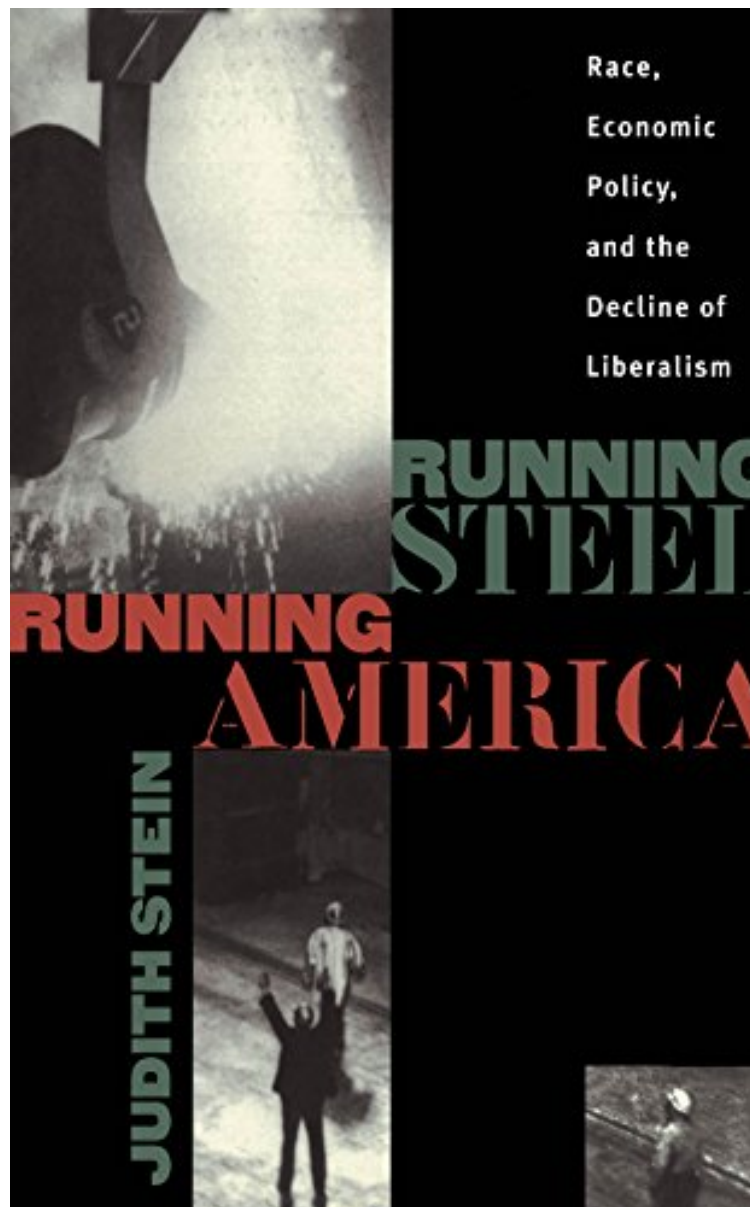


(Download pdf ebook) Running Steel, Running America: Race, Economic Policy, and the Decline of Liberalism

Running Steel, Running America: Race, Economic Policy, and the Decline of Liberalism

Judith Stein

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Judith Stein : Running Steel, Running America: Race, Economic Policy, and the Decline of Liberalism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Running Steel, Running America: Race, Economic Policy, and the Decline of Liberalism:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Imperial Hubris and the Narcissism of Small Differences By tamiiiGratefully, a literature grows which unites the ideas of the Old and New Left. No doubt, this is one of the seeds. Here, Judith Stein decides not to write about aggregates and macroeconomics but rather the history of the steel industry (and parenthetically, the civil rights movement) in Cold War United States. Here, Liberal policy allowed allies to pursue industrial policies which created vast industrial overcapacity, while denying unionist, staunch advocates of integration, similar protections. Failing to address the question of jobs, the Civil Rights movement disintegrated into vain, narcissistic, and legalistic struggles which produced much fury but few results. This book should be read with Robert Brenner's *The Economics of Global Turbulence* to see how class really does matter and how it conditions what success can be seen in the rightful concern of the New Left, racial equality.

The history of modern liberalism has been hotly debated in contemporary politics and the academy. Here, Judith Stein uses the steel industry--long considered fundamental to the U.S. economy--to examine liberal policies and priorities after World War II. In a provocative revision of postwar American history, she argues that it was the primacy of foreign commitments and the outdated economic policies of the state, more than the nation's racial conflicts, that transformed American liberalism from the powerful progressivism of the New Deal to the feeble policies of the 1990s. Stein skillfully integrates a number of narratives usually treated in isolation--labor, civil rights, politics, business, and foreign policy--while underscoring the state's focus on the steel industry and its workers. By showing how those who intervened in the industry treated such economic issues as free trade and the globalization of steel production in isolation from the social issues of the day--most notably civil rights and the implementation of affirmative action--Stein advances a larger argument about postwar liberalism. Liberal attempts to address social inequalities without reference to the fundamental and changing workings of the economy, she says, have led to the foundering of the New Deal state.

From *Library Journal* According to Stein, the American steel companies and their workers were at the center of the New Deal compact between capital and labor, as well as of the racial changes of the 1950s and 1960s and of the economic crises of the 1970s and 1980. Furthermore, government policies during the Cold War encouraged the construction of steel mills in friendly countries, even at the expense of the domestic industry. Consequently, it was global markets that largely laid down the terms of settlement of the problems of U.S. mills. Years of labor-management conflict followed. This is a detailed study with a highly ambitious premise--to show, among other things, the long-term impact of the steel industry on postwar American liberalism--but the book is marred by turgid writing and loose organization. Suitable for academic libraries. --Harry Frummerman, formerly with Hunter Coll., New York Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. [A] passionate book." s in *American History* "This is a marvelous and important book, an immaculately researched, powerfully written analysis." *Business History* "An original, well-argued, and thought-provoking account of the American steel industry in the post-World War II world." *Labor History* "[A] triumph of heroic research and clear thinking, and essential reading for anyone who cares about this country's festering race problems. David Brody, author of *In Labor's Cause: Main Themes on the History of the American Worker*" *Yacute;Auml; passionate book.* s in *American History* "This is a marvelous and important book, an immaculately researched, powerfully written analysis." *Business History* "An original, well-argued, and thought-provoking account of the American steel industry in the post-World War II world." *Labor History* *Yacute;Auml; triumph of heroic research and clear thinking, and essential reading for anyone who cares about this country's festering race problems. David Brody, author of *In Labor's Cause: Main Themes on the History of the American Worker** "Few serious historians of the postwar United States can afford not to read [this book]." *Law and History* "[A] triumph of heroic research and clear thinking, and essential reading for anyone who cares about this country's festering race problems. David Brody, author of *In Labor's Cause: Main Themes on the History of the American Worker*" This is a marvelous and important book, an immaculately researched, powerfully written analysis of key issues in U.S. economic and social policy from the 1950s to the 1980s.--*Business History* Judith Stein's important book explores one of the great riddles of our time--why it was that a civil rights revolution dedicated to equal economic opportunity should have been followed by the disappearance of decent jobs for so many African Americans. Her case in point is the steel industry where, just as the EEOC lawyers triumphed, the industry collapsed and the contested jobs were gone forever. Stein documents, in fine detail, the indifference of the litigators--their willful indifference--to whether or not they were actually expanding the job opportunities of black workers. More important, Stein suggests, was the disjuncture between the nation's economic and social policies, its failure to understand that the corollary of equal opportunity was the preservation of American jobs from predatory foreign competition. Stein's book is a triumph of heroic research and clear thinking, and essential reading for anyone who cares about this country's festering race problems.--David Brody, author of *In Labor's Cause: Main Themes on the History of the American Worker* [A] passionate book. . . . Combines old and new elements--an uncompromising old liberal faith that governments can salvage entire industries and provide every son a job as good as his father's (and this is, necessarily, a book about men), with a sort of populist suspicion of the current bipartisan religion of free trade and globalization given political voice by Gephart, Buchanan, and Perot and intellectual voice by Dani Rodrik, William Greider, and the

Sierra Club. It is thus an oppositional book, a distinctly minority view on what government has done but especially what it has not done but could and ought to do.-- s in American HistoryOne of the most important examinations of race and labor to appear in the 1990s. . . . An original, well-argued, and thought-provoking account of the American steel industry in the post-World War II world. . . . Insights about American political economy, the labor movement, Civil Rights strategies, and the law leap out on almost every page of this book. Through the lens of the steel industry, Stein usefully reframes the postwar historiography not only of race and liberalism but also of trade, economic planning, and foreign policy.--Labor HistoryStein's important book about post-WW II American politics, economics, and race is an innovative interpretation of recent US history.--Choice[A] remarkably sophisticated work. . . . Stein's book is a model of meticulously researched, dispassionate scholarship. Few serious historians of the postwar United States can afford not to read [this book].--Law and History Running Steel, Running America is a provocative and brilliant account of postwar American politics, economics, and race, which weaves together a number of narratives often treated in isolation: labor, civil rights and affirmative action, politics, business, and international trade policy. This is one of the most sophisticated treatments of race and the modern American economy to come along in years.--Eric Arnesen, University of Illinois at ChicagoJudith Stein's brilliant achievement is to tell much the most complete and balanced account of the steel industry and the steelworkers' union, from the historic times of the New Deal through the civil rights era to the present day, that anyone has ever attempted. She examines with remarkable clarity, precision and objectivity the multiplicity of interrelationships involved, including those between and among labor, management, races, governments, economic policies, trade arrangements, domestic politics, and cold war and other international strategies. The book documents in compelling detail both the many accomplishments, particularly in race relations and in collective bargaining, and the all too frequent difficulties, indeed devastation, especially as a result of national trade and economic policies, which the industry and the union shared during the regimes of and at the hands of both liberal Democratic and conservative Republican administrations.--Lynn R. Williams, retired president, United Steelworkers of America