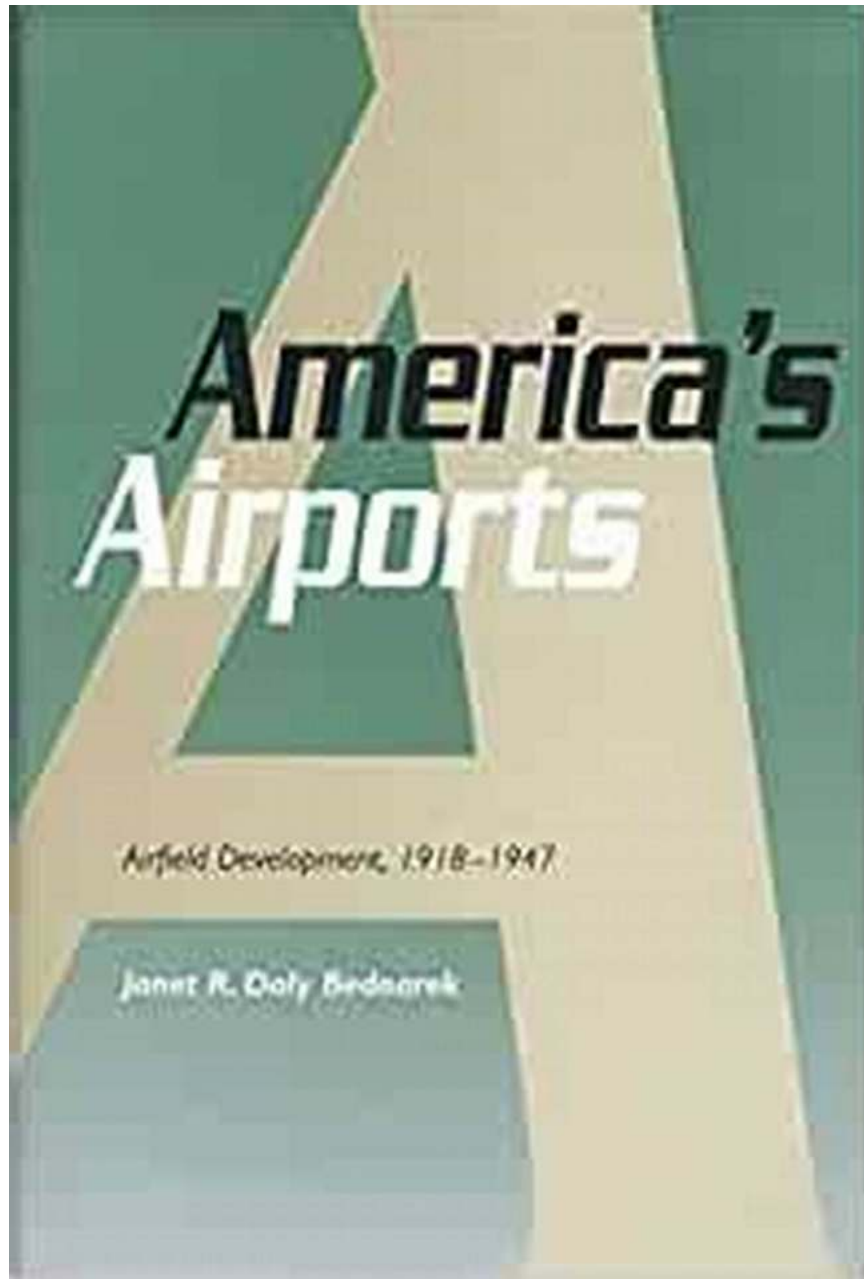


America Airports Airfield Development 1918-1947: Centennial of Flight

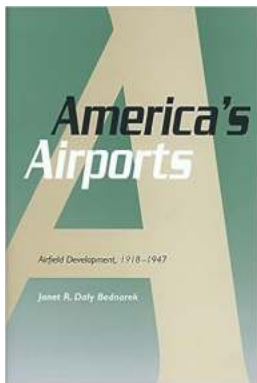


When it comes to the modern marvel that is aviation, the role of airports and airfields cannot be overstated. These critical infrastructures serve as the lifelines connecting cities, nations, and continents. Over the years, numerous airports in America have played a pivotal role in the development of flight, transforming the

way we travel and shaping the world we live in today. In this article, we will delve into the fascinating journey of America's airports and airfield development from 1918 to 1947, marking the centennial of flight.

Airport Evolution: From Simple Landing Strips to Aviation Hubs

In the early 20th century, the concept of flying commercially was still in its infancy. Airfields were often just simple unpaved landing strips situated in rural areas. However, as aviation gained popularity and new technologies emerged, airfields underwent a remarkable transformation.



America's Airports: Airfield Development, 1918-1947 (Centennial of Flight Series Book 1)

by Janet R. Daly Bednarek (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3553 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 226 pages

Item Weight : 2.69 pounds

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With the end of World War I in 1918, the United States witnessed a surge of interest in aviation. The military airfields, which were initially used for training purposes, became the focal point for air travel. These airfields started to be converted into commercial airports, catering to the growing demand for passenger and cargo transportation.



Key Milestones in America's Airfield Development

By the 1930s, major cities across the country were bustling with the construction of modern airports. Landmark airports such as LaGuardia in New York, Midway in Chicago, and LAX in Los Angeles emerged as aviation giants, setting new standards for airport infrastructure.

The 1940s witnessed a significant transformation in airfield development due to World War II. The military needed more airbases to support their operations, leading to the construction of new airfields across the nation. After the war, many military airfields were turned over to civilian authorities, contributing to the rapid growth of the commercial aviation industry.

Airport Innovations and Technological Advances

During this period, America's airports also witnessed numerous technological breakthroughs that revolutionized air travel. Instrument Landing Systems (ILS), runway lighting, and radar systems were just a few innovations that greatly enhanced airport safety and efficiency.



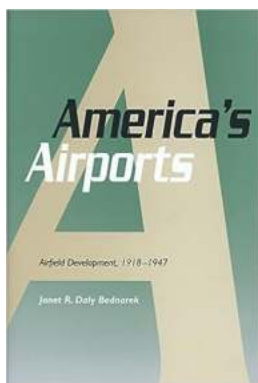
Post-War Expansion: The Birth of Modern Airport Infrastructure

As the world entered the post-war era, major investments were made in airport infrastructure. Terminal buildings became more functional and aesthetically pleasing, with the objective of providing a seamless travel experience for passengers. The era saw the rise of iconic airport architecture, such as the TWA Flight Center in New York and the Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport.

Additionally, the of jet aircraft in the 1950s and 1960s prompted the need for longer runways and increased terminal capacities. Airports were expanded and modernized to accommodate the larger and faster planes, heralding a new era of air travel.

The period spanning from 1918 to 1947 marked a remarkable transformation in America's airports and airfield development. From humble landing strips to state-of-the-art aviation hubs, these infrastructures played a crucial role in shaping the growth of aviation and connecting people across the country. The centennial of flight serves as a reminder of the remarkable progress achieved in air travel and the ongoing efforts to make it even safer and more efficient. As we look towards the future, it's important to acknowledge the rich history of America's airports and the pioneers who made it all possible.

Keywords: America airports, airfield development, centennial of flight, aviation history



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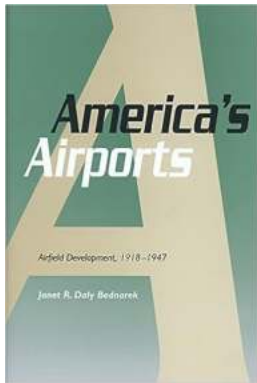
Chicago-O'Hare, DFW, LAX, New York–La Guardia. Across the country, Americans take for granted the convenience of air flight from one city to another. The federal role in managing air traffic and the cooperative corporate planning of major airlines mask to some degree the fact that those airports are not jointly owned or managed, but rather are local public responsibilities.

In this unique history of the places travelers in cities across America call "the" airport, Janet R. Daly Bednarek traces the evolving relationship between cities and their airports during the crucial formative years of 1918–47. She highlights the early history of experimentation and innovation in the development of municipal airports and identifies the factors—including pressure from the U.S. Post Office and the military, neither of which had the independent resources to develop a network of terminals—that made American cities responsible for their own air access. She shows how boosterism accelerated the trend toward local construction and ownership of the fields.

In the later years of the period, Bednarek shows, cities found they could not shoulder the whole burden of airport construction, maintenance, and improvement. As part of a general trend during the 1930s toward a strong, direct relationship between cities and the federal government, cities began to lobby for federal aid for their airports, a demand that was eventually met when World War II increased the federal stakes in their functioning.

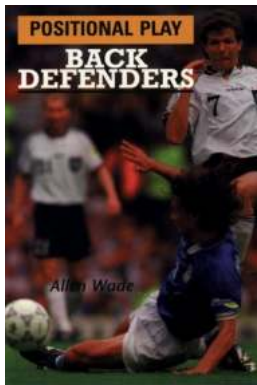
Along with this complex local-federal relationship, Bednarek considers the role of the courts and of city planning in the development of municipal airfields. Drawing on several brief case studies, she looks at the social aspects of airports and analyzes how urban development resulted in a variety of airport arrangements.

Little published work has been available on this topic. Now, with Bednarek's insightful and thorough treatment and broad view of the subject, those interested in the patterns of American air travel will have new understanding and those concerned with urban development will recognize an additional dimension.



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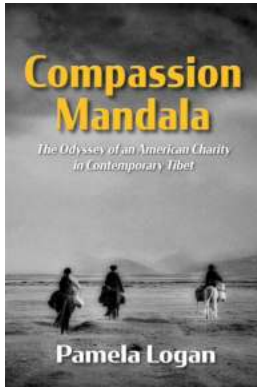
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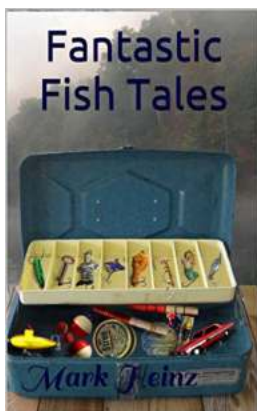
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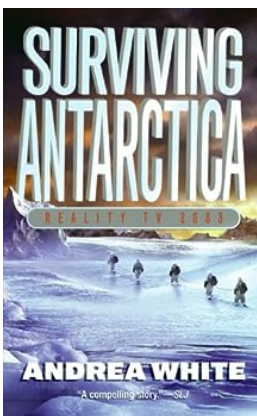
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