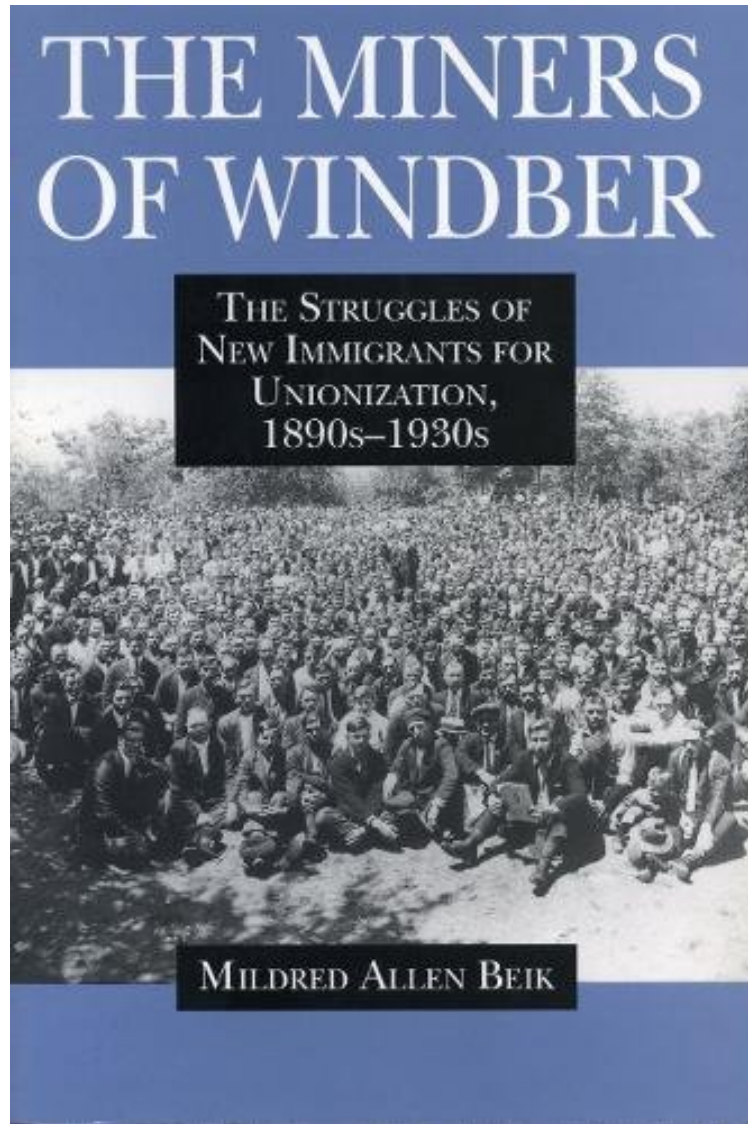


(Download free pdf) Miners of Windber: The Struggles of New Immigrants for Unionization, 1890s-1930s

Miners of Windber: The Struggles of New Immigrants for Unionization, 1890s-1930s

Mildred Beik

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Mildred Beik : Miners of Windber: The Struggles of New Immigrants for Unionization, 1890s-1930s before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miners of Windber: The Struggles of New Immigrants for Unionization, 1890s-1930s:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The author did a great job of weaving all aspects of the miners lives ...By Ronald S. KozoraI grew up not to far from Windber thus found this book very interesting. The author did a great

job of weaving all aspects of the miners lives who lived under the corporate repression of that company town. By talking about the miners religion, ethnicity, family and struggles under almost slave-like rule, the author gives a real insight of what those hard working people went through to gain a "fair shake". If you ever wonder how or why unionism came to the forefront during this time period, this serves as a classic example. A fantastic read.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Life in a true mining townBy Peggy StevensExtremely well researched and written history of my home town. The hardships and abuses endured by the immigrant coal miners during the late 19th century and early 20th century makes one wonder how corporate industrialists could feel good about themselves. This book tells it like it was: the good, bad and the ugly in a true planned and controlled company town.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy JoanAs promised.

In 1897 the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company founded Windber as a company town for its miners in the bituminous coal country of Pennsylvania. *The Miners of Windber* chronicles the coming of unionization to Windber, from the 1890s, when thousands of new immigrants flooded Pennsylvania in search of work, through the New Deal era of the 1930s, when the miners' rights to organize, join the United Mine Workers of America, and bargain collectively were recognized after years of bitter struggle. Mildred Allen Beik, a Windber native whose father entered the coal mines at age eleven in 1914, explores the struggle of miners and their families against the company, whose repressive policies encroached on every part of their lives. That Windber's population represented twenty-five different nationalities, including Slovaks, Hungarians, Poles, Italians, and Carpatho-Russians, was a potential obstacle to the solidarity of miners. Beik, however, shows how the immigrants overcame ethnic fragmentation by banding together as a class to unionize the mines. Work, family, church, fraternal societies, and civic institutions all proved critical as men and women alike adapted to new working conditions and to a new culture. Circumstance, if not principle, forced miners to embrace cultural pluralism in their fight for greater democracy, reforms of capitalism, and an inclusive, working-class, definition of what it meant to be an American. Beik draws on a wide variety of sources, including oral histories gathered from thirty-five of the oldest living immigrants in Windber, foreign-language newspapers, fraternal society collections, church manuscripts, public documents, union records, and census materials. The struggles of Windber's diverse working class undeniably mirror the efforts of working people everywhere to democratize the undemocratic America they knew. Their history suggests some of the possibilities and limitations, strengths and weaknesses, of worker protest in the early twentieth century.

Mildred Allen Beik's account of a Pennsylvania coal town in the first three decades of this century is a powerful story of repression and resistance. This is both an important historical story and a lesson that Americans should keep in mind as they debate the merits of unions and the dismantling of the welfare-state in the late twentieth century. John Bodnar, Indiana University
From the Back Cover
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About the Author
Mildred Allen Beik is an independent scholar living in Atlanta. She has taught at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University and served as a consultant in various public history workshops.