

# Reviews

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*The Dilemma of Lawlessness: Organized Crime, Violence, Prosperity, and Security Along Guatemala's Borders.* Ralph Espach, Daniel Haering, Javier Meléndez Quiñonez, and Miguel Castillo Giron. 2016. <https://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo77414>.

This book presents the reader with both facts and conclusions drawn from three case studies. Authors Ralph Espach, Daniel Haering, Javier Meléndez Quiñonez, and Miguel Castillo Giron focus on the lack of security along Guatemala's borders and the serious narcotics trafficking, execution-style mass murders, and other severe public security issues that have developed as a result. This research looks closely at the effects of criminal organizations and illicit trafficking within the three particular border municipalities of Guatemala—Sayaxché, Gualán, and Malacatán. The three areas are compared demographically and economically, and through which a deeper analysis is developed on creating better border control through the behaviors of the local communities themselves.

In eighty-six pages, the reader is given some historical context and narrative timeline that explains exactly how and why these borders have been taken advantage of over time. Those that come to this book knowing little on the subject learn right in the introduction that towns close to these borders do not have access to any public assistance or authority such as a health clinic or police, thus creating ideal platforms for crime to ensue.

Readers who have more background knowledge will be impressed by the notable tables, maps, and photos throughout.

Statements are drawn from interviews by area residents to really do some strong telling. The book also includes an interesting postscript written five years after the initial research, a supportive bibliography, and a helpful index.

Scholars interested in crime, security, cultural studies, along with public government and works will find *The Dilemma of Lawlessness* a worthy read.—*Emily M. Alford* ([alfordem@indiana.edu](mailto:alfordem@indiana.edu)), *Social Sciences Librarian and Head of Government Information, Maps and Microform Services, Indiana University*

*Picturing the Big Shop: Photos of the U.S. Government Publishing Office, 1900–1980.* Washington DC: US Government Publishing Office, 2017. <https://permanent.access.gpo.gov/gpo77951/picturing-the-big-shop.pdf>.

*Picturing the Big Shop* features approximately two hundred captioned photographs from the Government Publishing Office historical photo collection to show “the working life” of the GPO. In focusing on primary sources, it offers a different perspective than that provided in *Keeping America Informed* (US Government Printing Office 2011, revised 2016), the “official sesquicentennial history” of the GPO. The popularity of the photographs in *Keeping America Informed*, in fact, led to *Picturing the Big Shop*'s creation.

Rather than arranging entries chronologically, *Picturing the Big Shop*'s chapters look at one specific aspect of the GPO and its changes over time. For example, chapter 5 focuses on the Superintendent of Documents and FDLP Libraries, while chapter 3 highlights the steps involved with binding materials.

Each chapter begins with a text summary of the major topic. Each page within a chapter features a photograph and a descriptive caption, which varies in length and depth as needed. For example, historical information for a building is more in depth than the brief description of a particular step in a process.

Some chapters will mostly interest librarians or government historians, such as chapters 5 and 6. However, other chapters cover topics of wider historical interest. Chapters 2 and 3, for instance, document changes in printing technology from the Industrial Revolution. Chapter 4 highlights various types of jobs at GPO and the impacts of racial and gender inequality. In these cases, the snapshot of the GPO offers a glimpse to the overall history of American industry.

The book's primary weakness is a lack of organization. There is no index for individual photographs or for major subjects pictured. There are also two sections not included in the table of contents that use multiple photographs to highlight a specific topic. Chapter 2 details the history of a particular Linotype machine (“General Pershing,” 54–61). Chapter 4 offers an in depth look at the Apprentice Program (171–97), even featuring an additional descriptive page like those found at the beginnings of chapters.

Despite the above, the strengths of the book far outweigh its negatives. The images are appealing, the text illuminating, and the collection as a whole offers unique insight into the GPO's history.—*Elizabeth A. Sanders* ([elizabeth.sanders-3@selu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.sanders-3@selu.edu)), *Reference/Instruction Librarian, Sims Memorial Library*