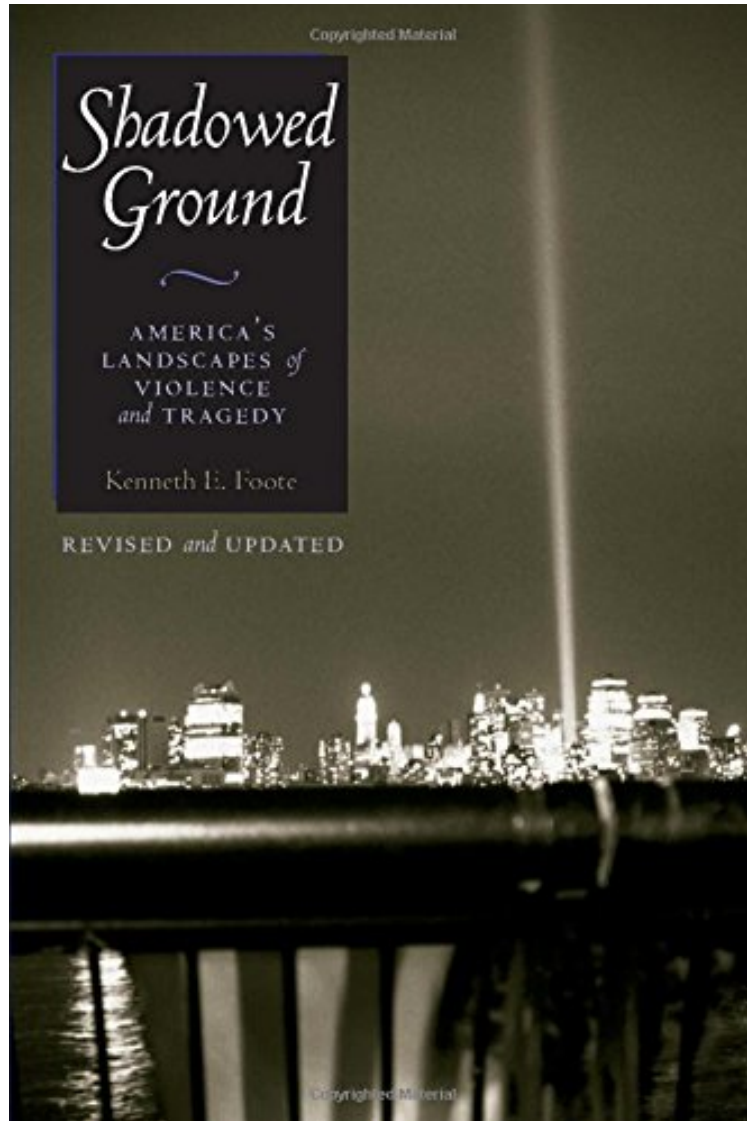


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Shadowed Ground: Americas Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy

Kenneth E. Foote

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Kenneth E. Foote : Shadowed Ground: Americas Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadowed Ground: Americas Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting stories but thematically rambling By Arthur Digbee The book starts out by saying it will look at how Americans have memorialized, or failed to memorialize, tragic events such as unavoidable accidents, heroic battles, instances of martyrdom, or senseless acts of violence. To some degree

the book is organized around these, but other chapters introduce other ideas, such as "stigmata of national identity." Foote's analytical categories don't follow this list, however - - he classifies the process of memorialization into four categories of response: sanctification, designation, rectification, and obliteration. There isn't a coherent explanation of how a tragedy ends up in one category or another. However, Chapter 8 - - not the final chapter, by the way - - examines themes of "selectivity," "hierarchy," and "practice" that affect this memorialization. All of which is to say that the organization of the argument in this book, and the organization of the chapters, is an analytical mess. Fortunately, the stories Foote tells are pretty interesting. He tells of communities deciding to memorialize industrial accidents and other tragedies. Foote gives us the stories of Texans and Mormons reinterpreting history through their monuments, and how Bostonians changed their minds about the Boston Massacre. We see controversies over John Brown at Harpers Ferry, important labor movement sites, anti-war protests, and all the rest. Those stories all make the book well worth reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic! Well written! Carefully researched! By A Customer This book explores the way Americans interpret and define landscapes that have been sites of violence and tragedy. It exhaustively researches the factors that have contributed to monument-making at sites that are critical in American history. Also explored are the various ways communities interpret tragedy: by sanctifying, reclaiming, or obliterating the traces of tragic histories, communities leave impressions on the landscape that reflect their sorrow, their shame, or their pride over past events. This is interdisciplinary work at its best: simultaneously history, geography, and sociology. The detail of the historical research presented is astounding, and that research, together with a lively application of Durkheim's theories of social solidarity, open the reader to a new understanding of the American landscape. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Shadowed Ground : America's Places of Tragedy and Violence By John Troesser, Editor, www.texasescapes.com If you arrange your library by category you may have trouble with this book. History? True Crime? Cultural Geography? Anthropology? Sociology? American Studies? The book covers the sites of disaster, assassination, murder and accident all across America, including nearly every site and shrine in Texas. We review it not just for its interesting content, but its coverage of a most unusual type of geography. It's a thought-provoking book at how, why and in what manner we deal with the sites of violence (and tragedy). The individual stories of the incidents are told completely, but without distracting from the book's theme. It's a unique book and should remain so for some time. Foote's thoroughness guarantees that.

Winner, John Brinckerhoff Jackson Prize, Association of American Geographers Shadowed Ground explores how and why Americans have memorialized or not the sites of tragic and violent events spanning three centuries of history and every region of the country. For this revised edition, Kenneth Foote has written a new concluding chapter that looks at the evolving responses to recent acts of violence and terror, including the destruction of the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbine High School massacre, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

From reviews of the first edition: "This splendid, well-written, amply documented volume is remarkable in several respects, including the fact that, despite being the first extended treatment of its subject, it is likely to remain the definitive one." Professional Geographer "A fascinating look at the American obsession with historically violent and tragic places." Western Historical Quarterly "Attitudes, values, beliefs, and experiences all play a part in the national collective unconscious that leads some sites to be sanctified, others to be obliterated, and still others to be ignored. Foote provides a valuable perspective on this process in a well-written and thoroughly illustrated book that offers a provocative theoretical perspective on the imprinting of historical memory on the American landscape." Public Historian "[This] is an erudite history and description of how Americans have, or have not, interpreted/recognized the meaning of violent and tragic events throughout their history." Space and Culture About the Author Kenneth E. Foote is Professor and Chair of Geography at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he directs the Center for Geographic Education.