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# Oil and the Federal Presence in New Mexico

David V. Holtby

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## On Your Own

### Introduction

If you are interested in exploring some of the topics discussed in the entries, you can access useful information on the internet as well as in books. Some entry points for each resource are discussed below.

### The World Wide Web

New Mexicans' experiences in the statehood period can be researched through the University of New Mexico's University Libraries electronic Rocky Mountain Online Archive at <http://rmoa.unm.edu>.

For voice recordings of many U.S. presidents, including from Teddy Roosevelt through Calvin Coolidge (1900-1928), go to [www.lib.msu.edu/vincent](http://www.lib.msu.edu/vincent). For other audio and video recordings from this period as well as a gateway to other presidential materials, including State of the Union Addresses, see [www.presidentsusa.net](http://www.presidentsusa.net).

The Library of Congress has a portion of its sizable collection online. Go to <http://memory.loc.gov> and pick from among the eighteen categories listed. For example, under the entry "Environment, Conservation" is an outstanding collection of materials organized chronologically tracing "The Evolution of the Conservation Movement." Three sections cover the years 1901-1920. Or click on "Government and Law" to view very good materials on the years 1918-1920 under the entry "World War I and 1920 Election." Also in this section is a particularly rich set of entries on the "Coolidge Era." Each of the eighteen topical entries has some information for the period 1900-1930.

Also at the Library of Congress's website is a large photographic collection. Twenty photographs of Hobbs, taken in 1940 by Russell Lee for the Farm Security Administration, are found at [www.loc.gov/rr/print/html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/html), then click on "Search the Catalog" and type in the key words "Hobbs, New Mexico." Although Lee visited Hobbs a dozen years after its first major oil strike, these photographs are the most complete visual record available of this early New Mexico "oil boom town."

Tenement housing attracted much attention from Progressive era reformers. To view a tenement house and trace its history from the 1860s to the 1930s and see the impact legislation had in forcing improvements, go to [www.tenement.org](http://www.tenement.org). A peek at popular culture through the earliest movies is provided at [www.hfmvgv.org](http://www.hfmvgv.org). Click on "Explore and Learn," then "Online Exhibits," then "Your Place in Time: 20<sup>th</sup> Century America," and click on "The Progressive Generation" and finally click on "The Nickelodeon" to view very early movies.

A selection of Jack London's fiction and nonfiction, including essays on socialism, can be read online at [www.london.somoma.edu/Writings](http://www.london.somoma.edu/Writings).

Visit the very complete website of the American Oil and Gas Historical Society at [www.aoghs.org](http://www.aoghs.org) for a portal to a number of important historical and contemporary topics. Click on "Museum Links" to go to a list of petroleum museums in America. Under New Mexico, you will find information about the exhibit "From Dinosaurs to Drill Bites" at the Farmington Museum. You can also see a photograph of the Navajo Nation's Rattlesnake Derrick. Under the entries for Pennsylvania, go to "Oil 150" to see the official website of the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration of oil's discovery. To read an account published by *National Geographic* in 1920 about the history and future prospects of oil, go to [www.hubbartpeak.com/history/ng20feb.htm](http://www.hubbartpeak.com/history/ng20feb.htm). For an example of turn-of-the-

century “boosterism” in Los Angeles with an ad promoting oil as an investment, see [www.ulwaf.com/LA-1900s/index04.html](http://www.ulwaf.com/LA-1900s/index04.html) and click on February 1900.

An invaluable legal overview of the Teapot Dome scandal is found at [www.brookings.edu/gs/ic/teapotdome/teapotdome.htm](http://www.brookings.edu/gs/ic/teapotdome/teapotdome.htm) [yes, teapotdome appears twice]. For a concise, one-minute summary of the Senate investigation that has intriguing details see [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and then click on “Art and History” and click on “Historical Minute Essays,” and under 1921-1940 select “Senate Investigates the Teapot Dome Scandal.” Senator Walsh published a brief account of his views on the investigation in *Forum Magazine* in July 1924. It can read at [www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAwalshTJ.htm](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAwalshTJ.htm).

### Bibliographic Essay

The most comprehensive modern sources on Territorial New Mexico are Howard R. Lamar, *The Far Southwest, 1846-1912* (revised edition; University of New Mexico Press, 2000) and Robert W. Larson, *New Mexico's Quest for Statehood, 1846-1912* (University of New Mexico Press, 1968). Incomparable for details on the Territorial era is a two-volume book published in 1911-12: Ralph Emerson Twitchell, *The Leading Facts of New Mexican History* (facsimile reprint; Horn & Wallace Publishers, 1963). On President-elect Lincoln, New Mexico, and extension of slavery, see these two studies: David M. Potter, *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861* (Harper & Row, 1976) and William C. Harris, *Lincoln's Rise to the Presidency* (University Press of Kansas, 2007). An excellent recent survey of western history, both readable and full of insightful generalizations, is Richard W. Etulain, *Beyond the Missouri: The Story of the American West* (University of New Mexico Press, 2006).

Two authors' books proved particularly helpful as I wrestled with how to place New Mexico's economic development in the wider context of the origin of the welfare state and

the emergence of corporate capitalism: David Farber, *Sloan Rules: Alfred P. Sloan and the Triumph of General Motors* (University of Chicago Press, 2002) and Lawrence E. Mitchell, *The Speculation Economy: How Finance Triumphed Over Industry* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2007).

The Progressive era's bibliography is enormous, but I relied mostly on these four studies: Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform: From Bryan to F.D.R* (Vintage, 1955); Robert H. Wiebe, *The Search for Order, 1877-1920* (Hill and Wang, 1967); Michael E. McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920* (Free Press, 2003); and David M. Kennedy, *Over Here: The First World War and American Society* (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition; Oxford University Press, 2004).

Information on New Mexico's economic development from 1848 to 1920 is drawn from many accounts, but particularly useful were the following seven books: José A. Rivera, *Acequia Culture: Water, Land, and Community in the Southwest* (University of New Mexico Press, 1998); Robert W. Frazer, *Forts and Supplies: The Role of the Army in the Economy of the Southwest, 1846-1861* (University of New Mexico Press, 1983); David F. Myrick, *New Mexico's Railroads: A Historical Survey* (revised edition; University of New Mexico Press, 1990); Victor Westphal, *Thomas Benton Catron* (University of Arizona Press, 1973); David L. Caffey, *Frank Springer and New Mexico: From the Colfax County War to the Emergence of Modern Santa Fe* (Texas A&M University Press, 2006); Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (Norton, 1987); Richard White, *"It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own": A History of the American West* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1991);

I benefited greatly from these six books in constructing accounts of the history of oil in New Mexico and its relation to national events: Paige W. Christiansen, *The Story of Oil in New Mexico* (New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources, 1989); Gerald D. Nash, *United States Oil Policy, 1890-1964: Business and Government in Twentieth Century America*

(University of Pittsburgh Press, 1968); John G. Clark, *Energy and the Federal Government: Fossil Fuel Policies, 1900-1946* (University of Illinois Press, 1987); Roger M. Olien and Diana Davids Olien, *Oil and Ideology: The Cultural Creation of the American Petroleum Industry* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000); Kathleen P. Chamberlain, *Under Sacred Ground: A History of Navajo Oil, 1920s-1970s* (University of New Mexico Press, 2000); and Kendall Beaton, *Enterprise in Oil: A History of Shell in the United States* (Appleton-Century Crofts, Inc., 1957).

The principal published sources consulted on Albert B. Fall and his years in the Senate and as Secretary of the Interior were these: David H. Stratton, *The Tempest over Teapot Dome: The Story of Albert B. Fall* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1998); J. Leonard Bates, *Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana: Law and Public Affairs, from TR to FDR* (University of Illinois Press, 1999); Dan LaBotz, *Edward L. Doheny: Petroleum, Power, and Politics in the United States and Mexico* (Praeger Publishers, 1991); and Milton C. Nahm, *Las Vegas and Uncle Joe: The New Mexico I Remember* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1964).

The “Age of the Automobile” has attracted much interest, but my main sources were these two books: James J. Flick, *The Car Culture* (The MIT Press, 1975) and Virginia Scharff, *Taking the Wheel: Women and the Coming of the Motor Age* (reprint edition; University of New Mexico Press, 1992).