

## Citation metadata

Author: John S. Hill  
Date: Fall-Winter 2003  
From: Texas Books in Review  
Publisher: Center for the Study of the Southwest  
Document Type: Book review  
Length: 914 words

## Main content

Article Preview :

Morality and the Mail in Nineteenth-Century America by Wayne E. Fuller. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003. 264 pp. \$39.95 cloth)

The period of U.S. history from 1865 to 1900 is remembered as an era of great national expansion. It saw profound changes that would put this country on the path to becoming a world power: transcontinental railroads, western movements, massive immigration, industrial growth, and the push for women's rights, to name but a few of the foremost characteristics of that time. Remarkably, the nation's dominant religious group--the evangelical Protestants --paid very little attention to the mass of profound changes but focused on a single one: the evolution of the postal system, which to them signaled not progress but a decline into depravity for the country. The postal system would bring about such desultory factors as post offices open on Sunday, tawdry books in the mail, and worst of all, the Sunday newspapers. This is the subject matter of Wayne E. Fuller's *Morality and the Mail in Nineteenth-Century America*.

In 1810 Congress shattered the sanctity of the Sabbath for leading ministers of the time by declaring that "the nation's post offices must remain open on Sundays." Famous ministers, such as Lyman Beecher, called the ruling an attack on the church's moral authority. In 1826 the Presbyterian General Assembly called for a boycott of mail on the Sabbath. The...

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

## Source Citation

### Source Citation

Hill, John S. "Of morals, militants, and mail on Sundays." *Texas Books in Review*, 2003, p. 5+. Accessed 13 Nov. 2020.

**Gale Document Number:** GALE|A207320862

## Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

[Access from your library](#)

## Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)