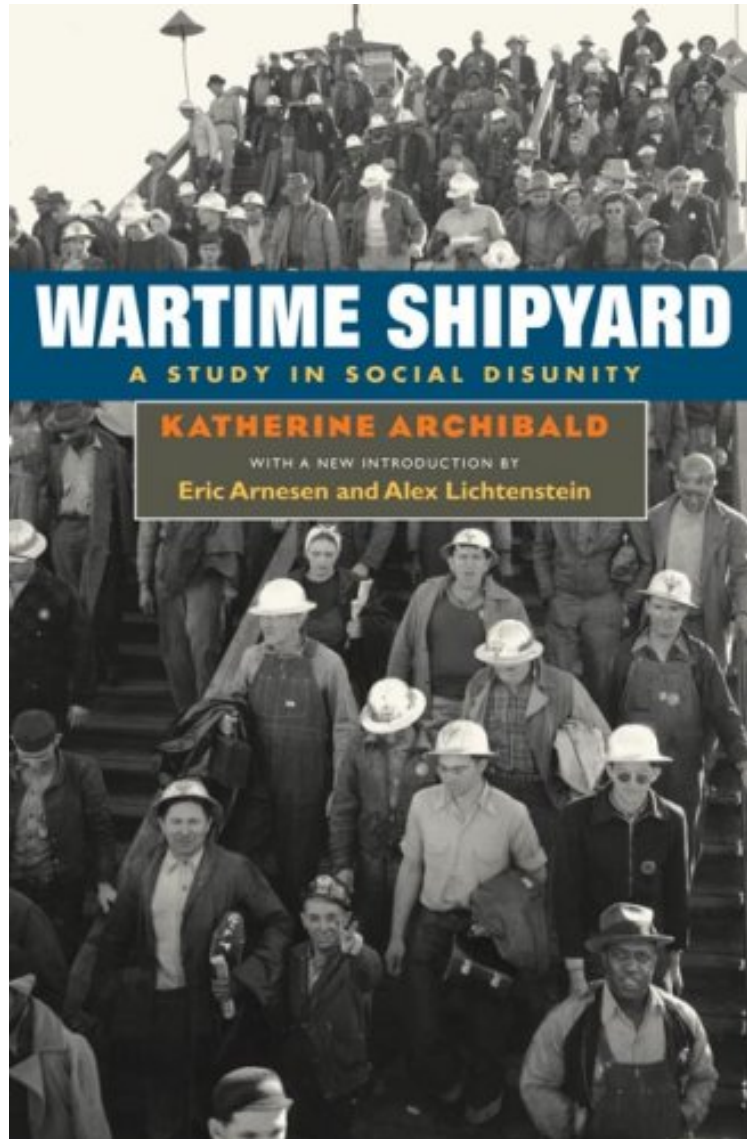


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Wartime Shipyard: A STUDY IN SOCIAL DISUNITY

Katherine Archibald

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Katherine Archibald : Wartime Shipyard: A STUDY IN SOCIAL DISUNITY before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wartime Shipyard: A STUDY IN SOCIAL DISUNITY:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. We Weren't in the War TogetherBy S. GilfordThis is a fascinating book for people interested in race relations as well as in World War Two Home Front. Ms. Archibald had just graduated from UC Berkeley with her doctorate in Sociology at the beginning of WW II. She "did her part" by going

to work in a San Francisco Bay shipyard, building desperately needed vessels to carry the materials of war to soldiers on front lines in Europe, Africa and in the Pacific Theater. The work was vitally important and tens of thousands of people joined in. The war brought together people of all races, religions, socio-economic backgrounds, cultural norms and genders into a common effort. According to Archibald who was, after all, a trained observer of peoples' interaction, the result was a stratified work force in which each group distrusted, disliked and perhaps even hated at least one other group and in turn had those same feelings visited upon themselves. She convincingly destroys the view that Americans, under the treat of the Axis Powers, all came together in common cause. This is not a pessimistic view, however. She does find hope in her reactions of some people, their willingness to set aside prejudices but, she will admit, they are in the minority. (If you Google my name and the book title, you will find a full review I wrote for a Maritime History journal.)0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WWII ShipyardsBy B. K. MarshallIf you, like me, had a relative who worked in the shipyards around San Francisco Bay, you need to read this participant-observer study. It has some fascinating data as well as insights into the women who won the war.

An eye-opening first-hand account of life in a WWII shipyard from a woman's perspective In 1942, Katherine Archibald, a graduate student at Berkeley, left the halls of academe to spend two years working in a nearby Oakland shipyard. She arrived with a host of preconceptions about the American working class, race relations and the prospect for their improvement, and wartime unity. Her experience working in a shipyard where women were seen as intruders, where "Okies" and black migrants from the South were regarded with barely-disguised hatred, and where trade unions preferred protecting their turf to defending workers' rights, threw much of her liberal faith into doubt. Archibald's 1947 book about her experiences, *Wartime Shipyard: A Study in Social Disunity*, remains a classic account of life and labor on the home front. This new edition includes an introduction written by historians Eric Arnesen and Alex Lichtenstein, who explore Archibald's work in light of recent scholarship on women and African Americans in the wartime workplace.

"Wartime Shipyard is a disturbing book, a fearsome book. It lays bare with harrowing accuracy, in individual detail, the crude cargo of contempt and scorn, arrogance and inertia and fear, which our culture and economic organization impose on the individual and which our schools and churches hardly touch."--Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science