897-98 to the closure of its last bordellos in November 1917.

Skagway erupted into being in the summer of 1897 as the closest port and supply center for the Klondike stampede. The town's raucous gold-rush years lasted until the turn of the century and produced the stereotypic western vice and violence, Skagway's vice having the advantage of a particularly colorful kingpin in the person of Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith. His lawlessness, and the vigilante justice it provoked in July 1898, personify Skagway's frontier period.

With the completion of the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad at the end of July 1900, Skagway became, in Spude's words, "a typical working-class railroad town struggling with many of the same issues facing all of America during the Progressive Era." Among these was the matter of how best to confront the vices in an overwhelmingly masculine, working-class community. Spude writes that 1901 to 1906 were the peak years of Skagway's vice district. The town's demography in that era was almost completely Euro-American, consisting mostly of working-class bachelors, but with middle-class married couples and families increasing in portion. At first both classes saw the vice district as necessary, both economically for the taxes it produced, and socially as a necessary outlet for male, working-class exuberance.

The problem was keeping the vices away from middle-class women and children. So at first the goal, in Skagway and countless other western resource-based communities, was to banish the vices and their practitioners from proximity to the respectable elements through the creation of a restricted district.

In Skagway, this arrangement was established in 1901, with the saloons, dance halls, gambling establishments, bordellos, and cribs relocated from many parts of town and restricted to an uptown area along Seventh Avenue. Owners and workers in the vice trades were generally left to their own there, with the city profiting from vice by issuing liquor licenses to the establishments and by regu-