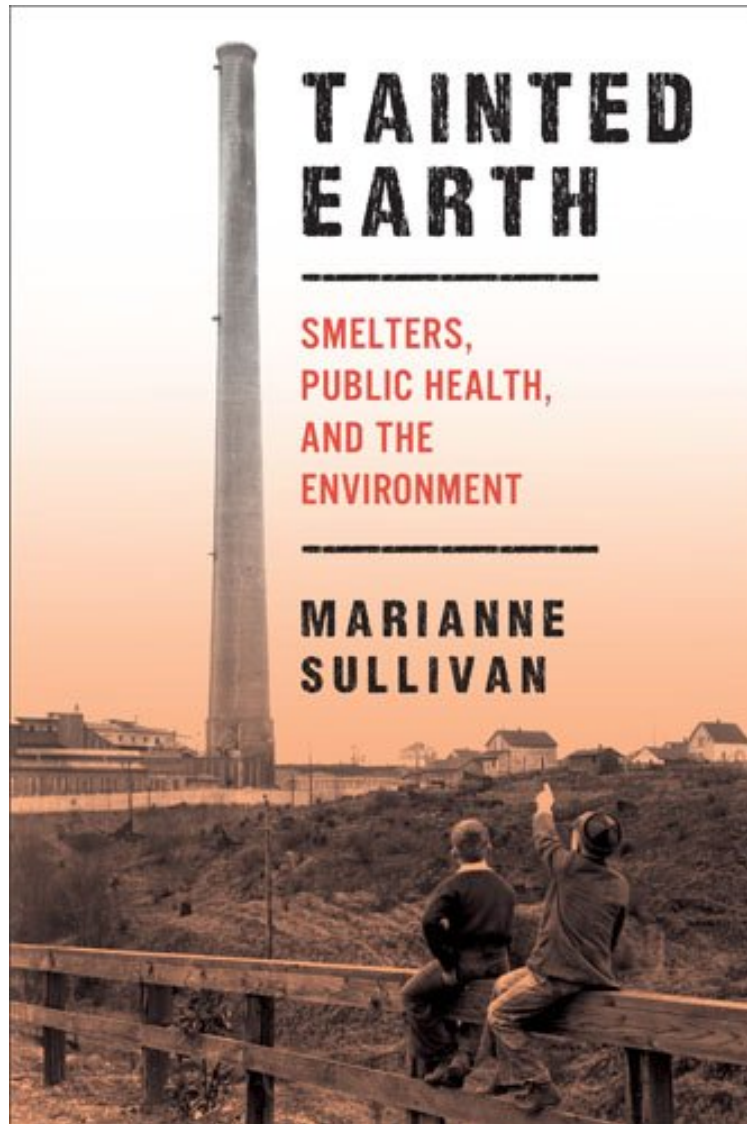


[Read free ebook] Tainted Earth: Smelters, Public Health, and the Environment (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)

Tainted Earth: Smelters, Public Health, and the Environment (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)

Marianne Sullivan

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2062032 in Books Marianne Sullivan 2014-01-23 2013-12-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .58 x 6.00l, .84 #File Name: 0813562783256 pages Tainted Earth | File size: 47.Mb

Marianne Sullivan : Tainted Earth: Smelters, Public Health, and the Environment (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tainted Earth: Smelters, Public Health, and the Environment (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Marianne Sullivan has written a meticulously documented and

devastating indictment ...By David J. WilsonMarianne Sullivan has written a meticulously documented and devastating indictment of the non-ferrous metals smelting industry, corporate determination to put profits before children's health, and government agencies either in the pocket of the industry or too weak and faint-hearted to be effective. Smelter operations in Ruston (near Tacoma), Washington, El Paso, Texas, and Silver Valley, Idaho dumped enormous quantities of toxic sulfur dioxide, lead, and/or arsenic into the air of these communities for many, many years, poisoning people and contaminating soil for miles around. The industry initially followed a policy of controlling the science dealing with the environmental and health impacts of smelting operations; needless to say, their "scientists" were never able to find evidence for any damage. When this was no longer effective they employed the tactics of systematically casting doubt on the scientific findings of others that demonstrated the massive damage they were inflicting upon their communities; they employed the same firm to do this that was hired by the tobacco industry to cast doubt upon the health effects of tobacco. Another tactic was using all possible legal challenges and obfuscations to delay, if not eliminate, the establishment and enforcement of standards and regulations designed to protect the public's health, particularly that of children.The problem was finally solved, for America, at least, when these smelters became unprofitable due to foreign competition and were closed down, leaving as a toxic legacy large areas of soil massively contaminated with lead or arsenic. The industry moved abroad. So now the children of China, Peru, Zambia, and Chile are being poisoned, just as American children were poisoned for so many years.Ms. Sullivan, you have given us a very readable, clearly written history of one aspect of corporate greed, and your thorough documentation provides ample justification for the anger that rises from almost every page. Many thanks.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Michele G GrodnerFascinating details of environmental contamination from the past helps to clarify our contemporary toxic situations.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy J PapparichAmazing book! It should be school reading requirement!

Smelting is an industrial process involving the extraction of metal from ore. During this process, impurities in oreincluding arsenic, lead, and cadmiummay be released from smoke stacks, contaminating air, water, and soil with toxic-heavy metals. The problem of public health harm from smelter emissions received little official attention for much for the twentieth century. Though people living near smelters periodically complained that their health was impaired by both sulfur dioxide and heavy metals, for much of the century there was strong deference to industry claims that smelter operations were a nuisance and not a serious threat to health. It was only when the majority of children living near the El Paso, Texas, smelter were discovered to be lead-exposed in the early 1970s that systematic, independent investigation of exposure to heavy metals in smelting communities began. Following El Paso, an even more serious lead poisoning epidemic was discovered around the Bunker Hill smelter in northern Idaho. In Tacoma, Washington, a copper smelter exposed children to arsenica carcinogenic threat.Thoroughly grounded in extensive archival research, Tainted Earth traces the rise of public health concerns about nonferrous smelting in the western United States, focusing on three major facilities: Tacoma, Washington; El Paso, Texas; and Bunker Hill, Idaho. Marianne Sullivan documents the response from community residents, public health scientists, the industry, and the government to pollution from smelters as well as the long road to protecting public health and the environment. Placing the environmental and public health aspects of smelting in historical context, the book connects local incidents to national stories on the regulation of airborne toxic metals.The nonferrous smelting industry has left a toxic legacy in the United States and around the world. Unless these toxic metals are cleaned up, they will persist in the environment and may sicken peoplechildren in particularfor generations to come. The twentieth-century struggle to control smelter pollution shares many similarities with public health battles with such industries as tobacco and asbestos where industry supported science created doubt about harm, and reluctant government regulators did not take decisive action to protect the publics health.

"Tainted Earthstands out as a compelling demonstration of just how central lead and copper smelters were to the making of our modern science and regulation of environmental pollution in the United States.The research and writing on display are smoothly woven and in places, inspired."