

policy during a time when there was no shortage of enthusiastic imperialists" (p. 47).

Although Wrobel masterfully discusses the entire West in relation to global travels—and that focus distinguishes this important book—he does so by showing how individual places figured in the discourse. Consider, for example, Arizona. Wrobel's discussion of Winifred Hawkrige Dixon's *Westward Hoboes: Ups and Downs of Frontier Motoring* (1921) highlights her comparison of Navajos on horseback there to "the fierce Mongolian horsemen" of "the Thibetan [*sic*] Plains." More to the point, she considered the Navajo town of "Kayenta as 'a gateway, like Thibet, to the Unknown'" (p. 126). This is a reminder of how "exotic" some people thought the young state of Arizona to be in the 1920s. And yet, as Wrobel later notes, the characterizations of Arizona in the WPA guidebook to the state (1940) emphasized the state's cowboy heritage: the title of one section in it nostalgically characterized Arizona as "The Sunburnt West of Yesterday" (pp. 148–49). Tellingly, that same year marked the release of Wesley Ruggles's ambitious cowboy western movie epic titled "Arizona."

In summary, *Global West, American Frontier* offers a new approach to examining the enduring appeal of the West. It is meticulously researched, sweeping in its geographic scope, and very well written—so well written, in fact, that amateur and professional historians alike can read and enjoy it.

RICHARD FRANCAVIGLIA

Salem, Oregon

_____ *The Nature of Metal Mining in the United States, 1860–1910*. By Kent A. Curtis. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2013. Illus., notes, biblio., index, 232 pages. ISBN 978-1-60732-234-4, \$39.95 (hard-cover).

MOVING BEYOND the declensionist trap of describing environmental devastation and assigning blame, Kent Curtis's environmental history of mining in the U.S. West explores the process in which "mining became an increasingly important way of knowing nature" in the second half of the nineteenth-century (p. 208). *Gambling on Ore* utilizes specific examples from Montana to illustrate the national social and economic contexts within which an American mining society developed. Curtis also questions the inevitability of mining as a "natural" extension of economic growth by emphasizing the "persistent uncertainty" under which miners,

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Curtis traces the l panning through creek wealthy investors armed and costly technology. T and "knowing nature" c mining. Curtis argues th explorations produced ecology of the region, w ing endeavors, settleme

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financers, and industrialists labored, arguing that the "the metal mining industry made its own history by gambling on the unknown" (p. 203).

Curtis traces the history of mining from individual prospectors panning through creek beds with lofty dreams of potential riches to wealthy investors armed with large amounts of capital, political power, and costly technology. The strongest connections made between mining and "knowing nature" come in his early discussions of gold rush placer mining. Curtis argues that, though uneven and uncertain, early mining explorations produced knowledge about the geography, geology, and ecology of the region, which essentially mapped the West for future mining endeavors, settlement, and development.

The shift from individual prospecting to large corporate claims did not, however, assuage the uncertain nature of mining. Silver lode mining and copper production required more labor, advanced technology, sophisticated organizing, and larger financing, without the reward of guaranteed profit. Yet, according to Curtis, the professionalization and consolidation of mining that met these additional needs contributed to a deeper knowledge of minerals that were once hidden under bedrock. Also, the new approaches used to quantify mineral resources, build economic enterprise, and influence supportive legislation in late-nineteenth-century mining practices established a long-lasting national method of environmental development that depended on the continued exploitation of natural resources. One important example Curtis uses to illustrate this point is water exploitation and the evolution of prior appropriation rights. Curtis argues that industrial mining's corruption, commoditization, and unfettered use of natural resources, such as water, was adopted for future development projects throughout the twentieth century.

As an environmental history, *Gambling on Ore* is mindful to vividly describe the geological processes that create and move metals in the earth's surface, as well as the engineering procedures that excavate and refine them in each historical period, skillfully accompanied by original diagrams and illustrations. Curtis eloquently explains the anatomy of mining and smelting in a way that anyone can follow. One particular void remains in Curtis's focus on large investors and developers to understand societal relationships with nature. His concentration on the personal accounts of wealthy and educated individuals does little to expose the diverse interactions with, and knowledge of, nature and minerals at the time. Indians and Chinese immigrants play a role of inconvenience in Montana's territorial history and Curtis alludes to discrimination in labor practices, but does not elaborate on minority experience or contribution to the history of mining in the West.

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Nevertheless, Curtis provides a comprehensive history of mining in the American West in the late nineteenth century, and his personal connections to story and place make *Gambling on Ore* a poignant and enlightening read.

STEPHANIE CAPALDO
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A LAWLESS BREED: John Wesley Hardin, Texas Reconstruction, and Violence in the American West. By Chuck Parsons and Norman Wayne Brown. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2013. Maps, illus., notes, biblio., index, 512 pages. ISBN 978-1-57441-505-6, \$29.95 (hard-cover).

NO ONE KNOWS how many men John Wesley Hardin killed in Reconstruction Texas, up into Kansas, and across the Gulf coast. Perhaps a score, perhaps fifty. More fascinating is why he killed. As Leon C. Metz, an earlier Hardin biographer, put it, "You have to wonder about a man who killed so massively, so methodically, so remorselessly." In Hardin's mind, he was forever forced to defend himself against Yankee and Texas Radical Republican oppressors, overbearing African Americans, mobs, Mexicans, and anyone threatening his honor. Hardin biographer Richard C. Marohn, a professor of psychology, pinned Hardin's bloody-mindedness on narcissistic behavior disorder.

Now come Hardin's latest biographers, Chuck Parsons and Norman Wayne Brown. In several thoroughly researched biographies and histories, Parsons has rescued many a Texas Ranger and 1870s' gunfighter from blood-and-thunder folklore. Brown has previously written on Anglo settlement of the Texas frontier. Their biography is complemented by never-before-published photographs of Hardin's contemporaries.

Parsons and Brown use Hardin's autobiography as the foundation of the killer's life story. They never take the source at his word, but instead place Hardin's version alongside surviving contemporary accounts and oral traditions to assess whether Hardin's recollections are accurate or self-serving fiction. Without pretending to be psychologists, they acknowledge Hardin's narcissism, pointing to his recurring "callous disregard for others," his unconvincing assertions of the inordinate respect for him shown by preeminent shootists like James Butler Hickock, and his absolute need to win, evidenced by his robberies to regain gambling losses. Their Hardin is no folk hero.

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