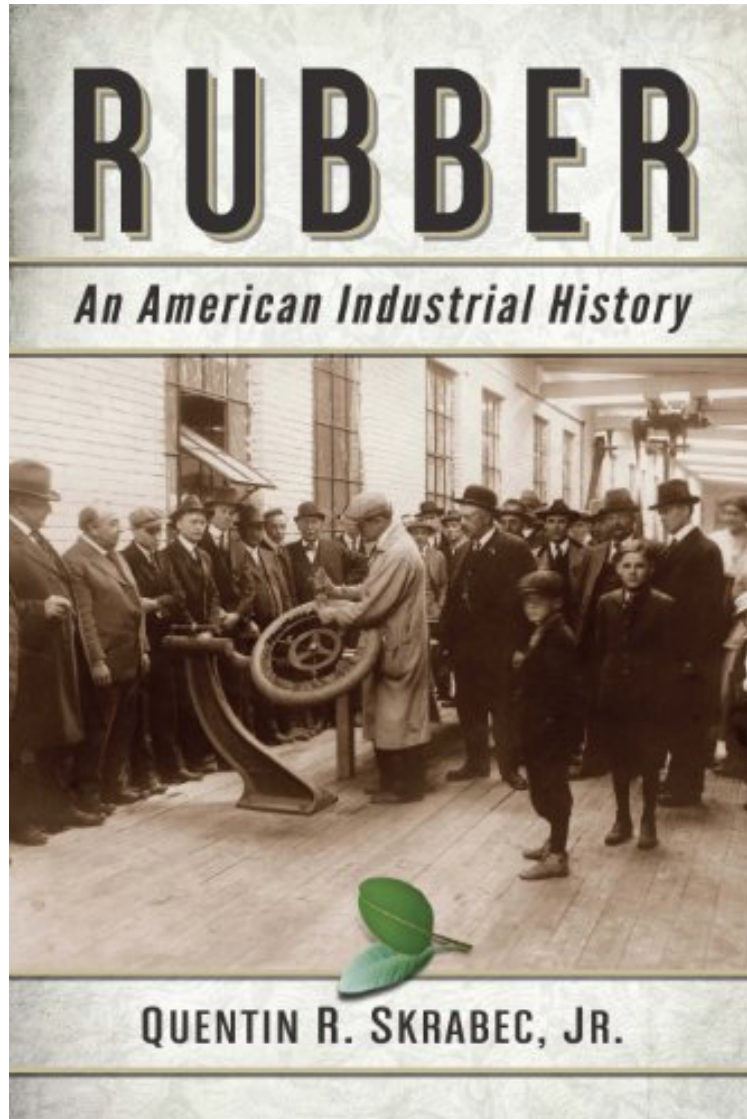


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## Rubber: An American Industrial History

*Quentin R. Skrabec Jr.*  
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**Quentin R. Skrabec Jr. : Rubber: An American Industrial History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rubber: An American Industrial History:

2 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Paean to rubber barons and Akron and jeremiad against free marketsBy John LehmanThe author is a former steel company manager who appears to have been adversely impacted by the 1970's implosion of heavy industry in Ohio, where he lives. The books is a history of the American rubber industry, and as such it is a good collection of historical facts. It is, however, more of a hagiography of the founders of the Akron rubber industry, a paean to the former greatness of the city of Akron under their paternal management, and a jeremiad against the government for not restricting the introduction of radial tires which disrupted the American tire

industry in the 1970's when they were unable to adapt to change. The author is a great admirer of William McKinley's industrial policy (at least the high tariff part), although he does not seem to grasp that McKinley's monetary policy is the very one which he laments throughout the book. The author's command of the details of the rubber industry appears to be much better than his understanding of economic history. The book also suffers from poor (or no) editing with quite a few wrong words, incoherent sentences, repetitions, and confusion of dates and historical events (for example, it mixes up the post WWI depression and the 1929 Great Depression).

The rubber industry was born in bankruptcy and built through bankruptcies. As this history details, many of the great rubber barons—Charles Goodyear, Harvey Firestone, B.F. Goodrich, F.A. Seiberling—found themselves or their companies in bankruptcy courts. Fortunately, the industry has always proven as elastic as its product. From the early search for an American location to process the rubber of the tropics to the collapse of the industry, this is the story of rubber in America.

About the Author: Quentin R. Skrabec, Jr., an international expert in operations management, manufacturing and globalization, is the author of numerous books on American industrial history, American capitalism and notable business leaders.