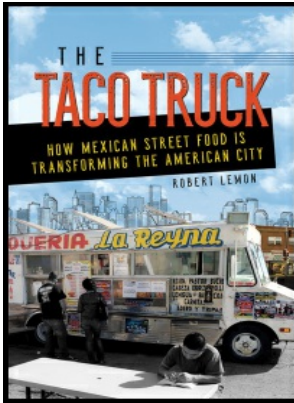


Shadowed ground - Americas landscapes of violence and tragedy

University of Texas Press - Shadowed Ground: America's Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy by Kenneth E. Foote



Description: -

-

United States -- History, Local.

Disasters -- United States -- History.

Violence -- United States -- History.

Historic sites -- Social aspects -- United States. Shadowed ground -

Americas landscapes of violence and tragedy

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The Civil War prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia, was the worst of its kind. Beginning at the grass-roots level, these efforts paid off two decades later in the creation of a civil rights museum and educational center at the site of the Lorraine Motel funded by local, state, and national authorities. The Lincoln monument is the western terminus of the Mall in Washington, whereas the Garfield monument is at the other end, at the foot of the capitol grounds; both are within walking distance of the assassination sites.

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These are events such as spontaneous riots at sports events or stray acts of terror that neither attain significance as ethical or heroic struggles nor induce a strong sense of community loss. The same delay occurred in the case of Chicago's civic tragedies. Foote explores the relationship between history and place and looks at why and how certain communities honor or choose not to mark specific violent and tragic events that took place there.

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This is because once the cause of an accident is determined, remedial action may be taken all over the country or, indeed, all over the world. These are values that shape everyday life but transcend the individual and surpass the individual's ability to change them.

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Until quite recently the civil rights movement lacked major monuments and memorials. I love this work and I wish to see a follow up by Doctor Foote.

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It all comes down to the crafting of a collective identity in a community and how events that are sometimes shameful or just painful influence that collective memory. The more time I spent with this book, the more valuable I realize that it is. The basic point seems to be that commemoration cannot occur until there is a past worthy of commemorating.

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