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Review of Incident at Bitter Creek: The Story of the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre

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Incident at Bitter Creek: The Story of the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre. By Craig Storti. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1991. Photographs, notes, bibliography, index. xii + 193 pp. \$21.95.

Storti's account of the 1885 Rock Springs, Wyoming, riot adds a twist to previous interpretations, incorporating the legacy of unionism by laying part of the blame for this grisly massacre at the feet of the Knights of Labor, whose struggle for power with railroad management caught the Chinese in a crossfire. The author focuses briefly on United States immigration policy, the influx of Chinese labor, construction of the transcontinental railroad, and the rise of western unionism, all of which culminated in the Rock Springs massacre.

Storti very persuasively uses newspapers, periodicals, and manuscript collections to support his theory, but he is less conscientious about referencing the vast amount of information included in the text. He also overlooks post-1980 research on labor and anti-Chinese violence in the West.

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