The Grapes of Wrath.


Includes an introduction by Robert DeMott.


Includes an introduction by Studs Terkel.


Arnold, Murray. “Steinbeck Hits Big Time Because of Kern.” Bakersfield Californian 1978 April 9: ?


Benson contends that the background for much of Steinbeck’s depiction of migrant life in The Grapes of Wrath, came not only from Collins’ camp reports, but also from the influence and friendship of Tom Collins, to whom the second part of the novel is dedicated. Hired in 1935 by the Resettlement Administration (later called the Farm Security Administration), Collins served as manager of the first migrant camp program in California. By 1936, Collins’ contributions to the camp program were becoming legend. When Steinbeck went to the Division of Information offices for help with a series of articles on the migrants, he was directed to Tom Collins at the Weedpatch camp. Benson credits Collins with the most important contribution to The Grapes of Wrath; that is, “the spirit at the heart of the novel, rather than...the details and color of its surface.”

“Board Holds Hearings on Grapes of Wrath Ban.” Bakersfield Californian August 28, 1939: 1.


Boren, Congressman from Oklahoma, condemns Steinbeck's novel, describing it as a "dirty, lying, filthy manuscript."


Photographer Bristol recounts his travels with John Steinbeck through the Central Valley, interviewing and photographing migrants. The article includes several of Bristol's photographs.

Argues that The Grapes of Wrath represents an attempt to reconcile "radical class politics," represented by the novel's critique of American capitalism, and "American racial nationalism," which it claims is reflected in the novel's inherent bias towards white migrants, and that from this springs an appeal for an active "solidarity" between the white middle class and the white underclass pouring into California.


Analyzes how the Great Depression influenced Steinbeck's literary technique, noting how his output during the 1930s had its roots in experience he gained as a reporter. These experiences shaped his characterization of the marginalized, gradually changing it from detached observation to personal identification, as well as his interest in social justice, which, despite claims to contrary by his fierce critics, was never rooted in Communist ideology but in emotion and an intense desire to do right by the migrants' suffering.


Collects articles and brief oral histories written by students for a course at Bakersfield College that focus on aspects of The Grapes of Wrath such as its historical significance, its religious themes, and, most notably, its removal from local schools and libraries by the Kern County Board of Supervisors in August 1939, ostensibly for obscenity and defamation of local farmers.


Investigates the causes and effects of migration by Oklahoman farmers during the 1930s through an analysis of newspapers, public documents, letters, and previous studies. It finds that three consecutive years of drought beginning in 1932 created the increasingly harsh economic and living conditions for marginal farmers, particularly in the state's western counties, that, when combined with other factors such as the introduction of the tractor and depressed prices, started their exodus in 1935 to eastern counties or beyond the state to California, thus confirming in the main what John Steinbeck (The Grapes of Wrath) had written of Oklahoma in 1939.


“‘Grapes of Wrath’ Ban Ends.” Library Journal March 1, 1941: ??.

Argues that migration from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas to California was not limited to the 1930s but had been occurring since the 1910s and lasted into the 1960s, that not all of them were poor sharecroppers, and that the employment opportunities presented to them by the state's emerging aerospace industry let many escape farming but did little to attenuate their identity as a group, which could be succinctly described as populist yet conservative in politics, evangelically religious, and fiercely self-conscious, especially through country music.


Kappel, Tim. "Trampling Out the Vineyards: Kern County's Ban on The Grapes of Wrath. California History 61 (3) Fall 1982: 211+.


Explores the relationship between Steinbeck and Tom Collins, manager of the Resettlement Administration's Migratory Labor Camp in Arvin, and its influence on the creation of The Grapes of Wrath. From 1936 to 1938, Collins toured the San Joaquin Valley with Steinbeck, interviewed and assisted migrants they met, and provided him with official reports from the camp that contained diverse, detailed, and usually favorably opinionated information on the migrants, much of which Steinbeck adapted to varying degrees to create characters such as the Joads and Jim Rawley, who is based on Collins.


Shindo shows how artists and reformers have dominated the public memory of the Dust Bowl migration. His study is a fine example of the ways in which artists use “aesthetics and politics to make a personal statement about the human condition.” book explores the impact of the Great Depression on the lives of ordinary people in California through professional observers like economist Paul Taylor, photographer Dorothea Lange, journalist Carey McWilliams, and novelist John Steinbeck.


Discusses how the character of Tom Joad, protagonist in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, has been interpreted in literature, film, and music. Focuses on musicians Woody Guthrie and Bruce Springsteen.


Steinbeck's writes about the public reaction to *The Grapes of Wrath*. For example, in one letter he says, "The vilification of me out here from the large landowners and bankers is pretty bad. The latest is a rumor started by them that the Okies hate me and have threatened to kill me for lying about them. This made all the papers. Tom Collins [FSA labor camp manager] says that when his Okies read this smear they were so mad they wanted to burn something down." [see pp. 180-190 for letters related to *The Grapes of Wrath.*]


Includes Steinbeck's journalistic pieces, "The Harvest Gypsies," and "Starvation Under the Orange Trees."

