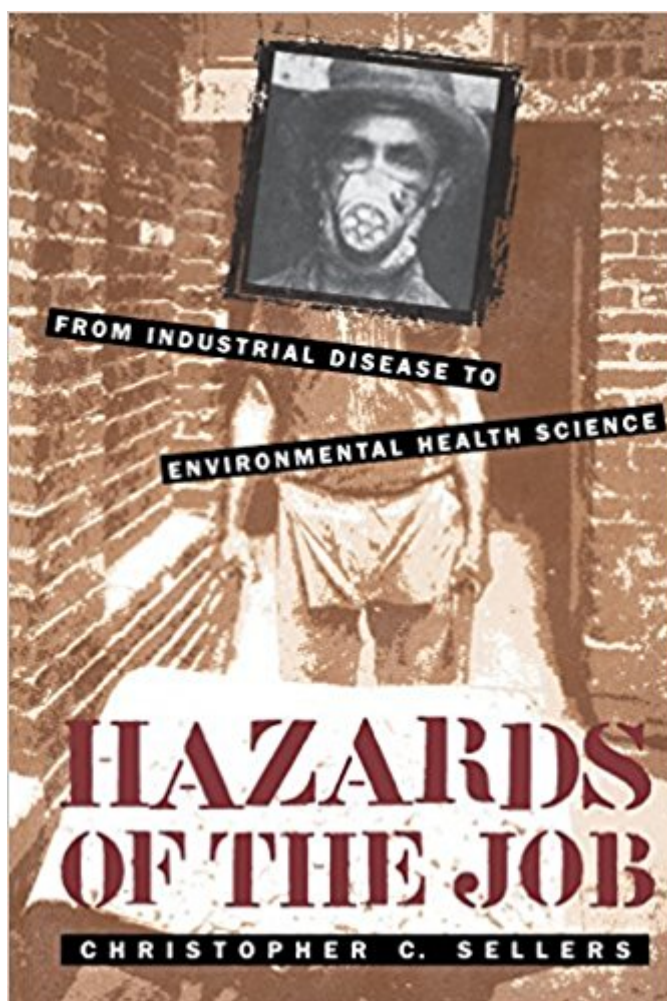


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# Hazards Of The Job: From Industrial Disease To Environmental Health Science



## Synopsis

*Hazards of the Job* explores the roots of modern environmentalism in the early-twentieth-century United States. It was in the workplace of this era, argues Christopher Sellers, that our contemporary understanding of environmental health dangers first took shape. At the crossroads where medicine and science met business, labor, and the state, industrial hygiene became a crucible for molding midcentury notions of corporate interest and professional disinterest as well as environmental concepts of the 'normal' and the 'natural.' The evolution of industrial hygiene illuminates how powerfully battles over knowledge and objectivity could reverberate in American society: new ways of establishing cause and effect begat new predicaments in medicine, law, economics, politics, and ethics, even as they enhanced the potential for environmental control. From the 1910s through the 1930s, as Sellers shows, industrial hygiene investigators fashioned a professional culture that gained the confidence of corporations, unions, and a broader public. As the hygienists moved beyond the workplace, this microenvironment prefigured their understanding of the environment at large. Transforming themselves into linchpins of science-based production and modern consumerism, they also laid the groundwork for many controversies to come.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sellers reconceptualizes the history of workplace health."The Journal of American History""Hazards of the Job" is a beautifully written, engaging book that will be of wide interest."Reviews in American History""Sellers is a first-rate researcher and capable writer who has

succeeded in making order out of a tangled web."Journal of the History of Medicine"A major achievement with wide-ranging implications for business history and the history of medicine and government in twentieth-century America."Business History""For any reader who wants to be thoughtfully challenged about some significant societal issues, this book is worth reading."Journal of the American Medical Association""Hazard of the Job" is a beautifully written, engaging book that will be of wide interest."Reviews in American History"For any reader who wants to be thoughtfully challenged about some significant societal issues, this book is worth reading."Journal of the American Medical Association" --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Hazard of the Job is a beautifully written, engaging book that will be of wide interest, not only to historians of medicine and public health but also to business historians, intellectual historians, and historians of the development of twentieth-century American professionalism and the state. . . . Sellers has written an important book that helps to explain the evolution and the increasing sophistication of the field of industrial hygiene.--Reviews in American HistoryDemonstrate[s] a profound sensitivity and deep understanding of workers' day to day concerns, the nuances of their political philosophies, and the goals of their collective actions. No one has done a better job in recapturing the authentic voices of rank and file workers; no one has done more to place workers' struggles into the larger historical narrative.--The AmericasEssential reading for all historians of scientific expertise, the workplace, and the administrative state.--Canadian Journal of HistoryThis very well-written and engaging book is a sobering and often disheartening account of the problems of both victims and researchers in workplace and environmental exposures.--ChoiceSellers reconceptualizes the history of workplace health, making it as significant to historians of medicine and the environment as it has long been to scholars of labor and economics.--Journal of American HistoryA welcome addition to the historical literature of occupational and environmental health. It is an imaginatively conceived and subtly argued study of an important facet of twentieth-century public health.--Bulletin of the History of MedicineA well-written narrative history of this diverse and not very cohesive field using data gathered from a wide variety of sources. . . . Sellers is a first-rate researcher and capable writer who has succeeded in making order out of a tangled web of strands from very diverse sources.--Journal of the History of MedicineThe interplay of corporation, federal agency, research university, and public interest that Sellers so ably documents for the first part of the twentieth century promises to generate an even more complex algebra in the twenty-first.--IsisThis engaging story of the growth of American industrial hygiene will be of considerable interest to occupational health scholars and practitioners. . . . Hazard of the Job is

recommended as a discerning historical work that advances our understanding of the intellectual and social roots of modern occupational health science.--Journal of Interdisciplinary HistoryFor any reader who wants to be thoughtfully challenged about some significant societal issues, this book is worth reading.--Journal of the American Medical AssociationA major achievement with wide-ranging implications for business history and the history of medicine and government in twentieth-century America.--Business HistoryAn impressive book which will obviously be required reading for anyone interested in the history of occupational health.--Medical HistoryAn invaluable study of the development of 'industrial medicine,' illuminating the relationships between government, business, labor, and a developing profession in a world of changing knowledge and industrial practice. It is a significant contribution to our thinking about policy as well as to the history of medicine, the state, and the economy in twentieth-century America.--Charles Rosenberg, University of PennsylvaniaFor anyone wishing to learn about the chief actors behind the industrial hygiene movement, Sellers's book is a must-read.--Journal of Economic History

not the greatest book but the seller was stellar!

Hazards of the Job traces the development of the field of occupational health from a "highly diverse, localized, and contradictory" body of knowledge to a more modern science based on quantitative, experimental techniques. In late-19th-century America, occupational diseases such as lead poisoning and silicosis were on the rise but went unrecognized. Physicians were stymied by nonspecific clinical presentations, the lack of scientific data, an orientation toward individual patients rather than groups, and their own loyalties to factory owners. Workers tended to ignore symptoms, avoid doctors, and resist attributing their illnesses to their occupations, which could lead to job loss. Legal traditions favored employers and usually precluded linking workplace exposures to illnesses.

GRADE:A+++++++ Informative, Fun, Captivating. BUY THIS BOOK! YOU WILL NOT BE SORRY! Sellers is a genius. His knowledge of health and industry is pure expertise. He is a top notch researcher who has an extremely captivating writing style. He is truly an expert on many subjects such as health and industry. I thought this subject would be a bore but I WAS WRONG! Sellers uses real world examples that explore the societal issues facing America today in a fun and captivating manner. It is a work of art. Each page was a new journey into Health, Industry, society, and man kinds influence. EXCELLENT BOOK!

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