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Book Catalog

American Ground Zero

The Secret Nuclear War

By Carole Gallagher

Our Price: **\$30.00**

Our Item Code: **agz**

Postage Code: [book3](#)

Large format art book

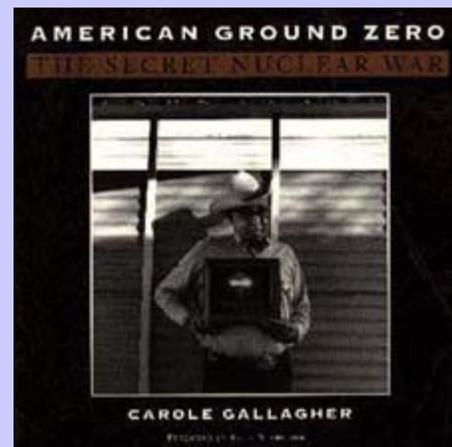
363 Pages, Cover Size: 11 inches

MIT Press

Related listings: [Atomic History](#)

Date: 1993 Added to Catalog: 1/31/97

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Our Review

Opinion of the webmaster, subject to debate

This is a large format art book recounting the personal stories of the "Downwinders." Consists of a series of profiles of living victims of cancer and other diseases they attribute to the above-ground atomic testing in Nevada in the 1950s. A stark black-and-white photo is paired with the person's own description of their experiences. A disturbing book, not for the coffee table.

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From the Book Cover

National Acclaim for American Ground Zero

"This is more than a cautionary tale. It is a revelation of something apocalyptic. The Soviet Union was condemned by the world for keeping Chernobyl a three-day secret. Our nuclear bomb tests in Nevada were kept a thirty-year secret. Our respected scientists, engineers, and administrations were the guilty parties and we, the American people, were kept wholly ignorant of peril without precedent. It's a lollapalooza of a book."

---Studs Terkel

"A primer for all would-be patriots."

-- *The New Yorker*

"As you look at Carole Gallagher's powerful pictures and read her angry words, you may be reminded of James Agee's *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*...Ms. Gallagher's book deserves to be read as a crusading story of the consequences of the nuclear-arms industry's lingering contamination and deception: as an American Chernobyl."

--*The New York Times*

"Ms. Gallagher's book is the kind of truthful examination that we must constantly make about ourselves."

-- Bill Moyers

"Gallagher's discipline in becoming 'a blank slate upon which the stories and images could be written' has resulted in a document of immense authority and humane urgency."

--*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"To understand a project such as *American Ground Zero*, the author must possess talent, courage, conviction,

endurance, and outstanding skill as a photographer. Fortunately, Carole Gallagher lives up to all the above, and one is awed by her accomplishment."

--Cornell Capa, Director, International Center of Photography, New York

"This is the most terrifying-the most devastating-book I have ever read. It leads to the inescapable conclusion that the United States of America conducted systematic nuclear experiments on its own people and has lied about it to this day."

--Paul Swenson, *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Table of Contents

- Foreword by Keith Schneider
- Prologue
 - [The Nevada Test Site Workers: Taking Risk As It Comes](#)
 - Atomic Veterans: "We Were Expendable"
 - Downwind: "A Low-use Segment of the Population"
 - Contaminated Lives and Landscapes of the West: "A damn Good Place to Dump Used Razor Blades"
- Acknowledgments

About the Author

Carole Gallagher is a documentarian whose photographs have been exhibited in museums and galleries nationally and abroad. She lives in New York City. Keith Schneider is the national environmental correspondent for *The New York Times*, specializing in the ecological costs of military development during the Cold War.

-- *From the Publisher*

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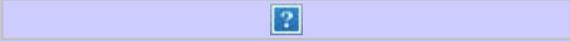
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