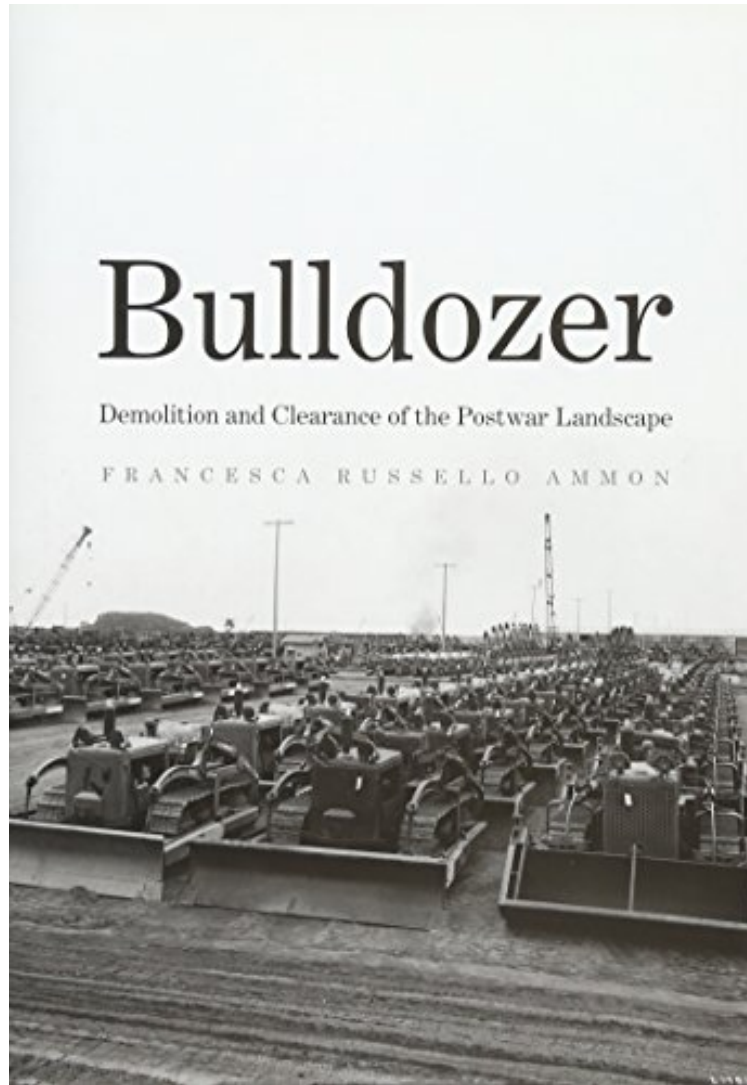


(Mobile library) Bulldozer: Demolition and Clearance of the Postwar Landscape

Bulldozer: Demolition and Clearance of the Postwar Landscape

Francesca Russello Ammon

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Francesca Russello Ammon : Bulldozer: Demolition and Clearance of the Postwar Landscape before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bulldozer: Demolition and Clearance of the Postwar Landscape:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy AaronA unique and compelling work of urban and cultural history.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy KathleenOne of the most profound writings of our time.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommend....!By Edgar A. BrowningI have had a lifelong interest in highway heavy construction to include, a childhood fascination with the work a day world; operating bulldozers in the Army Engineers and Navy Seabees; a small contracting venture that owned and

used bulldozers; culminating in service on the Historical Construction Equipment Association Board and the self-publishing of eight historical road building books. Initially, I expected this work to be largely an anti-growth critique of the landscape view of post-war progress. It was so much more. Ammon has written of the bulldozer as part of the pop culture of the period. I often joke with construction machinery enthusiasts about how we started this interest at an early age and here is a scholarly look at those common themes we share. I thoroughly enjoyed the book!

The first history of the bulldozer and its transformation from military weapon to essential tool for creating the post-World War II American landscape. Although the decades following World War II stand out as an era of rapid growth and construction in the United States, those years were equally significant for large-scale destruction. In order to clear space for new suburban tract housing, an ambitious system of interstate highways, and extensive urban renewal development, wrecking companies demolished buildings while earthmoving contractors leveled land at an unprecedented pace and scale. In this pioneering history, Francesca Russello Ammon explores how postwar America came to equate this destruction with progress. The bulldozer functioned as both the means and the metaphor for this work. As the machine transformed from a wartime weapon into an instrument of postwar planning, it helped realize a landscape-altering culture of clearance. In the hands of the military, planners, politicians, engineers, construction workers, and even children's book authors, the bulldozer became an American icon. Yet social and environmental injustices emerged as clearance projects continued unabated. This awareness spurred environmental, preservationist, and citizen participation efforts that have helped to slow, though not entirely stop, the momentum of the postwar bulldozer.

An excellent and enjoyable history of the transformation of the bulldozer from military weapon to instrument of urban planning. Jo Guldi, Brown University