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## From Steel to Slots

*Chloe E. Taft*


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# FROM STEEL TO SLOTS

CASINO CAPITALISM IN THE  
POSTINDUSTRIAL CITY



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**Chloe E. Taft : From Steel to Slots** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Steel to Slots:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I thought the author did a really good job of covering the different perspectives and not trying ...By Michael BattleI was really surprised by how interesting this book was. I do a lot of work and reading about all the different angles of social and economic change as as town transitions from a Steel economy to a Casino one was fascinating. I thought the author did a really good job of covering the different perspectives and not trying to glorify the steel industry too much or not acknowledge the benefits of a casino. I think this book would be a good read for municipal employee or advocates thinking about bringing in a casino.

Bethlehem PA was synonymous with steel. But after the factories closed, the city bet its future on casino gambling. Chloe Taft describes a city struggling to make sense of the ways global capitalism transforms jobs, landscapes, and identities. While residents often have few cards to play, the shape economic progress takes is not inevitable.

As a case study of the steel industry's decline and casino-based postindustrial economic development, *From Steel to Slots* offers up illuminating detail and storytelling. (Catherine Tumber *In These Times* 2016-04-04) *From Steel to Slots* delivers fine-grained cultural analysis at its best: a study in which history is alive and fluid, and the community is humane and complex. Taft writes eloquently about deindustrialization without tears and grasps the new order without rage. This subtle book illuminates much about the past, present, and future of the urban landscape. (Jefferson Cowie, Vanderbilt University) A highly revealing and intellectually ambitious interpretation of a post-industrial landscape in flux. *From Steel to Slots* offers a fascinating look at the transformations that have occurred on the site of Bethlehem's once iconic steel industry and its implications for those who live or work in its shadows. This ethnographic account makes unique and important contributions to a range of academic literatures and will become a critical text for those interested in deindustrialization, post-industrial economies, neoliberalism, or "casino capitalism." (Christine J. Walley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) **About the Author** Chloe E. Taft is a Mellon Postdoctoral Associate in the Integrated Humanities in the American Studies Program at Yale University.