former industrial workers in a deindustrialized economy.

Early in the book, Stein relates an early, disastrous attempt to interview a skilled worker employed in a foundry to sharpen expensive axes. Full of bitterness, he turns on her, delivering a bitter rant. She is one of the people he wrongly blames for industrial decline, in the same way that victims of deindustrialization have turned to far-right demagogues such as Donald Trump in the US and Pauline Hanson in Australia.

Such demagogues offer no solutions, but they do draw attention to those who "have borne the brunt of the 'scorched earth left behind by neoliberalism.'" (231) Stein concludes by offering some alternatives. Firstly, she insists, 'manufacturing renewal cannot be left to the market alone' because the decline "has gone on for too long to hope that business will just 'pick up' to meet particular demands." (230) The state must intervene, otherwise, human beings will continue to suffer, national sovereignty will be damaged, and crucial skills will disappear, perhaps forever.

She reminds us that most citizens favour value-added industry over the extractive export of primary commodities and insists that, despite the fierce global competition, Germany and the Scandinavian countries show that there is a place for the high-quality manufacturing industry in Australia. From personal experience, the reviewer knows that regions such as the Black Forest are not well-endowed with natural resources, but sustain high-quality manufacturing industries, such as precision instrument making, which relies on highly skilled tradespeople and does not depend solely on digital technology.

Stein concludes by reminding us that "without industrial craft, we would be far less capable and more superficial as human beings attempting to survive in this fragile world." (235) This tightly argued, incredibly rich text should be read not just by labour scholars and activists, but also by progressive politicians and citizens. The themes it raises echo back to the early days of the Industrial Revolution and show that deskilling and the alienation of labour are still with us.

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Keith Pluymers, *No Wood, No Kingdom: Political Ecology in the English Atlantic* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021)

This book brings an important new perspective and a lot of archival research to an old topic. The rise of ironworking in England put new pressure on the long-term sustainability of English forests. The kingdom relied on the navy to preserve its sovereignty, so the possibility of a scarcity of shipbuilding timber created concern and shaped the political ecology of the early modern period. The actual crisis never materialized, and the navy shipyards continued to find domestic supplies of oak and other essential timber. At the same time, the pressure on the forests was real, and British ports turned to Norway for increasing quantities of construction timber during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The 17th century also saw the English extend their imperial reach in Ireland, North America, and the Caribbean. Pluymers shows how boosters looking to increase government support and investment in overseas colonies tried to capitalize on the endemic concern about forests in England. Following two chapters on England and Ireland, his book details efforts to promote forest industries in Virginia, Bermuda, and Barbados. The Irish chapter includes a well-researched analysis of the pressure ironworks

created in County Waterford. Individuals interested in promoting Virginian forests saw the same threats of scarcity in Ireland and argued that this closer island could not solve England's problems.

Pluymers uses a political ecology framework to explore the interplay between ideas about forest scarcity and abundance and the ecological realities of English, Irish, and overseas forests. He generally finds the rhetoric was shaped by ideas more than the material reality of forests. In Virginia, forest composition and Indigenous resistance often complicated the easy extraction of useful strategic forest resources. Where boosters saw abundance, settlers found forests without the destiny of pine trees needed to produce naval stores (tar and turpentine) or mulberry trees to support silk production. The Virginian forests also proved to be dangerous contested territory as the Powhatans resisted further settler incursion into their territory. The first attempt to start an ironworks also ended quickly in failure. The abundant Atlantic forest, at first glance, looked like an obvious solution to the timber crisis in England, but in the decades that followed, the crisis in England failed to materialize fully, and bringing together the labour and resources in Virginia proved difficult. Two centuries later, North Carolina's longleaf pine forests became a global centre in naval store production and the British turned to their remaining colonial forests for large quantities of timber. But in both cases, it took the mass migration of labour from overseas: African slaves in North Carolina and free but often impoverished immigrants in the Province of Canada and New Brunswick.

Bermuda and Barbados provide different case studies, with more success in developing commercial activities in their forests in Bermuda and attention to the noncommercial value of trees and forests in Barbados. That said, they were no more successful at solving England's timber scarcity problems, as the luxury timbers and dyed woods were not interchangeable with the British oak or Scots pine.

The concluding chapter returns to England and the debates over timber scarcity, with a particular focus on John Evelyn's *Sylva* published in 1670. Evelyn, like many of the other sources used by Pluymers in the book, "deployed the idea of scarcity to advance his vision for the best uses of England's woods." (237) But *Sylva* also supported the idea of relying on Virginia to help offset some of the pressure on domestic woods, reminding us that intellectuals were already thinking about the possibility of using the empire to overcome ecological limits long before Ricardo grappled with the land constraints in the early 19th century or Georg Borgström coined the phrase "ghost acreage" during the middle of the 20th century.

While Pluymers provides a detailed exploration of case studies exploring why ideas of turning to the Atlantic forest to solve the timber shortages in England failed during the 17th century, the English did turn to Norway and Baltic ports during the early modern period. The northern European timber trade reminds us that while the timber famine never created a serious security crisis, Great Britain's forests were depleted to the point the island needed to import growing quantities of construction timber. The coverage of the book would have been even more impressive if it included a chapter on Norway, but that would be a lot to ask of a book that already covers three overseas colonies along with England and Ireland. There were a few other opportunities to better connect the depths of research in this book with the wider historiography in environmental and economic history in the introduction

https://doi.org/10.52975/llt.2022v90.0031

and maybe in a standalone conclusion. But none of this takes away from the contributions of this book that expertly links the history of concerns about timber scarcity with English dreams about the value of the Atlantic empire during the 17th century. Readers interested in both the Atlantic World, ideas of scarcity and cornucopianism, ecological imperialism, and forests in the English Atlantic will find this book very useful.

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Kees Boterbloem, ed., *Life in Stalin's Soviet Union* (London: Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, 2019)

Since at least the mid-1990s, historians have explored everyday life for people in the past, moving beyond political, social, and economic structures to ask questions about people's microhistorical patterns in work, consumption, family life, education, religion, and more that might help us understand these societies more fully. It has become particularly important work for historians of authoritarian regimes as we seek to complicate the top-down histories that used to dominate the field. Kees Boterbloem's new collection on daily life under the rule of Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union (from about 1929 to 1953) brings together an all-star group of established historians in a comprehensive twelve essay volume. Each essay draws on the author's previous work, usually from the late 1990s or early 2000s, to provide a snapshot of a theme – including the peasantry, education, food, disability, and city planning. While the contributors' research, records, and the scope of coverage are impressive, and a volume focused on short, easily digestible essays is most welcome, this collection has some limitations that could prevent it from fully satisfying either a general interest or an academic audience.

After an introduction to the volume as a whole, Boterbloem opens the collection with his own essay on peasant life during the state's violent drive to collectivize agriculture in the early 1930s. The eleven remaining essays are not grouped by theme or time period but explore their own short, contained topics. Heather DeHaan discusses urban architecture, housing, sanitation, and public health. David Shearer focuses on crime and "social dislocation" (71), showing how the bureaucracy created criminals from people just trying to live their lives (buying and selling illegal goods, for example). Golfo Alexopoulos' ensuing chapter pairs well with Shearer's in examining the setting of the Gulag prison camps. It is particularly well written and should serve as an accessible primer on the goals and experiences of the Gulag, especially for those unfamiliar with this history. Kenneth Slepyan's contribution is one of the few to centre on the years of World War II instead of the 1930s. It too provides a strong synopsis for new readers, this time of Red Army soldiers' experiences during such a brutal war. Frances Bernstein's important chapter discusses disability, again providing a strong introduction to the topic for new readers and covering a range of topics including medicine, workplace accidents, war wounds, and mental illness. Larry Holmes writes on education and explains his source base of diaries and interviews particularly well; he uses students' voices to great effect. James Heinzen contributes an essay on ordinary people's interactions with the workers of the vast Soviet bureaucracy, including privacy, corruption, and endless paperwork. Gregory Freeze ends the collection with his essay on religion, a topic often shortchanged due to the erroneous assumption by historians that worship did