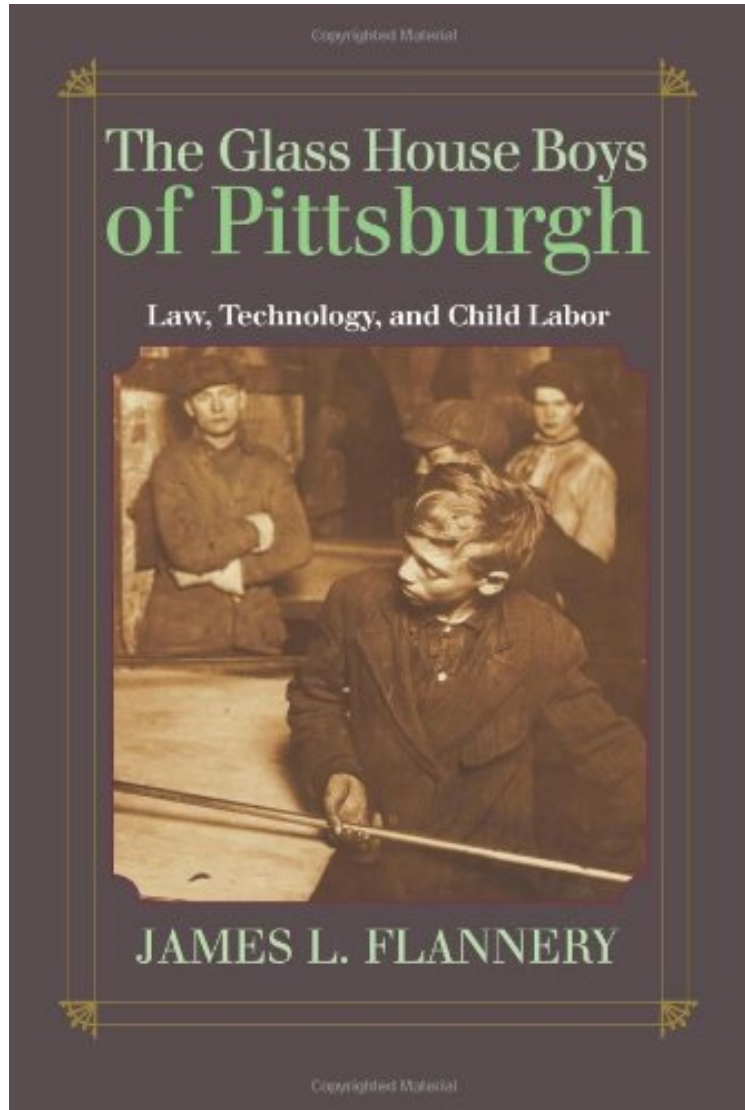


[Free pdf] The Glass House Boys of Pittsburgh

The Glass House Boys of Pittsburgh

James L. Flannery

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James L. Flannery : The Glass House Boys of Pittsburgh before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Glass House Boys of Pittsburgh:

At the end of the nineteenth century, Pittsburgh was leading the nation in glass production, and glass bottle plants in particular relied heavily on adolescent (and younger) males for their manufacturing process. These glass house boys worked both day and night, as plants ran around the clock to meet production demands and remain price competitive

with their newly-automated rivals. Boys performed menial tasks, received low wages, and had little to say on their own behalf. By the turn of the century, most states had enacted laws banning children from working at night, and coupled with compulsory education requirements, had greatly reduced the use of children in industry. In western Pennsylvania, however, child labor was deeply entrenched, and Pennsylvania lawmakers lagged far behind the rest of the nation. In *The Glass House Boys of Pittsburgh*, James L. Flannery presents an original and compelling examination of legislative clashes over the singular issue of the glass house boys. He reveals the many societal, economic, and political factors at work that allowed for the perpetuation of child labor in this industry and region. Through extensive research in Pennsylvania state legislature archives, National Child Labor Committee reports, and union and industry journals, Flannery uncovers a complex web of collusion between union representatives, industrialists, and legislators that kept child labor reform at bay. Despite national pressure, a concerted effort by reformers, and changes to education laws, the slow defeat of the glass house exception in 1915 came about primarily because of technological advances in the glass bottle industry that limited the need for child labor.

Though the bulk of this book serves mostly as a legal history, it beautifully weaves together the intertwined stories of all opposing parties--the glass-house boys and their families, the Progressive Era social reformers, the glass manufacturers, the adult glass workers and their union, and the state legislature--presenting each impartially, showing each side's vital, and often competing, interests in this particular child-labor issue. *Pittsburgh Magazine*