

# The Earlham Historical Journal

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## LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

This issue of the Earlham Historical Journal focuses on Earlham students' research on the interactions of self-interest and prejudice in different historical contexts. It includes an analysis of urban development, xenophobia in the car market, attempted Pan-Africanism, and labor organizing in American mines.

We begin the journal in California, with Corinne Lunden's "Hegemonic Urban Planning: Contested Space and Interests in Mid-Century East LA." Lunden presents a post-modern analysis of the intersection of race and class in urban development in Los Angeles. She argues that the modernist approach of city officials was based in racial fears of Mexican-Americans, leading to unjust displacement of their communities.

The journal continues with Tyler Tolman's "The Toyota Accelerator Crisis: A Shattered Asian Miracle," an exploration of the influence of xenophobia in the American car market. Tolman argues that the American media and governmental actions in the 2009 Toyota accelerator crisis was a result of their prejudiced and fearful view of Asian competition.

In "Pan-African ideals and the Organization of African Unity's intervention in the 1967-1970 Nigerian Civil War," Aderonke Abodunrin analyzes the failed attempt at Pan-Africanism in the Organization of African Unity's response to the 1967-1970 Nigerian Civil War. She argues that the member nations' emphasis on preserving complete autonomy dismantled the potential benefits of a unified Pan-African response.

The journal concludes with Brandon DiGregorio's "Company-Owned Americans?: Militant Unionism and the Merging of Corporation and State in Southern West Virginia 1900-1925." DiGregorio investigates the social conditions of miners as a motivating factor in labor action in early 20<sup>th</sup> century West Virginia. He argues that, with the support of local government, coal companies took paternalistic control of every aspect of the miners' lives, causing them to organize and pursue more equitable conditions resembling socialist goals.

This issue of the Earlham Historical Journal aims to bring greater understanding to the manifestations of self-interest and prejudice in various historical contexts. While each paper investigates a different region and time, they all contribute to a diverse academic discourse. Lunden emphasizes race in legal displacement of communities. Tolman discusses the role of racial stereotypes in the public sector.

Abodunrin explores the impacts of self-interest in international coalitions.  
DiGregorio examines the role of power structures in mining communities.

This issue of the Earlham Historical Journal represents the search for truth that is at the core of research amongst students at Earlham College. It is our hope that these papers promote further discussion and exploration of these and related topics.

On behalf of the editorial board,

Jacob Noble and Sonia Norton