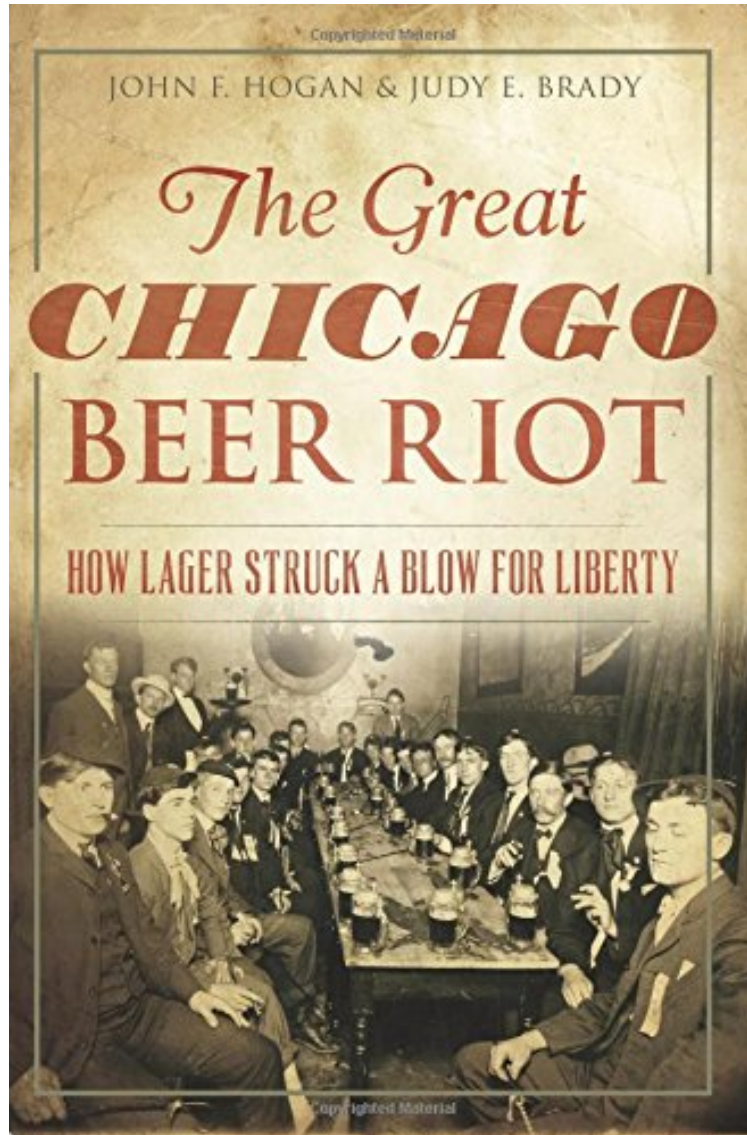


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The Great Chicago Beer Riot: How Lager Struck a Blow for Liberty

John F. Hogan, Judy E. Brady
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John F. Hogan, Judy E. Brady : The Great Chicago Beer Riot: How Lager Struck a Blow for Liberty before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Chicago Beer Riot: How Lager Struck a Blow for Liberty:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wish I'd just gotten it at the libraryBy CustomerThis book has little going for it. It's already short, but devotes surprisingly little time to the Lager Beer Riot itself or its significance. Much of the work focuses on a general overview of Chicago's history and some of the broader developments of the era, but it

offers no interesting insight into these things. Instead it chooses to uncritically parrot (if not outright quote) the arguments made in its limited source base, and doesn't adequately connect them to the riot. Even so, the book demonstrates a real lack of awareness of the historiography of the period it examines. I doubt that the authors seriously examined the scholarship necessary to understand the themes their work relies on (nativism, temperance, beer/brewing, German immigrants, mid-19th century politics, the Civil War). While it does compile some interesting details about the blow-by-blow events of the riot, and broader Chicago city history, the authors clearly didn't really know how to garner real insight out of that information. The book's conclusion shows this the most, which offers a couple token insights about the significance of the riot (mostly arguments that other historians have already offered), spends a few pages haphazardly describing some subsequent events, and then peters out without a real ending. As a popular press book, it provides some neat factoids despite a questionable, at times silly, writing style. As scholarship, it has no real value at all. This is a shame, as the Lager Beer Riot absolutely has broader historical significance and insights to offer not only Chicago's history, but the broader developments of the 19th century. They're just not found here.

In 1855, when Chicago's recently elected mayor Levi Boone pushed through a law forbidding the sale of alcohol on Sunday, the city pushed back. To the German community, the move seemed a deliberate provocation from Boone's stridently anti-immigrant Know-Nothing Party. Beer formed the centerpiece of German Sunday gatherings, and robbing them of it on their only day off was a slap in the face. On April 21, 1855, an armed mob poured across the Clark Street Bridge and advanced on city hall. The Chicago Lager Riot resulted in at least one death, nineteen injuries and sixty arrests. It also led to the creation of a modern police department and the political alliances that helped put Abraham Lincoln in the White House. Authors Judy E. Brady and John F. Hogan explore the riot and its aftermath, from pint glass to bully pulpit.

About the Author Chicago native John F. Hogan is a public relations consultant and former broadcast journalist (WGN-TV/Radio). Hogan is the author of three other titles with The History Press: *Fire Strikes the Chicago Stock Yards*, *Forgotten Fires of Chicago* and *The 1937 Chicago Steel Strike*. His wife and co-author, Judy E. Brady, has produced stage activities for Rotary International and been a passionate advocate for anti-discrimination legislation. They reside in Chicago's East Lakeview neighborhood.