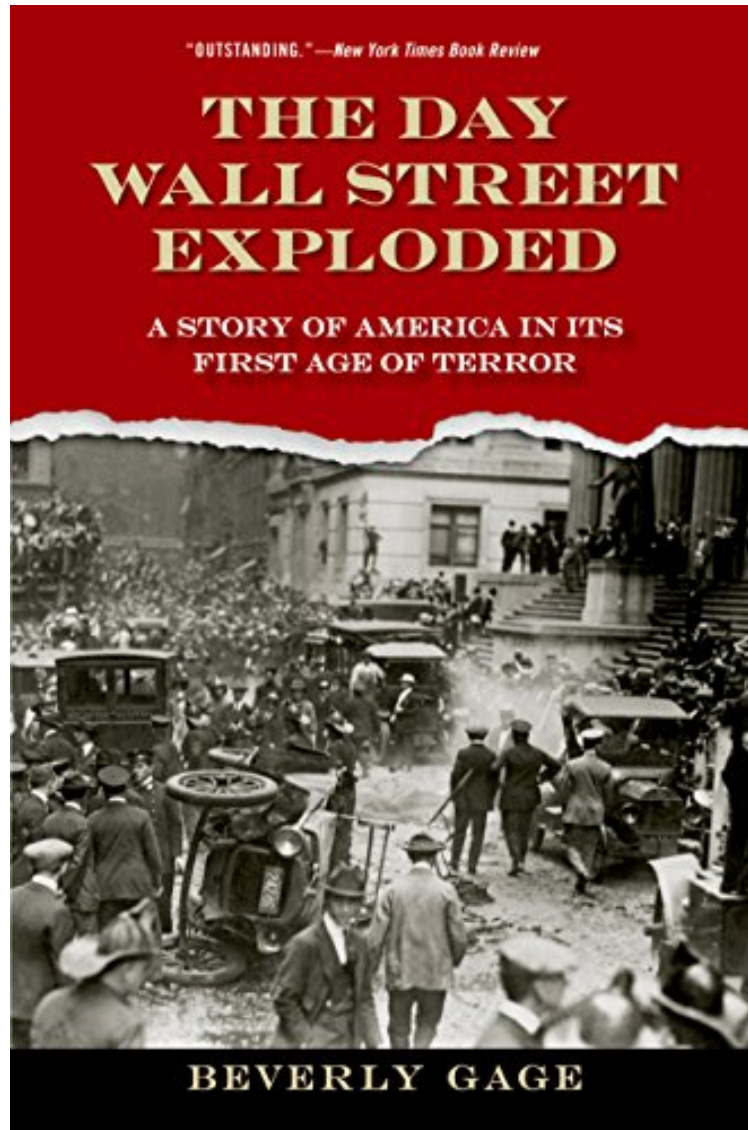


[Ebook free] The Day Wall Street Exploded: A Story of America in Its First Age of Terror

The Day Wall Street Exploded: A Story of America in Its First Age of Terror

Beverly Gage

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Beverly Gage : The Day Wall Street Exploded: A Story of America in Its First Age of Terror before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Day Wall Street Exploded: A Story of America in Its First Age of Terror:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A History of Political ViolenceBy John MuggleThe Day Wall Street Exploded presents a key part of US history. In it, Beverly Gage sets the stage for events now little remembered, but the effects of which still linger in a major way. It would seem much of American economics and politics has grown out of

class conflict. Gage does not sugar coat the plight of the American worker in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There were no safety regulations, no safeguards against exploitation, no minimum wage or eight hour work day. The situation among many workers in those days was not just deplorable, but desperate. And attempts at demanding workers' rights, mainly in the form of union strikes, were met with violence. Police were called into bust up the strikes. Striking workers responded with violence of their own at times, often against strikebreakers. It was against this background that terrorist actions by self-proclaimed anarchists were perpetrated. Peaceful strikes were not usually effective, and so to many the need for violence was apparent. The first attacks were directed against the corporate and political elites that suppressed the labor movement. But later attacks were seen as being aimed at innocent civilians who had nothing to do with labor disputes. In the battle for public sympathy, these terrorist actions were counter-productive. Especially in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution of 1917, Communism became something to fear. Communists were seen by many as advocating the violent overthrow of the American way of life. Class conflict had spilled beyond mere labor relations. The political ramifications, both domestic and global, tended to distract from the actual plight of the workers. The Red Scare during the period following the Russian Revolution and World War I was short lived in the public imagination at the time, but seeds were planted to sprout again during the McCarthy era. One of those seeds was planted in J Edgar Hoover who had gained his hatred of Communism in the period Gage recounts. Hoover considered Communism a bigger threat domestically than organized crime, a consideration shared by much of law enforcement later on. *The Day Wall Street Exploded* takes us back to a simpler time when the conflicts were more easily traced to the class warfare dating at least from the nineteenth century. Nowadays things have gotten far more complicated, but similar forces are still at work. Gage's historical work is one piece that can help us sort out the forces and motivations at play by looking back to the origin of much of our domestic conflicts.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The background is interesting, the rest of the book is not. By Henry Cohen Many books tend to get more interesting after they finish with the background material and get to the heart of the book; in a biography, for example, the background about the subject's ancestors and childhood is usually not as interesting as the story of subject's accomplishments, which is, after all, why we read the book. In *The Day Wall Street Exploded*, by contrast, the first third of the book, about the confrontations of labor, socialists, and anarchists with management and law enforcement in the late 19th century and early 20th century, was quite interesting. But, after the day that Wall Street exploded (Sept. 16, 1920, when explosives killed 38 people and injured hundreds), the book focuses solely on that crime (if it was a crime and not an accident) and the efforts to solve it, and it becomes more and more tedious. We learn about the competition and conflicts between federal and local authorities, and we learn about the numerous Italian anarchists and Communists who are arrested and released for lack of evidence. The details seem to be presented for their own sake and to have no larger point.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Somewhat of a meandering account providing great detail about the political intrigues the hampered investigations into ... By Rich72 Somewhat of a meandering account providing great detail about the political intrigues the hampered investigations into the yet unsolved crime. Although I read a good deal in American history, I found the material covered here and the context author Gage sets it in quite new. The era of history covered in this account is ignored in many American history courses. Gage writes clearly, although the huge cast of characters and their motivations, biases, and quirks require close reading.

Just after noon on September 16, 1920, as hundreds of workers poured onto Wall Street for their lunchtime break, a horse-drawn cart packed with dynamite exploded in a spray of metal and fire, turning the busiest corner of the financial center into a war zone. Thirty-nine people died and hundreds more lay wounded, making the Wall Street explosion the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history until the Oklahoma City bombing. In *The Day Wall Street Exploded*, Beverly Gage tells the story of that once infamous but now largely forgotten event. Based on thousands of pages of Bureau of Investigation reports, this historical detective saga traces the four-year hunt for the perpetrators, a worldwide effort that spread as far as Italy and the new Soviet nation. It also gives readers the decades-long but little-known history of homegrown terrorism that helped to shape American society a century ago. The book delves into the lives of victims, suspects, and investigators: world banking power J.P. Morgan, Jr.; labor radical "Big Bill" Haywood; anarchist firebrands Emma Goldman and Luigi Galleani; "America's Sherlock Holmes," William J. Burns; even a young J. Edgar Hoover. It grapples as well with some of the most controversial events of its day, including the rise of the Bureau of Investigation, the federal campaign against immigrant "terrorists," the grassroots effort to define and protect civil liberties, and the establishment of anti-communism as the sine qua non of American politics. Many Americans saw the destruction of the World Trade Center as the first major terrorist attack on American soil, an act of evil without precedent. *The Day Wall Street Exploded* reminds us that terror, too, has a history. Praise for the hardcover: "Outstanding." --New York Times Book Review "Ms. Gage is a storyteller...she leaves it to her readers to draw their own connections as they digest her engaging narrative." --The New York Times "Brisk, suspenseful and richly documented" --The Chicago Tribune "An uncommonly intelligent, witty and vibrant account. She has performed

a real service in presenting such a complicated case in such a fair and balanced way."--San Francisco Chronicle