



HANDS ON HISTORY

THE CENTRAL OHIO HISTORY PROJECT

Hands on History Seminar

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ESC of Franklin County

AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIZATION

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In 1890 the United States became the leading industrial and economic power in the world. Much of that achievement could be traced to the factories, entrepreneurs, and workers of the Midwest and, in particular, Ohio. Immigrants from southern and eastern Europe flocked to the automobile plants of Michigan and Ohio and to the steel mills of Pennsylvania and the Buckeye State. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the architect of Pearl Harbor and a naval attaché in Washington in the 1920s, warned Japanese militarists that, having seen the steel mills of Cleveland, a military victory over the U.S. was unlikely. But if American soldiers drove to victory in Jeeps manufactured in Toledo, their children were destined to live in the Rustbelt. By the early 1980s, after the last steel mills closed in Youngstown, the Mahoning River, which had long received red-hot industrial waste, froze over for the first time in a century. This seminar will examine the rise and fall of manufacturing with a particular emphasis on labor relations, economic change, and the failure of Ohio's northern industrial frontier to adapt to the global economy.



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



educational service center
of Franklin County



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To recognize the importance of Ohio to America's industrialization and deindustrialization.
- To identify the economic (and political) contributions immigrant workers have made to Ohio and to the nation.
- To understand the positive and negative impacts of unionization.

LEAD FACULTY BIO

Kenneth J. Heineman, a native of the Rustbelt, received his bachelor's in history from Michigan State University in 1984 and Ph.D. in social and political history from the University of Pittsburgh in 1990. He has taught at the University of Toledo, Iowa State University, and Ohio University-Lancaster.

Heineman has written four books. His first, Campus Wars (New York University Press), detailed antiwar protest at state universities in the 1960s, including Kent State University. His second book, God is a Conservative (New York University Press), analyzed the rise of social conservatism in post-World War II U.S. politics. The paperback edition of that work includes a new preface discussing the 2004 presidential election and the critical role Ohio and Fairfield County played in that contest. Heineman's third book, A Catholic New Deal (Penn State University Press), focused on the role religion played in the formation of the steel workers' union and the building of a Democratic electoral majority in Depression-era Pittsburgh and the Industrial Heartland. This work received the Philip S. Klein Prize of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. His most recent book, Put Your Bodies Upon the Wheels (Ivan R. Dee), addressed campus protest in the 1960s and led to his invitation to appear on C-SPAN's Book TV. Heineman has delivered the annual Cushwa Lecture at Notre Dame University and received the Outstanding Professor of the Year Award from Ohio University's Office of Regional Higher Education in recognition of his contributions in teaching, scholarship, and service.

READING LIST

1. Kenneth J. Heineman, A Catholic New Deal: Religion and Reform in Depression Pittsburgh, Chapter 4.
2. Daniel Nelson, Farm and Factory: Workers in the Midwest, 1880-1990, Chapters 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
3. David G. Taylor, "Hocking Valley Railroad Promotion in the 1870s: The Atlantic and Erie Railway," Ohio History 81 (1972): 263-278.
4. Jon Teaford, Cities of the Heartland: The Rise and Fall of the Industrial Midwest, Chapters 4 and 6.

REFLECTIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT

1. What were the building blocks of industrialization in the Midwest and in particular Ohio from the late 19th century to the early 20th century?
2. How did industrialization transform the Midwest and Ohio demographically and economically?
3. Analyze the rise and fall of organized labor in the Midwest and Ohio with an emphasis on struggles and ultimate failure.