



For The Love of Bombs

The Trail of Nuclear Suffering

By Peder Anker

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Challenges the conventional narrative of triumph and scientific glory surrounding the atomic bomb, shedding light on marginalised voices and perspectives.

The truism that history is written by its winners reflects the literature about how the bomb came about, with apologetic books most often written by U.S. scholars. The physicist Robert Oppenheimer, the nuke’s ‘father’, is repeatedly centre stage, as in the case of the recent film about him. These are elitist stories that more often than not ignore the suffering and violence of the bomb to laypeople in general, and to marginalised groups in particular. Starting with the gruesome mining of uranium by First Nation people in northern Canada, and continuing with the racist culture of uranium enrichment in the Atomic City of Oak Ridge, Peder Anker offers alternative perspectives. It’s a story of how the bikini swimwear came to fetishise the nuclear bombardment of the Bikini Atoll with its celebration of ‘sex bombs’ and (an)atomic ‘bombshells’. Our current global warming fears also harbour back to ordinary citizens wondering if atomic bombs would blow up the entire sky. If some of this was news to you, it might have to do with how the story of nuclear bombs has been told.

Readership

This book is primarily written for college students taking an introduction course to American history, with the book covering one week of required reading material (in addition to some primary sources). It’s also written for that mysterious being – the ‘general reader’ – who may find the book interesting given all the attention given to the Oppenheimer movie.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Peder Anker is a professor at New York University and the author of six books on the history of ecological design and environmentalism.

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75-76 Blackfriars Road | London SE1 8HA | United Kingdom | Tel: +44 (0)20 7193 7371
244 Madison Ave. #116 | New York | NY 10016 | United States | Tel: +1 646 736 7908
info@anthempress.com | sales@anthempress.com | publicity@anthempress.com | www.anthempress.com