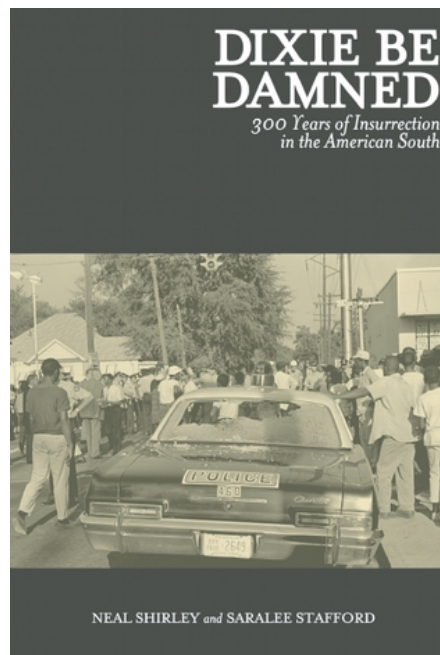




Dixie be Damned: 300 Years of Insurrection in the American South

Neal Shirley , Saralee Stafford

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Far from the picturesque antebellum plantations and meekly repressed slaves of popular mythology, the American South has always had its share of social rebellion. Here, seven accounts of insurrectionary episodes in Southern history are tied together into a larger narrative about the long arc of revolt in the South. Countering images of the region as pacified and universally conservative, this adventurous alternative history covers slave rebellions, stockade burnings, multiracial banditry, labour struggles, prison uprisings, urban riots, and more.

Dixie be Damned: 300 Years of Insurrection in the American South Details

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From Reader Review Dixie be Damned: 300 Years of Insurrection in the American South for online ebook

Shenanitims says

As with most books either published or distributed by the AK Press, this is another winner. As the subtitle states, it's a look into 300 years of insurrection in the US' South. Ex-slaves enacting revenge on their former owners after the Civil War because they didn't find being owned by a clock anymore bearable than being "owned" by another person. Striking miners freeing prisoners because their union wasn't interested in helping them, and their employers were using slave (in this case, prison) labor to lower wages.

It's all here, and it's still very relevant today (especially the later chapter on rioting).

Jonathan says

No comment.

Michael says

Incredible collection of histories of collective resistance in the South - guaranteed to change the way you think about the South and the USA.

River says

This is a solid book of untold insurrections in the American South. The authors do a good job of conveying the stories and the writing style and flow is very approachable. At the same time, they do an excellent job of theorizing about how these insurrections might be useful to contemporary radicals.

Aside from the subject matter pertaining to the South, the introduction and conclusion are very thought provoking as it relates to the question of anarchist historiography. The authors raise a lot of important points about what it means to be an anarchist writing history, what an "anarchist" history is, and what the larger point of studying history is...

Broadsnark says

I am a history nerd and yet I was unaware of almost everything in this book. Did you know that Tennessee miners broke into jails and released people being used as conflict labor? I didn't.

When we learn about the south it is about slaves, slave owners, KKK, and the (supposedly) nonviolent civil rights movement. It is rare that we learn about insurrections, especially if they don't fit the convenient narratives around race, gender, and class. This book is a good start at addressing that absence.

It also challenged my thinking in ways that I wasn't expecting. I'm an anarchist, but not an insurrectionist. I'm still not convinced. But I definitely had to take a step back and reevaluate some of my gut reactions. And that is a good thing.

Definitely a book to read if you are interested in justice, how things change, and how history is hidden or repackaged to make it harder to learn its lessons.

Autumn says

The chapter on textile mill strikes handily summarized a big part of the work lives of my parents and kin: "Many mountain folks who entered mill life did so at a distance, attempting to retain as much autonomy on their land as possible while constantly adapting to new opportunities to make ends meet outside of the home."

As someone who was raised with 'the mutual aid . . . at the core of mountain life based on kinship and bioregion', I was delighted to see the history of how our contrary hillbilly natures confounded both German industrialists AND union organizers.
