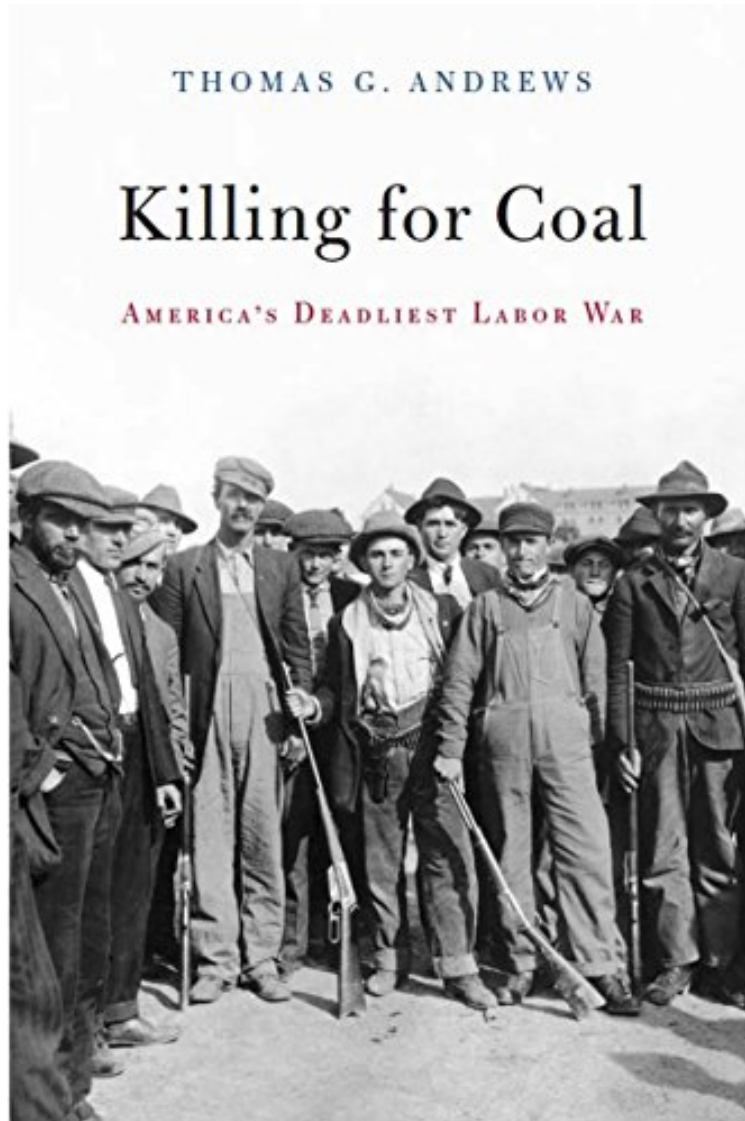


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## Killing for Coal

*Thomas G. Andrews*

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**Thomas G. Andrews : Killing for Coal** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Killing for Coal:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Read...By Matthew W. Quinn KILLING FOR COAL is a fascinating look into a part of American history that's really not well-known. It starts out with a fascinating description of how the Colorado coal fields formed millions of years ago and continues on by describing how the mining of coal revolutionized the lives of the people living in the energy-poor and hostile West, although this came at an environmental price. It also does a great job describing the lives and culture of the miners and what led to the titular

strike and violence. However, the latter part of the book doesn't live up to the promise of the prologue. The prologue discusses how the unrest spread from the miners into other sectors of the working class and how it looked like the strikers might take over the state, but that isn't really covered in the section covering the battles between the strikers and the guardsmen after the Ludlow Massacre. The battles aren't covered in great detail either. Finally, although the prologue discusses the trials of the strike organizers afterward and how various factors (including anti-Communism and even a period of dominance by the Klan) "encouraged" the miners to forget how they'd outright defeated the state government, there is almost nothing about the aftermath. Considering how well-done the early parts of the book are, this is a major missed opportunity. Still, it's a very informative book and definitely worth a read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The first half of the book was very dry and ...By Jerry Smart  
The first half of the book was very dry and not very interesting. The title was a bit conceiving. I thought they would talk more about the miners. The last half of the book was interesting as the writer wrote about the actual miners and their struggles with the greedy companies.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Class Conflict in Colorado  
By not me  
"Killing for Coal" tells the history of the industrial conflicts that gripped Colorado's coalfields in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It's an excellent history, well-written, well-illustrated, and filled with sharp observations about the work of coal-mining and the nefarious methods employed by coal companies to break miners' unions. I took off one star only because the narrative loses focus at several points, as when it meditates on the culture of corporate paternalism or the implications of minerals-intensive energy consumption for human society.

This book offers a bold and original perspective on the 1914 Ludlow Massacre and the "Great Coalfield War." In a story of transformation, Andrews illuminates the causes and consequences of the militancy that erupted in coalfields; strikes over the course of nearly half a century.

The Ludlow Massacre of 1914 has long been known as one of the most notorious events in all of American labor history, but until the publication of *Killing for Coal*, it was still possible to see this slaughter simply as an episode in the history of American industrial violence. In Thomas Andrews's skilled hands, it becomes something much subtler, more complicated, and revealing: a window onto the profound transformation of work and environment that occurred on the Western mining frontier in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Anyone interested in the history of labor, the environment, and the American West will want to read this book. --William Cronon, author of *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*

*Killing for Coal* is a stunning achievement. Beautifully written and masterfully researched, it stands as the definitive history of the dramatic events at Ludlow and breaks new ground in our understanding of industrialization and the environment. If I were to pick one word to describe this book, I would say, "powerful." --Kathryn Morse, author of *The Nature of Gold: An Environmental History of the Klondike Gold Rush*

*Killing for Coal* arises from the rare and providential convergence of an extraordinary author and an extraordinary topic. With a perfect instinct for the telling detail, Thomas Andrews wields a matching talent for conveying, in crystal-clear prose, the deepest meanings of history. This is, in every sense, an illuminating book, shining light into a dark terrain of the American past and of the human soul. --Patricia Nelson Limerick, author of *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*

A groundbreaking work about coal and coal development, labor relations and class conflict. --Sandra Dallas (Denver Post 2009-02-15)

Thomas G. Andrews' *Killing for Coal* offers an intriguing analysis of the so-called Ludlow Massacre of April 20, 1914, a watershed event in American labor history that he illuminates with a new understanding of the complexity of this conflict...*Killing for Coal* distinguishes itself from conventional labor histories, by going beyond sociological factors to look at the total physical environment--what Andrews calls the "workscape"--and the role it played in the lives of both labor and management...In its deft marriage of natural and social history, *Killing for Coal* sets a new standard for how the history of industry can and should be written. --Emily F. Popek (PopMatters 2009-01-30)

A stunning debut, full of insight into the role of labor and class not just in southern Colorado, but across the country. (Denver Westword 2009-03-27)

Andrews brings a 21st-century approach to this once-troubled landscape where the region's voracious need for fuel trumped the rights and independence of the men who dragged it out of the ground. --Bob Hoover (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 2009-04-19)

*Killing for Coal* is far more than a blow-by-blow account of America's deadliest labor war. It is an environmental history that seeks to explain strike violence as the natural excretion of an industry that brutalized the earth and the men who worked beneath it. Andrews is one of the excellent young scholars who have given new life to the field of labor and working-class studies by introducing new questions about race and gender, ethnicity and nationality, and new insights drawn from anthropology and physical geography...Andrews deserves credit for writing one of the best books ever published on the mining industry and its environmental impact and for drawing more public attention to the Ludlow story and its significance. --James Green (Dissent 2009-05-01)

Andrews does an excellent job of placing the massacre in the larger context of both previous labor strife in the area and the violent reprisals that armed bands of miners launched on mine owners, strikebreakers, and militia men in response to the deaths at Ludlow. One of the great strengths of Andrews's account is his integration of environmental history into his narrative at all levels, and not just as an afterthought. The book is as much a history of coal, coal mining, and the reshaping of

Colorado's environment as it is a history of the Great Coalfield War of 1914. --A. M. Berkowitz (Choice 2009-04-01)About the Author"rdquo;In its deft marriage of natural and social history, *Killing for Coal* sets a new standard for how the history of industry can and should be written."rdquo;mdash;Emily F. Popek, PopMatters.com?