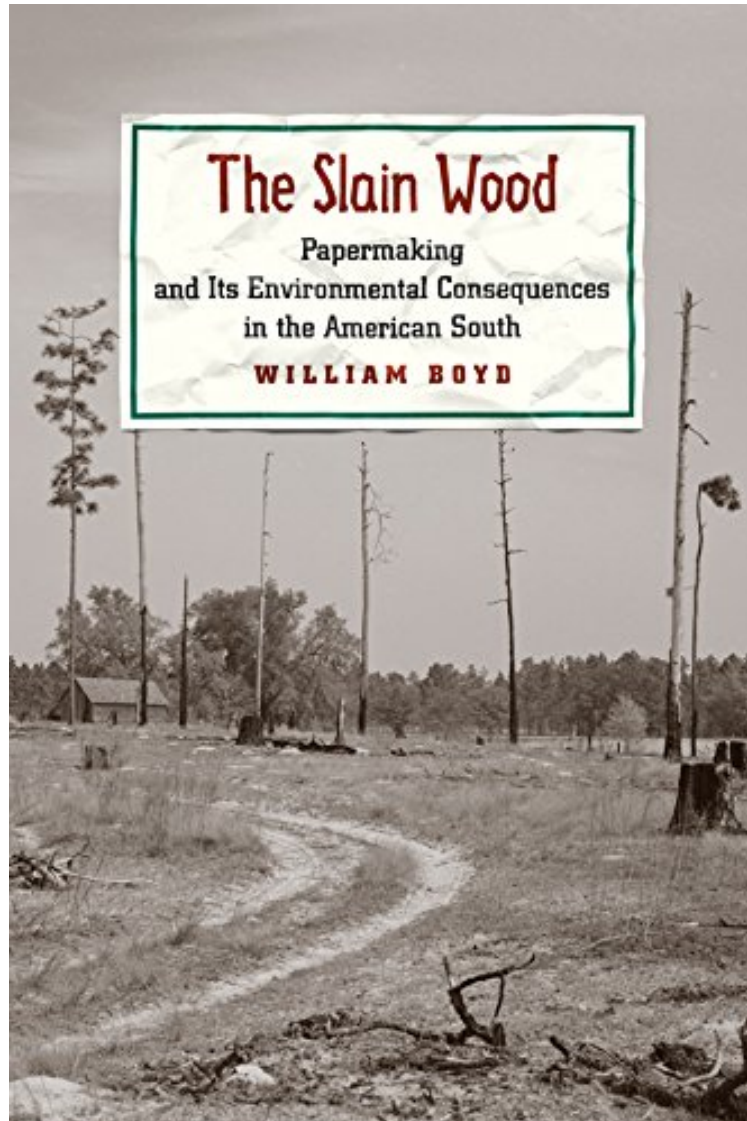


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The Slain Wood (Studies in Industry and Society)

William Boyd

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William Boyd : The Slain Wood (Studies in Industry and Society) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Slain Wood (Studies in Industry and Society):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An brilliant example of how industrial order is made, not discoveredBy CRMThis is a fantastic book. I enjoy books that teach me about foundational industries with a level of detail that helps me really understand the depth and richness to both their industry structure and dynamics. The Slain Wood is undoubtedly one of those books. When I picked it up, I thought the story of the massive pulp and paper industry in the South was fairly straight forward: geography is destiny. The South had resource (trees) and cheap labor. The industry structure could be explained by transaction costs a la the treatment of the late University of Chicago

economist Ronald Coase. But, as Prof. Boyd would show me, this is a rather superficial understanding. The story of papermaking in the American South is so much more nuanced. The economic actors did not merely react to natural, social, and environmental opportunities; they played a very active role in creating and forming the conditions and network economies that allowed the industry to prosper. Geography is destiny, but now for the reasons I originally anticipated. As William Boyd carefully and elegantly explains, papermaking is a uniquely Southern story that has as much to do with social, environmental, and advocacy influences as it does with industrializing the papermaking process and its supply chain. If you can't tell already, I really enjoyed this book. I highly recommend it.

When the paper industry moved into the South in the 1930s, it confronted a region in the midst of an economic and environmental crisis. Entrenched poverty, stunted labor markets, vast stretches of cutover lands, and severe soil erosion prevailed across the southern states. By the middle of the twentieth century, however, pine trees had become the region's number one cash crop, and the South dominated national and international production of pulp and paper based on the intensive cultivation of timber. In *The Slain Wood*, William Boyd chronicles the dramatic growth of the pulp and paper industry in the American South during the twentieth century and the social and environmental changes that accompanied it. Drawing on extensive interviews and historical research, he tells the fascinating story of one of the region's most important but understudied industries. *The Slain Wood* reveals how a thoroughly industrialized forest was created out of a degraded landscape, uncovers the ways in which firms tapped into informal labor markets and existing inequalities of race and class to fashion a system for delivering wood to the mills, investigates the challenges of managing large papermaking complexes, and details the ways in which mill managers and unions discriminated against black workers. It also shows how the industry's massive pollution loads significantly disrupted local environments and communities, leading to a long struggle to regulate and control that pollution.

"A terrific, strikingly original piece of scholarship, *The Slain Wood* offers readers a sophisticated and empirically rich account of the creation and evolution of the Southern pulp and paper industry. William Boyd's fine prose deftly blends agricultural, environmental, and industrial history with engrossing comparisons and connections." (Peter A. Coclanis, University of North Carolina; Chapel Hill, coeditor of *A Way Forward: Building a Globally Competitive South*) "This excellent book contributes most robustly to economic and environmental history, but it will be read profitably by scholars interested in political change, regulatory regimes, and race and labor...[an] insightful analysis of the paper industry's important role in the twentieth-century South. The trees slain for this book sacrificed their well-engineered lives for a good cause." (American Historical) "Boyd provides a comprehensive and scholarly analysis of a vital industry in an era of substantive regional change." (Choice) "... Tremendous value as a legal history situated within broader political, historical, economic, and social context." (North Carolina Historical) "Slain Wood is an important contribution to promoting understanding of the transformations borne by the Southern regional landscape in the twentieth century. The work is carefully researched and critically related, with a distinctive emphasis on the legal framework guiding transformation of Southern papermaking." (AAG of Books) "William Boyd bring such analysis to the American South in a significant contribution to both southern and environmental history... this book is a welcome cross-disciplinary bridge between economic, legal, and environmental history that successfully explains the fundamental historical importance of this understudied industry" (H-Net s) "This is a magisterial study of a relatively poorly understood world. To tell it well, Boyd takes seriously the many historiographical layers of the story, using business, technological, labor, legal, and environmental history approaches. The synthesis of these overlapping tales is a huge achievement and his beautiful writing make the book a powerful read. It could well stand as a model for future industrial-environmental historians." (Journal of Southern History) "Overall, Boyd illustrates the double-edged sword that is economic development; its jobs and prosperity often inflict a devastating impact on the non-human and human environments. Boyd makes plain that "the smell of prosperity" is an odor whose costs should be weighed more carefully than Governor Wallac's glib analysis suggests." (Environmental History) "... book beautifully written, richly textured, and tightly argued..." (s in American History) "The Slain Wood is a remarkable contribution to southern economic and environmental history" (Business History) About the Author William Boyd is an associate professor of law at the University of Colorado; Boulder.