
Walking to Work

Tramps in America, 1790–1935
Edited by Eric H. Monkkonen

Although the tramp has long been a figure of wide popular appeal, the realities of the tramping life have been obscured by sensationalism or sentiment. As this pathbreaking scholarly study of the subject demonstrates, the real social history of tramps is that of the wandering unemployed, “walking to work”—often to distant locations—not out of whimsy but out of need.

Employing a wide range of previously unused sources, these eight essays deromanticize the tramping phenomenon by identify-



ing its economic causes; by examining the ethnic, demographic, and personal characteristics of the seemingly anonymous tramp population and by considering links between tramps and social organizations. The resulting composite picture is a complex portrait of an often misunderstood social class.

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edited by **TERRENCE J. McDONALD**, *Dept. of History,
University of Michigan—Ann Arbor*
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While existing literature on urban history focuses chiefly on urban social aspects, the *political* and *fiscal* components of urban history have been almost completely ignored. In a time when "American cities teeter on the edge of insolvency," the editors address the important question of urban fiscal policy, giving the issue historical and theoretical perspective with a strong empirical base. Applying social science methods to widely available—but mostly neglected—fiscal data, these respected contributors provide in-depth analyses of specific cities and cover a wide range of topics within urban finance. Their interrelated essays significantly advance understanding of the development of urban fiscal politics in America.

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