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Meat in the Middle: Converging Borderlands in the U.S. Midwest, 1865–1900

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Given its origins in studies of the U.S. Southwest, much borderlands scholarship has focused on the communities that abut—and transcend—the U.S.–Mexico border. In recent years historians have turned their attention to

the U.S.–Canada borderlands as well, inspired by the richness of southern borderlands studies and by the transnationalizing U.S. history movement. Their increasing interest in northern borderlands has, in turn, encouraged more comparative analysis. Although comparisons can certainly provide valuable insights into border making and border crossing, contrasting unconnected sites contributes to the idea that borderlands were limited in extent and that they closely adhered to national dividing lines. Furthermore, comparisons that overlook the connections between northern and southern borderlands obscure the relational nature of border brokering. As this case study of beef production on...

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