remembering jim crow

remembering jim crow is more than a historical reflection; it is an essential journey through America's past, examining the complex legacy of racial segregation and its lasting impact on society. This article explores the origins and enforcement of Jim Crow laws, the daily realities faced by African Americans, the powerful acts of resistance during this era, and the ongoing process of remembering and documenting these stories. By delving into personal narratives, cultural memory, and the ways these experiences are preserved, we gain a deeper understanding of how Jim Crow shaped communities and continues to influence contemporary discussions about race, justice, and equality. With a focus on education, preservation, and the importance of oral histories, this comprehensive guide invites readers to reflect on the crucial lessons learned from the Jim Crow era and why remembering Jim Crow is vital for building a more equitable future.

- Understanding Jim Crow: Historical Overview
- Daily Realities Under Jim Crow
- Resistance and Resilience During Jim Crow
- Preserving Memories: Oral Histories and Documentation
- The Impact of Remembering Jim Crow on Modern Society
- Frequently Asked Questions About Remembering Jim Crow

Understanding Jim Crow: Historical Overview

The Jim Crow era refers to a period of legalized racial segregation and discrimination in the United States, primarily in the South, from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. The term "Jim Crow" originated from a minstrel show character and became synonymous with the system of laws and customs that enforced racial separation and inequality. Remembering Jim Crow involves recognizing the legislative structures, cultural attitudes, and societal norms that perpetuated segregation and restricted African Americans' rights in every aspect of life.

Jim Crow laws mandated separate schools, transportation, restrooms, restaurants, and public spaces for Black and white citizens. These laws were upheld by local authorities and justified by "separate but equal" doctrines, notably after the Supreme Court's 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision. The consequences of these policies were far-reaching, shaping the economic, educational, and social opportunities available to millions of Americans.

Origins and Implementation of Jim Crow Laws

Jim Crow emerged after the Reconstruction era, as white lawmakers sought to reassert control over Southern states. Legislation was passed to disenfranchise Black voters through poll taxes, literacy tests, and

grandfather clauses. Segregation was enforced not only through law but also through violence and intimidation, including lynchings and attacks by white supremacist groups.

Key Aspects of the Jim Crow System

- Legal segregation in schools, transportation, and public facilities
- Economic marginalization and restricted employment opportunities
- Political disenfranchisement and limited civil rights
- Social restrictions and enforced racial etiquette

Daily Realities Under Jim Crow

For African Americans living under Jim Crow, daily life was marked by constant reminders of their second-class status. Remembering Jim Crow means understanding how these laws and customs shaped personal experiences, community interactions, and family life. Segregation was not only a physical barrier but also a psychological one, instilling fear, humiliation, and resilience in those who endured it.

Education and Employment

Schools for Black children were systematically underfunded and overcrowded, with outdated textbooks and limited resources. Vocational and professional opportunities were restricted, and most African Americans were confined to menial or agricultural work. Despite these challenges, many families and communities prioritized education, often establishing their own schools and support networks.

Social and Cultural Life

Segregation extended to churches, theaters, parks, and recreational facilities. African Americans developed vibrant communities, creating cultural institutions, churches, and social organizations that fostered solidarity and provided support. The arts, music, and literature flourished within these spaces, contributing to a rich legacy of creativity and resistance.

Challenges and Strategies for Survival

- Creation of Black-owned businesses and institutions
- Reliance on extended family and community networks
- Development of coded language and social norms to navigate segregation
- Participation in informal economies and underground support systems

Resistance and Resilience During Jim Crow

Remembering Jim Crow also involves honoring the courage and resilience of those who resisted oppression and fought for equality. While open protest was often met with severe reprisals, everyday acts of resistance were widespread, forming the foundation for later civil rights movements.

Organized Efforts and Advocacy

Organizations like the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and local grassroots groups worked tirelessly to challenge segregation through legal action, public education, and advocacy. Landmark cases such as Brown v. Board of Education (1954) helped dismantle legal segregation, paving the way for future reforms.

Personal Acts of Defiance

- Boycotts of segregated businesses and transportation
- Participation in voter registration drives despite intimidation
- Quiet refusals to adhere to degrading customs
- Support for civil rights activism through church and community networks

Preserving Memories: Oral Histories and Documentation

The preservation of stories from the Jim Crow era is crucial for understanding its impact and ensuring that future generations learn from this history. Remembering Jim Crow relies on oral histories, archival research, and documentation of personal experiences.

The Role of Oral Histories

Oral history projects have played an essential role in collecting firsthand accounts from those who lived through Jim Crow. Interviews with elders, community leaders, and everyday citizens provide invaluable insights into the realities of segregation and the strategies used to cope and resist. These narratives highlight the diversity of experiences and the human toll of discrimination.

Educational Initiatives and Museums

Museums, libraries, and schools contribute to remembering Jim Crow by curating exhibits, lesson plans, and public programs. These efforts help

bridge gaps in understanding and foster dialogue about the legacies of segregation. Academic research and documentary projects further illuminate the complexities of the era.

Importance of Documentation

- Preserves individual and community histories for future generations
- Provides evidence for scholarly research and policy development
- Promotes empathy and understanding through personal narratives
- Supports educational reform and curriculum development

The Impact of Remembering Jim Crow on Modern Society

The legacy of Jim Crow continues to shape American society, influencing discussions about race, justice, and equality. Remembering Jim Crow is essential for confronting the roots of systemic racism and promoting reconciliation. By acknowledging this past, communities and policymakers can better address contemporary issues related to discrimination, representation, and equity.

Lessons for Social Justice and Equity

Educational programs and public awareness initiatives help dismantle myths about segregation and foster critical thinking. Understanding the Jim Crow era encourages engagement with current civil rights struggles and the pursuit of inclusive policies. Remembering Jim Crow provides a foundation for meaningful conversations about reparations, voting rights, and criminal justice reform.

Building a More Inclusive Future

- Encourages empathy and cross-cultural understanding
- Promotes historical literacy and critical reflection
- Informs advocacy for racial equity and social change
- Strengthens community engagement and civic participation

Frequently Asked Questions About Remembering

Jim Crow

Q: What were Jim Crow laws and why is remembering them important?

A: Jim Crow laws were a set of state and local statutes that enforced racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans in the United States from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. Remembering Jim Crow is important because it helps illuminate the history of racial injustice and informs efforts to address its enduring effects.

Q: How did Jim Crow laws affect daily life for African Americans?

A: Jim Crow laws impacted every aspect of daily life, including education, employment, transportation, and access to public facilities. African Americans were subjected to inferior services and constant reminders of their second-class status, which shaped generations of personal and community experiences.

Q: What role did resistance play during the Jim Crow era?

A: Resistance took many forms, from organized legal challenges and civil rights advocacy to everyday acts of defiance and community support. These efforts laid the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement and contributed to the eventual dismantling of legalized segregation.

Q: Why are oral histories important in remembering Jim Crow?

A: Oral histories capture firsthand accounts from individuals who experienced Jim Crow, preserving personal stories that might otherwise be lost. These narratives provide essential context, humanize the historical record, and foster empathy and understanding.

Q: How does remembering Jim Crow influence current discussions about race?

A: Remembering Jim Crow provides historical context for contemporary issues related to racism, inequality, and social justice. By acknowledging this legacy, society can better address systemic problems and promote policies that advance equity and inclusion.

Q: What steps can be taken to ensure the history of Jim Crow is not forgotten?

A: Preserving oral histories, supporting educational initiatives, and engaging with museums and public programs are critical to ensuring the history of Jim Crow remains accessible and relevant for future generations.

Q: Are there specific museums or projects dedicated to remembering Jim Crow?

A: Yes, several museums, historical societies, and oral history projects focus on documenting and interpreting the Jim Crow era, including exhibits, archives, and interactive programs that engage with the public.

Q: What is the significance of the term "Jim Crow" in American history?

A: The term "Jim Crow" has become a symbol for institutionalized racism and segregation in the United States, representing the struggle for civil rights and the enduring fight against racial injustice.

Q: How can individuals contribute to remembering Jim Crow?

A: Individuals can contribute by learning about the era, sharing stories, participating in educational programs, and supporting organizations committed to preserving and interpreting this important history.

Q: What lessons does remembering Jim Crow offer for future generations?

A: Remembering Jim Crow teaches the importance of vigilance against discrimination, the value of resilience and community, and the need for ongoing efforts to achieve justice and equality in society.

Remembering Jim Crow

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Remembering Jim Crow: Understanding the Legacy of Segregation in America

Remembering Jim Crow isn't just about revisiting a dark chapter in American history; it's about understanding its enduring impact on contemporary society. This post delves into the complexities of Jim Crow laws, exploring their pervasive nature, the devastating effects on Black communities, and the insidious ways their legacy continues to shape our present. We'll examine the social, economic,

and political ramifications of this system of racial segregation and explore how remembering this period is crucial for building a more equitable future.

The Era of Jim Crow: A System of Systemic Oppression

The term "Jim Crow" refers to the system of racial segregation that existed in the Southern United States, and to some extent in other parts of the country, from the late 19th century until the mid-20th century. Following the Reconstruction era and the dismantling of slavery, Jim Crow laws were enacted to systematically disenfranchise and oppress Black Americans. These weren't isolated incidents; they were a meticulously crafted network of state and local statutes designed to maintain white supremacy. These laws mandated segregation in nearly every aspect of life, from schools and hospitals to transportation, housing, and even restrooms.

The Mechanisms of Jim Crow: How Segregation Worked

Jim Crow's power lay in its insidious methods. It wasn't just about separate facilities; it was about unequal facilities. Black schools were chronically underfunded, resulting in inferior education and limited opportunities. Healthcare for Black Americans was often nonexistent or substandard. The economic disparities were staggering, with Black people systematically excluded from fair employment practices, fair wages, and access to land ownership.

Voting Rights Suppression: A Cornerstone of Jim Crow

The denial of voting rights was a crucial element of Jim Crow. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses – designed to exclude Black voters while exempting many white voters – effectively silenced a significant portion of the population. This disenfranchisement contributed to the perpetuation of discriminatory policies and the lack of political power within the Black community.

The Social and Psychological Impact of Jim Crow

The psychological toll of living under Jim Crow was profound and long-lasting. The constant experience of humiliation, degradation, and the denial of basic human rights fostered a deep sense of inferiority and trauma within Black communities. This systematic oppression fueled a cycle of poverty, limited opportunity, and intergenerational trauma that continues to affect communities today.

The Violence of Jim Crow: Lynching and Terror

The violence inherent in the Jim Crow system cannot be overlooked. Lynchings, often public spectacles of terror, served as a constant reminder of the precariousness of Black life. These acts of extrajudicial murder weren't isolated incidents; they were a tool of intimidation designed to maintain white supremacy and enforce conformity.

The Long Shadow of Jim Crow: Lasting Impacts on Society

The legacy of Jim Crow continues to resonate in modern America. The wealth gap between Black and white Americans is a direct consequence of generations of systemic oppression. Disparities in education, housing, healthcare, and criminal justice are all deeply rooted in the history of Jim Crow. The enduring effects of redlining, a discriminatory housing practice, have created concentrated pockets of poverty in many urban areas, disproportionately impacting Black communities.

Understanding Systemic Racism: The Modern Legacy of Jim Crow

Understanding the legacy of Jim Crow requires acknowledging the concept of systemic racism. This isn't simply about individual prejudice; it's about ingrained patterns of discrimination embedded within societal structures and institutions. These structures, shaped by the history of Jim Crow, continue to perpetuate inequality and limit opportunities for Black Americans.

Remembering Jim Crow: The Path to Reconciliation and Justice

Remembering Jim Crow is not about dwelling on the past; it's about understanding the present. By acknowledging the systemic nature of racial injustice, we can begin to dismantle the structures that perpetuate inequality. This requires open and honest conversations about race, a commitment to restorative justice, and the implementation of policies that address historical injustices and promote equity for all. Only through honest remembrance and active engagement can we hope to build a more just and equitable future.

Conclusion:

Remembering Jim Crow is a vital step toward building a more just and equitable society. Understanding its historical context, its mechanisms, and its lasting impacts is crucial for fostering meaningful dialogue and enacting effective change. The legacy of segregation demands acknowledgment, not only to honor those who suffered under its oppressive weight, but also to

address the systemic inequalities that persist today.

FAQs:

- 1. What were some specific examples of Jim Crow laws? Examples include laws mandating segregation in schools, hospitals, transportation, and public accommodations; poll taxes and literacy tests to restrict Black voting rights; and laws prohibiting interracial marriage.
- 2. How did Jim Crow affect the Black family structure? The economic hardships imposed by Jim Crow often disrupted family stability and led to increased rates of poverty and single-parent households.
- 3. What role did the media play in perpetuating Jim Crow? Media outlets often reinforced racist stereotypes and narratives, justifying segregation and perpetuating negative perceptions of Black Americans.
- 4. How does the legacy of Jim Crow impact the criminal justice system? Mass incarceration and racial disparities in sentencing are directly linked to the legacy of Jim Crow, reflecting ongoing systemic racism within the justice system.
- 5. What are some current efforts to address the legacy of Jim Crow? Efforts include advocating for criminal justice reform, pushing for policies to close the wealth gap, and promoting inclusive education that confronts the history of segregation and its lasting impacts.

remembering jim crow: Remembering Jim Crow William H. Chafe, Raymond Gavins, Robert Korstad, 2014-09-16 This "viscerally powerful . . . compilation of firsthand accounts of the Jim Crow era" won the Lillian Smith Book Award and the Carey McWilliams Award (Publisher's Weekly, starred review). Based on interviews collected by the Behind the Veil Oral History Project at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies, this remarkable book presents for the first time the most extensive oral history ever compiled of African American life under segregation. Men and women from all walks of life tell how their most ordinary activities were subjected to profound and unrelenting racial oppression. Yet Remembering Jim Crow is also a testament to how black southerners fought back against systemic racism—building churches and schools, raising children, running businesses, and struggling for respect in a society that denied them the most basic rights. The result is a powerful story of individual and community survival.

remembering jim crow: Fighting in the Jim Crow Army Maggi M. Morehouse, 2006-12-28 Fighting in the Jim Crow Army is filled with first-hand accounts of everyday life in 1940s America. The soldiers of the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions speak of segregation in the military and racial attitudes in army facilities stateside and abroad. The individual battles of black soldiers reveal a compelling tale of discrimination, triumph, resistance, and camaraderie. What emerges from the multitude of voices is a complex and powerful story of individuals who served their country and subsequently made demands to be recognized as full-fledged citizens. Morehouse, whose father served in the 93rd Infantry Division, has built a rich historical account around personal interviews and correspondence with soldiers, National Archive documents, and military archive materials. Augmented with historical and recent photographs, Fighting in the Jim Crow Army combines individual recollections with official histories to form a vivid picture of life in the segregated Army. In the historiography of World War II very little has emerged from the perspective of the black foot soldier. Morehouse allows the participants to tell the tale of the watershed event of their participation in World War II as well as the ongoing black freedom struggle.

remembering jim crow: West of Jim Crow Lynn M. Hudson, 2020-09-28 African Americans who moved to California in hopes of finding freedom and full citizenship instead faced all-too-familiar racial segregation. As one transplant put it, The only difference between Pasadena and Mississippi is the way they are spelled. From the beaches to streetcars to schools, the Golden State—in contrast to its reputation for tolerance—perfected many methods of controlling people of color. Lynn M. Hudson deepens our understanding of the practices that African Americans in the West deployed to dismantle Jim Crow in the quest for civil rights prior to the 1960s. Faced with institutionalized racism, black Californians used both established and improvised tactics to resist and survive the state's color line. Hudson rediscovers forgotten stories like the experimental all-black community of Allensworth, the California Ku Klux Klan's campaign of terror against African Americans, the bitter struggle to integrate public swimming pools in Pasadena and elsewhere, and segregationists' preoccupation with gender and sexuality.

remembering jim crow: Jim Crow Wisdom Jonathan Scott Holloway, 2013-10-15 How do we balance the desire for tales of exceptional accomplishment with the need for painful doses of reality? How hard do we work to remember our past or to forget it? These are some of the questions that Jonathan Scott Holloway addresses in this exploration of race memory from the dawn of the modern civil rights era to the present. Relying on social science, documentary film, dance, popular literature, museums, memoir, and the tourism trade, Holloway explores the stories black Americans have told about their past and why these stories are vital to understanding a modern black identity. In the process, Holloway asks much larger questions about the value of history and facts when memories do violence to both. Making discoveries about his own past while researching this book, Holloway weaves first-person and family memories into the traditional third-person historian's perspective. The result is a highly readable, rich, and deeply personal narrative that will be familiar to some, shocking to others, and thought-provoking to everyone.

remembering jim crow: Remembering Jim Crow William H. Chafe, Raymond Gavins, Robert Korstad, 2014-09-16 Praised as "viscerally powerful" (Publishers Weekly), this remarkable work of oral history captures the searing experience of the Jim Crow years—enriched by memories of individual, family, and community triumphs and tragedies. In vivid, compelling accounts, men and women from all walks of life tell how their day-to-day lives were subjected to profound and unrelenting racial oppression. At the same time, Remembering Jim Crow is a testament to how black Southerners fought back against the system—raising children, building churches and schools, running businesses, and struggling for respect in a society that denied them the most basic rights. The result is a powerful story of individual and community survival and an important part of the American past that is crucial for us to remember. Based on interviews collected by the Behind the Veil Project at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies, this landmark in African American oral history is now available in an affordable paperback edition and, for the first time, as an e-book with audio of the interviewees—in their own voices.

remembering jim crow: Growing Up Jim Crow Jennifer Ritterhouse, 2006-12-13 In the segregated South of the early twentieth century, unwritten rules guided every aspect of individual behavior, from how blacks and whites stood, sat, ate, drank, walked, and talked to whether they made eye contact with one another. Jennifer Ritterhouse asks how children learned this racial etiquette, which was sustained by coercion and the threat of violence. More broadly, she asks how individuals developed racial self-consciousness. Parental instruction was an important factor--both white parents' reinforcement of a white supremacist worldview and black parents' oppositional lessons in respectability and race pride. Children also learned much from their interactions across race lines. The fact that black youths were often eager to stand up for themselves, despite the risks, suggests that the emotional underpinnings of the civil rights movement were in place long before the historical moment when change became possible. Meanwhile, a younger generation of whites continued to enforce traditional patterns of domination and deference in private, while also creating an increasingly elaborate system of segregation in public settings. Exploring relationships between public and private and between segregation, racial etiquette, and racial violence, Growing Up Jim

Crow sheds new light on tradition and change in the South and the meanings of segregation within southern culture.

remembering jim crow: Jim Crow America Catherine M. Lewis, J. Richard Lewis, 2009-03-01 This is a resource on racism and segregation in American life. The book is chronologically organized into five sections, each of which focuses on a different historical period in the story of Jim Crow: inventing, building, living, resisting, and dismantling.

remembering jim crow: Dark Journey Neil R. McMillen, 1990 Remarkable for its relentless truth-telling, and the depth and thoroughness of its investigation, for the freshness of its sources, and for the shock power of its findings. Even a reader who is not unfamiliar with the sources and literature of the subject can be jolted by its impact.--C. Vann Woodward, New York Review of Books Dark Journey is a superb piece of scholarship, a book that all students of southern and African-American history will find valuable and informative.--David J. Garrow, Georgia Historical Quarterly

remembering jim crow: The New Jim Crow Michelle Alexander, 2012-01-16 Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. The New Jim Crow is such a book. Praised by Harvard Law professor Lani Guinier as brave and bold, this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it. By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a call to action. Called stunning by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Levering Lewis, invaluable by the Daily Kos, explosive by Kirkus, and profoundly necessary by the Miami Herald, this updated and revised paperback edition of The New Jim Crow, now with a foreword by Cornel West, is a must-read for all people of conscience.

remembering jim crow: Remembering Slavery Marc Favreau, 2021-09-07 The groundbreaking, bestselling history of slavery, with a new foreword by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Annette Gordon-Reed With the publication of the 1619 Project and the national reckoning over racial inequality, the story of slavery has gripped America's imagination—and conscience—once again. No group of people better understood the power of slavery's legacies than the last generation of American people who had lived as slaves. Little-known before the first publication of Remembering Slavery over two decades ago, their memories were recorded on paper, and in some cases on primitive recording devices, by WPA workers in the 1930s. A major publishing event, Remembering Slavery captured these extraordinary voices in a single volume for the first time. presenting them as an unprecedented, first-person history of slavery in America. Remembering Slavery received the kind of commercial attention seldom accorded projects of this nature—nationwide reviews as well as extensive coverage on prime-time television, including Good Morning America, Nightline, CBS Sunday Morning, and CNN. Reviewers called the book "chilling... . [and] riveting" (Publishers Weekly) and "something, truly, truly new" (The Village Voice). With a new foreword by Pulitzer Prize-winning scholar Annette Gordon-Reed, this new edition of Remembering Slavery is an essential text for anyone seeking to understand one of the most basic and essential chapters in our collective history.

remembering jim crow: Watching Jim Crow Steven D. Classen, 2004-03-12 In the early 1960s, whenever the Today Show discussed integration, wlbt-tv, the nbc affiliate in Jackson, Mississippi, cut away to local news after announcing that the Today Show content was "network news . . . represent[ing] the views of the northern press." This was only one part of a larger effort by wlbt and other local stations to keep African Americans and integrationists off Jackson's television screens. Watching Jim Crow presents the vivid story of the successful struggles of African Americans to achieve representation in the tv programming of Jackson, a city many considered one of the

strongest bastions of Jim Crow segregation. Steven D. Classen provides a detailed social history of media activism and communications policy during the civil rights era. He focuses on the years between 1955—when Medgar Evers and the naacp began urging the two local stations, wlbt and wjtv, to stop censoring African Americans and discussions of integration—and 1969, when the U.S. Court of Appeals issued a landmark decision denying wlbt renewal of its operating license. During the 1990s, Classen conducted extensive interviews with more than two dozen African Americans living in Jackson, several of whom, decades earlier, had fought to integrate television programming. He draws on these interviews not only to illuminate their perceptions—of the civil rights movement, what they accomplished, and the present as compared with the past—but also to reveal the inadequate representation of their viewpoints in the legal proceedings surrounding wlbt's licensing. The story told in Watching Jim Crow has significant implications today, not least because the Telecommunications Act of 1996 effectively undid many of the hard-won reforms achieved by activists—including those whose stories Classen relates here.

remembering jim crow: The Negro Motorist Green Book Victor H. Green, The Negro Motorist Green Book was a groundbreaking guide that provided African American travelers with crucial information on safe places to stay, eat, and visit during the era of segregation in the United States. This essential resource, originally published from 1936 to 1966, offered a lifeline to black motorists navigating a deeply divided nation, helping them avoid the dangers and indignities of racism on the road. More than just a travel guide, The Negro Motorist Green Book stands as a powerful symbol of resilience and resistance in the face of oppression, offering a poignant glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of the African American experience in the 20th century.

remembering jim crow: Journalism and Jim Crow Kathy Roberts Forde, Sid Bedingfield, 2021-12-14 Winner of the American Historical Association's 2022 Eugenia M. Palmegiano Prize. White publishers and editors used their newspapers to build, nurture, and protect white supremacy across the South in the decades after the Civil War. At the same time, a vibrant Black press fought to disrupt these efforts and force the United States to live up to its democratic ideals. Journalism and Jim Crow centers the press as a crucial political actor shaping the rise of the Jim Crow South. The contributors explore the leading role of the white press in constructing an anti-democratic society by promoting and supporting not only lynching and convict labor but also coordinated campaigns of violence and fraud that disenfranchised Black voters. They also examine the Black press's parallel fight for a multiracial democracy of equality, justice, and opportunity for all—a losing battle with tragic consequences for the American experiment. Original and revelatory, Journalism and Jim Crow opens up new ways of thinking about the complicated relationship between journalism and power in American democracy. Contributors: Sid Bedingfield, Bryan Bowman, W. Fitzhugh Brundage, Kathy Roberts Forde, Robert Greene II, Kristin L. Gustafson, D'Weston Haywood, Blair LM Kelley, and Razvan Sibii

remembering jim crow: Remembering Medgar Evers Minrose Gwin, 2013-02-25 As the first NAACP field secretary for Mississippi, Medgar Wiley Evers put his life on the line to investigate racial crimes (including Emmett Till's murder) and to organize boycotts and voter registration drives. On June 12, 1963, he was shot in the back by white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith as the civil rights leader unloaded a stack of Jim Crow Must Go T-shirts in his own driveway. His was the first assassination of a high-ranking public figure in the civil rights movement. While Evers's death ushered in a decade of political assassinations and ignited a powder keg of racial unrest nationwide, his life of service and courage has largely been consigned to the periphery of U.S. and civil rights history. In her compelling study of collective memory and artistic production, Remembering Medgar Evers, Minrose Gwin engages the powerful body of work that has emerged in response to Evers's life and death--fiction, poetry, memoir, drama, and songs from James Baldwin, Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, Lucille Clifton, Bob Dylan, and Willie Morris, among others. Gwin examines local news accounts about Evers, 1960s gospel and protest music as well as contemporary hip-hop, the haunting poems of Frank X Walker, and contemporary fiction such as The Help and Gwin's own novel, The Queen of Palmyra. In this study, Evers springs to life as a leader of plural singularity, who

modeled for southern African Americans a new form of cultural identity that both drew from the past and broke from it; to quote Gwendolyn Brooks, He leaned across tomorrow. Fifty years after his untimely death, Evers still casts a long shadow. In her examination of the body of work he has inspired, Gwin probes wide-ranging questions about collective memory and art as instruments of social justice. Remembered, Evers's life's legacy pivots to the future, she writes, linking us to other human rights struggles, both local and global. A Sarah Mills Hodge Fund Publication.

remembering jim crow: Watermelons, Nooses, and Straight Razors David Pilgrim, 2018 Watermelons, Nooses, and Straight Razors examines the origins and significance of several longstanding anti-black stories and the caricatures and stereotypes that undergird them. It features images from the Jim Crow Museum, the nation's largest publicly accessible collection of racist objects. These pictures document the social injustice that Martin Luther King Jr. referred to as a pus-filled boil which must be exposed to the light of human conscience and the air of national opinion before it can be cured. Each chapter concludes with a story from the author's journey, challenging the integrity of racial narratives.

remembering jim crow: Whitewashing the South Kristen M. Lavelle, 2014-10-23 Whitewashing the South is a powerful exploration of how ordinary white southerners recall living through extraordinary racial times—the Jim Crow era, civil rights movement, and the post-civil rights era—highlighting tensions between memory and reality. Author Kristen Lavelle draws on interviews with the oldest living generation of white southerners to uncover uncomfortable memories of our racial past. The vivid interview excerpts show how these lifelong southerners reflect on race in the segregated South, the civil rights era, and more recent decades. The book illustrates a number of complexities—how these white southerners both acknowledged and downplayed Jim Crow racial oppression, how they both appreciated desegregation and criticized the civil rights movement, and how they both favorably assessed racial progress while resenting reminders of its unflattering past. Chapters take readers on a real-world look inside The Help and an exploration of the way the Greensboro sit-ins and school desegregation have been remembered, and forgotten. Digging into difficult memories and emotions, Whitewashing the South challenges our understandings of the realities of racial inequality.

remembering jim crow: The Burning House Anders Walker, 2018-03-20 A startling and gripping reexamination of the Jim Crow era, as seen through the eyes of some of the most important American writers Walker has opened up a fresh way of thinking about the intellectual history of the South during the civil-rights movement.—Robert Greene, The Nation In this dramatic reexamination of the Jim Crow South, Anders Walker demonstrates that racial segregation fostered not simply terror and violence, but also diversity, one of our most celebrated ideals. He investigates how prominent intellectuals like Robert Penn Warren, James Baldwin, Eudora Welty, Ralph Ellison, Flannery O'Connor, and Zora Neale Hurston found pluralism in Jim Crow, a legal system that created two worlds, each with its own institutions, traditions, even cultures. The intellectuals discussed in this book all agreed that black culture was resilient, creative, and profound, brutally honest in its assessment of American history. By contrast, James Baldwin likened white culture to a "burning house," a frightening place that endorsed racism and violence to maintain dominance. Why should black Americans exchange their experience for that? Southern whites, meanwhile, saw themselves preserving a rich cultural landscape against the onslaught of mass culture and federal power, a project carried to the highest levels of American law by Supreme Court justice and Virginia native Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Anders Walker shows how a generation of scholars and judges has misinterpreted Powell's definition of diversity in the landmark case Regents v. Bakke, forgetting its Southern origins and weakening it in the process. By resituating the decision in the context of Southern intellectual history, Walker places diversity on a new footing, independent of affirmative action but also free from the constraints currently placed on it by the Supreme Court. With great clarity and insight, he offers a new lens through which to understand the history of civil rights in the United States.

remembering jim crow: Worse Than Slavery David M. Oshinsky, 1997-04-22 In this

sensitively told tale of suffering, brutality, and inhumanity, Worse Than Slavery is an epic history of race and punishment in the deepest South from emancipation to the Civil Rights Era—and beyond. Immortalized in blues songs and movies like Cool Hand Luke and The Defiant Ones, Mississippi's infamous Parchman State Penitentiary was, in the pre-civil rights south, synonymous with cruelty. Now, noted historian David Oshinsky gives us the true story of the notorious prison, drawing on police records, prison documents, folklore, blues songs, and oral history, from the days of cotton-field chain gangs to the 1960s, when Parchman was used to break the wills of civil rights workers who journeyed south on Freedom Rides.

remembering jim crow: Managing White Supremacy J. Douglas Smith, 2003-11-03 Tracing the erosion of white elite paternalism in Jim Crow Virginia, Douglas Smith reveals a surprising fluidity in southern racial politics in the decades between World War I and the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. Smith draws on official records, private correspondence, and letters to newspapers from otherwise anonymous Virginians to capture a wide and varied range of black and white voices. African Americans emerge as central characters in the narrative, as Smith chronicles their efforts to obtain access to public schools and libraries, protection under the law, and the equitable distribution of municipal resources. This acceleration of black resistance to white supremacy in the years before World War II precipitated a crisis of confidence among white Virginians, who, despite their overwhelming electoral dominance, felt increasingly insecure about their ability to manage the color line on their own terms. Exploring the everyday power struggles that accompanied the erosion of white authority in the political, economic, and educational arenas, Smith uncovers the seeds of white Virginians' resistance to civil rights activism in the second half of the twentieth century.

remembering jim crow: *Black Workers Remember* Michael K. Honey, 2001 A compelling collection of oral histories of black working-class men and women from Memphis. Covering the 1930s to the 1980s, they tell of struggles to unionize and to combat racism on the shop floor and in society at large. They also reveal the origins of the civil rights movement in the activities of black workers, from the Depression onward.

remembering jim crow: Remembering Scottsboro James A. Miller, 2021-07-13 How one of the greatest miscarriages of justice in the United States continues to haunt the nation's racial psyche In 1931, nine black youths were charged with raping two white women in Scottsboro, Alabama. Despite meager and contradictory evidence, all nine were found guilty and eight of the defendants were sentenced to death—making Scottsboro one of the worst travesties of justice to take place in the post-Reconstruction South. Remembering Scottsboro explores how this case has embedded itself into the fabric of American memory and become a lens for perceptions of race, class, sexual politics, and justice. James Miller draws upon the archives of the Communist International and NAACP, contemporary journalistic accounts, as well as poetry, drama, fiction, and film, to document the impact of Scottsboro on American culture. The book reveals how the Communist Party, NAACP, and media shaped early images of Scottsboro; looks at how the case influenced authors including Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, and Harper Lee; shows how politicians and Hollywood filmmakers invoked the case in the ensuing decades; and examines the defiant, sensitive, and savvy correspondence of Haywood Patterson—one of the accused, who fled the Alabama justice system. Miller considers how Scottsboro persists as a point of reference in contemporary American life and suggests that the Civil Rights movement begins much earlier than the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. Remembering Scottsboro demonstrates how one compelling, provocative, and tragic case still haunts the American racial imagination.

remembering jim crow: Jim Crow Also Lived Here Leonard Albert Paris, 2020-09-23 Many people believe that racism and discrimination against those of African descent was primarily an American experience. However, this book dispels that myth by recounting Leonard Albert Paris's first eighteen years (1948–1966), growing up as a Black youth in rural Nova Scotia, Canada, a province that was at the time, home to about 36 percent of Canada's Black population. Structural racism, community isolation, and generational poverty affected every aspect of his life, creating

challenges and misery for him, his family, and the entire Black community—an experience that continues to affect him emotionally many decades later. While not as extreme as it was during the author's formative years, racism and its effects continue into the present. Leonard wrote Jim Crow Also Lived Here in part to create awareness of this problem and also to inspire change.

remembering jim crow: Understanding Jim Crow David Pilgrim, 2015-11-25 For many people, especially those who came of age after landmark civil rights legislation was passed, it is difficult to understand what it was like to be an African American living under Jim Crow segregation in the United States. Most young Americans have little or no knowledge about restrictive covenants, literacy tests, poll taxes, lynchings, and other oppressive features of the Jim Crow racial hierarchy. Even those who have some familiarity with the period may initially view racist segregation and injustices as mere relics of a distant, shameful past. A proper understanding of race relations in this country must include a solid knowledge of Jim Crow-how it emerged, what it was like, how it ended, and its impact on the culture. Understanding Jim Crow introduces readers to the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, a collection of more than ten thousand contemptible collectibles that are used to engage visitors in intense and intelligent discussions about race, race relations, and racism. The items are offensive. They were meant to be offensive. The items in the Jim Crow Museum served to dehumanize blacks and legitimized patterns of prejudice, discrimination, and segregation. Using racist objects as teaching tools seems counterintuitive—and, quite frankly, needlessly risky. Many Americans are already apprehensive discussing race relations, especially in settings where their ideas are challenged. The museum and this book exist to help overcome our collective trepidation and reluctance to talk about race. Fully illustrated, and with context provided by the museum's founder and director David Pilgrim, Understanding Jim Crow is both a grisly tour through America's past and an auspicious starting point for racial understanding and healing.

remembering jim crow: From Jim Crow to Jay-Z Miles White, 2011-11-14 This multilayered study of the representation of black masculinity in musical and cultural performance takes aim at the reduction of African American male culture to stereotypes of deviance, misogyny, and excess. Broadening the significance of hip-hop culture by linking it to other expressive forms within popular culture, Miles White examines how these representations have both encouraged the demonization of young black males in the United States and abroad and contributed to the construction of their identities. From Jim Crow to Jay-Z traces black male representations to chattel slavery and American minstrelsy as early examples of fetishization and commodification of black male subjectivity. Continuing with diverse discussions including black action films, heavyweight prizefighting, Elvis Presley's performance of blackness, and white rappers such as Vanilla Ice and Eminem, White establishes a sophisticated framework for interpreting and critiquing black masculinity in hip-hop music and culture. Arguing that black music has undeniably shaped American popular culture and that hip-hop tropes have exerted a defining influence on young male aspirations and behavior, White draws a critical link between the body, musical sound, and the construction of identity.

remembering jim crow: Remembering Emmett Till Dave Tell, 2021-02-15 Take a drive through the Mississippi Delta today and you'll find a landscape dotted with memorials to major figures and events from the civil rights movement. Perhaps the most chilling are those devoted to the murder of Emmett Till, a tragedy of hate and injustice that became a beacon in the fight for racial equality. The ways this event is remembered have been fraught from the beginning, revealing currents of controversy, patronage, and racism lurking just behind the placid facades of historical markers. In Remembering Emmett Till, Dave Tell gives us five accounts of the commemoration of this infamous crime. In a development no one could have foreseen, Till's murder—one of the darkest moments in the region's history—has become an economic driver for the Delta. Historical tourism has transformed seemingly innocuous places like bridges, boat landings, gas stations, and riverbeds into sites of racial politics, reminders of the still-unsettled question of how best to remember the victim of this heinous crime. Tell builds an insightful and persuasive case for how these memorials have altered the Delta's physical and cultural landscape, drawing potent connections between the dawn of the civil rights era and our own moment of renewed fire for racial justice.

remembering jim crow: Freedom Colonies Thad Sitton, James H. Conrad, 2005-03-01 In the decades following the Civil War, nearly a quarter of African Americans achieved a remarkable victory—they got their own land. While other ex-slaves and many poor whites became trapped in the exploitative sharecropping system, these independence-seeking individuals settled on pockets of unclaimed land that had been deemed too poor for farming and turned them into successful family farms. In these self-sufficient rural communities, often known as freedom colonies, African Americans created a refuge from the discrimination and violence that routinely limited the opportunities of blacks in the Jim Crow South. Freedom Colonies is the first book to tell the story of these independent African American settlements. Thad Sitton and James Conrad focus on communities in Texas, where blacks achieved a higher percentage of land ownership than in any other state of the Deep South. The authors draw on a vast reservoir of ex-slave narratives, oral histories, written memoirs, and public records to describe how the freedom colonies formed and to recreate the lifeways of African Americans who made their living by farming or in skilled trades such as milling and blacksmithing. They also uncover the forces that led to the decline of the communities from the 1930s onward, including economic hard times and the greed of whites who found legal and illegal means of taking black-owned land. And they visit some of the remaining communities to discover how their independent way of life endures into the twenty-first century.

remembering jim crow: Living the California Dream Alison Rose Jefferson, 2022 2020 Miriam Matthews Ethnic History Award from the Los Angeles City Historical Society Alison Rose Jefferson examines how African Americans pioneered America's "frontier of leisure" by creating communities and business projects in conjunction with their growing population in Southern California during the nation's Jim Crow era.

remembering jim crow: Black Georgetown Remembered Kathleen M. Lesko, Valerie Melissa Babb, Carroll R. Gibbs, 2016 Black Georgetown Remembered is a compelling journey through more than two hundred years of history. A one-of-a-kind book, it invites readers to consider how the unique heritage of this neighborhood intersects and contributes to broader themes in African American and Washington, DC, history and urban studies.

remembering jim crow: Civil Rights Unionism Robert R. Korstad, 2003-11-20 Drawing on scores of interviews with black and white tobacco workers in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Robert Korstad brings to life the forgotten heroes of Local 22 of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers of America-CIO. These workers confronted a system of racial capitalism that consigned African Americans to the basest jobs in the industry, perpetuated low wages for all southerners, and shored up white supremacy. Galvanized by the emergence of the CIO, African Americans took the lead in a campaign that saw a strong labor movement and the reenfranchisement of the southern poor as keys to reforming the South--and a reformed South as central to the survival and expansion of the New Deal. In the window of opportunity opened by World War II, they blurred the boundaries between home and work as they linked civil rights and labor rights in a bid for justice at work and in the public sphere. But civil rights unionism foundered in the maelstrom of the Cold War. Its defeat undermined later efforts by civil rights activists to raise issues of economic equality to the moral high ground occupied by the fight against legalized segregation and, Korstad contends, constrains the prospects for justice and democracy today.

remembering jim crow: Civil Rights in Black and Brown Max Krochmal, Todd Moye, 2021-11-09 Not one but two civil rights movements flourished in mid-twentieth century Texas, and they did so in intimate conversation with one another. Far from the gaze of the national media, African American and Mexican American activists combated the twin caste systems of Jim Crow and Juan Crow. These insurgents worked chiefly within their own racial groups, yet they also looked to each other for guidance and, at times, came together in solidarity. The movements sought more than integration and access: they demanded power and justice. Civil Rights in Black and Brown draws on more than 500 oral history interviews newly collected across Texas, from the Panhandle to the Piney Woods and everywhere in between. The testimonies speak in detail to the structure of racism in small towns and huge metropolises—both the everyday grind of segregation and the haunting acts of

racial violence that upheld Texas's state-sanctioned systems of white supremacy. Through their memories of resistance and revolution, the activists reveal previously undocumented struggles for equity, as well as the links Black and Chicanx organizers forged in their efforts to achieve self-determination.

remembering jim crow: *Taps For A Jim Crow Army* Christy McGuire, 2014-07-11 Many black soldiers serving in the U.S. Army during World War II hoped that they might make permanent gains as a result of their military service and their willingness to defend their country. They were soon disabused of such illusions. Taps for a Jim Crow Army is a powerful collection of letters written by black soldiers in the 1940s to various government and nongovernment officials. The soldiers expressed their disillusionment, rage, and anguish over the discrimination and segregation they experienced in the Army. Most black troops were denied entry into army specialist schools; black officers were not allowed to command white officers; black soldiers were served poorer food and were forced to ride Jim Crow military buses into town and to sit in Jim Crow base movie theaters. In the South, German POWs could use the same latrines as white American soldiers, but blacks could not. The original foreword by Benjamin Quarles, professor emeritus of history at Morgan State University, and a new foreword by Bernard C. Nalty, the chief historian in the Office of Air Force History, offer rich insights into the world of these soldiers.

remembering jim crow: <u>Life Under the Jim Crow Laws</u> Charles George, 2000 Discusses the background and effects of the Jim Crow laws that were enacted after the Civil War to keep the races segregated.

remembering jim crow: Bük #13 Richard Wright, 2005

remembering jim crow: Remembering Paradise Park Lu Vickers, Cynthia Wilson-Graham, 2015 Paradise Park was the colored only' counterpart to Silver Springs, a central Florida tourist attraction famous for its crystal-clear water and glass bottom boats. Together the two parks formed one of the biggest recreational facilities in the country before Disney World. From 1949 to 1969, boats passed each other on the Silver River--blacks on one side, whites on the other. Though the patrons of both parks shared the same river, they seldom crossed the invisible line in the water--Jacket.

remembering jim crow: Stony the Road Henry Louis Gates, Jr., 2019-04-02 "Stony the Road presents a bracing alternative to Trump-era white nationalism. . . . In our current politics we recognize African-American history—the spot under our country's rug where the terrorism and injustices of white supremacy are habitually swept. Stony the Road lifts the rug. —Nell Irvin Painter, New York Times Book Review A profound new rendering of the struggle by African-Americans for equality after the Civil War and the violent counter-revolution that resubjugated them, by the bestselling author of The Black Church. The abolition of slavery in the aftermath of the Civil War is a familiar story, as is the civil rights revolution that transformed the nation after World War II. But the century in between remains a mystery: if emancipation sparked a new birth of freedom in Lincoln's America, why was it necessary to march in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s America? In this new book, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., one of our leading chroniclers of the African-American experience, seeks to answer that question in a history that moves from the Reconstruction Era to the nadir of the African-American experience under Jim Crow, through to World War I and the Harlem Renaissance. Through his close reading of the visual culture of this tragic era, Gates reveals the many faces of Jim Crow and how, together, they reinforced a stark color line between white and black Americans. Bringing a lifetime of wisdom to bear as a scholar, filmmaker, and public intellectual, Gates uncovers the roots of structural racism in our own time, while showing how African Americans after slavery combatted it by articulating a vision of a New Negro to force the nation to recognize their humanity and unique contributions to America as it hurtled toward the modern age. The story Gates tells begins with great hope, with the Emancipation Proclamation, Union victory, and the liberation of nearly 4 million enslaved African-Americans. Until 1877, the federal government, goaded by the activism of Frederick Douglass and many others, tried at various turns to sustain their new rights. But the terror unleashed by white paramilitary groups in the former Confederacy, combined with

deteriorating economic conditions and a loss of Northern will, restored home rule to the South. The retreat from Reconstruction was followed by one of the most violent periods in our history, with thousands of black people murdered or lynched and many more afflicted by the degrading impositions of Jim Crow segregation. An essential tour through one of America's fundamental historical tragedies, Stony the Road is also a story of heroic resistance, as figures such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells fought to create a counter-narrative, and culture, inside the lion's mouth. As sobering as this tale is, it also has within it the inspiration that comes with encountering the hopes our ancestors advanced against the longest odds.

remembering jim crow: Chasing Me to My Grave Winfred Rembert, Erin I. Kelly, 2021-09-07 WINNER OF THE 2022 PULITZER PRIZE IN BIOGRAPHY Booklist #1 Nonfiction Book of the Year * African American Literary Book Club (AALBC) #1 Nonfiction Bestseller * Named a Best Book of the Year by: NPR, Publishers Weekly, BookPage, Barnes & Noble, Hudson Booksellers, ARTnews, and more * Amazon Editors' Pick * Carnegie Medal of Excellence in Nonfiction Longlist A compelling and important history that this nation desperately needs to hear. —Bryan Stevenson, New York Times bestselling author of Just Mercy and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative Winfred Rembert grew up in a family of Georgia field laborers and joined the Civil Rights Movement as a teenager. He was arrested after fleeing a demonstration, survived a near-lynching at the hands of law enforcement, and spent seven years on chain gangs. During that time he met the undaunted Patsy, who would become his wife. Years later, at the age of fifty-one and with Patsy's encouragement, he started drawing and painting scenes from his youth using leather tooling skills he learned in prison. Chasing Me to My Grave presents Rembert's breathtaking body of work alongside his story, as told to Tufts Philosopher Erin I. Kelly. Rembert calls forth vibrant scenes of Black life on Cuthbert, Georgia's Hamilton Avenue, where he first glimpsed the possibility of a life outside the cotton field. As he pays tribute, exuberant and heartfelt, to Cuthbert's Black community and the people, including Patsy, who helped him to find the courage to revisit a traumatic past, Rembert brings to life the promise and the danger of Civil Rights protest, the brutalities of incarceration, his search for his mother's love, and the epic bond he found with Patsy. Vivid, confrontational, revelatory, and complex, Chasing Me to My Grave is a searing memoir in prose and painted leather that celebrates Black life and summons readers to confront painful and urgent realities at the heart of American history and society.

remembering jim crow: Between the World and Me Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2015-07-16 Winner, Kirkus Prize for Non-Fiction, 2015 In the 150 years since the end of the Civil War and the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, the story of race and America has remained a brutally simple one, written on flesh: it is the story of the black body, exploited to create the country's foundational wealth, violently segregated to unite a nation after a civil war, and, today, still disproportionately threatened, locked up and killed in the streets. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can America reckon with its fraught racial history? Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates' attempt to answer those questions, presented in the form of a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son the story of his own awakening to the truth about history and race through a series of revelatory experiences: immersion in nationalist mythology as a child; engagement with history, poetry and love at Howard University; travels to Civil War battlefields and the South Side of Chicago; a journey to France that reorients his sense of the world; and pilgrimages to the homes of mothers whose children's lives have been taken as American plunder. Taken together, these stories map a winding path towards a kind of liberation—a journey from fear and confusion, to a full and honest understanding of the world as it is. Masterfully woven from lyrical personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, Between the World and Me offers a powerful new framework for understanding America's history and current crisis, and a transcendent vision for a way forward. Ta-Nehisi Coates is a national correspondent for the Atlantic and the author of the memoir The Beautiful Struggle. Coates has received the National Magazine Award, the Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis Journalism, and the George Polk Award for his Atlantic cover story 'The Case for Reparations'. He lives in New York with his wife and son.

'Coates offers this eloquent memoir as a letter to his teenage son, bearing witness to his own experiences and conveying passionate hopes for his son's life...this moving, potent testament might have been titled Black Lives Matter.' Kirkus Reviews 'I've been wondering who might fill the intellectual void that plagued me after James Baldwin died. Clearly it is Ta-Nehisi Coates. The language of Between the World and Me, like Coates' journey, is visceral, eloquent and beautifully redemptive. And its examination of the hazards and hopes of black male life is as profound as it is revelatory. This is required reading.' Toni Morrison 'Extraordinary...Ta-Nehisi Coates...writes an impassioned letter to his teenage son—a letter both loving and full of a parent's dread—counselling him on the history of American violence against the black body, the young African-American's extreme vulnerability to wrongful arrest, police violence, and disproportionate incarceration.' David Remnick, New Yorker 'A searing meditation on what it means to be black in America today...as compelling a portrait of a father-son relationship as Martin Amis's Experience or Geoffrey Wolff's The Duke of Deception.' New York Times 'Coates possesses a profoundly empathetic imagination and a tough intellect...Coates speaks to America, but Australia has reason to listen.' Monthly 'Heartbreaking, confronting, it draws power from understatement in dealing with race in America and the endless wrong-headed concept that whites are somehow entitled to subjugate everyone else.' Capital 'In our current global landscape it's an essential perspective, regardless of your standpoint.' Paperboy 'Impactful and poignant.' Reading With Jenna

remembering jim crow: How the Word Is Passed Clint Smith, 2021-06-01 ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVOURITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR A NUMBER ONE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NON-FICTION 'A beautifully readable reminder of how much of our urgent, collective history resounds in places all around us that have been hidden in plain sight.' Afua Hirsch, author of Brit(ish) Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks - those that are honest about the past and those that are not - which offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping a nation's collective history, and our own. It is the story of the Monticello Plantation in Virginia, the estate where Thomas Jefferson wrote letters espousing the urgent need for liberty while enslaving more than four hundred people. It is the story of the Whitney Plantation, one of the only former plantations devoted to preserving the experience of the enslaved people whose lives and work sustained it. It is the story of Angola, a former plantation-turned-maximum-security prison in Louisiana that is filled with Black men who work across the 18,000-acre land for virtually no pay. And it is the story of Blandford Cemetery, the final resting place of tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers. A deeply researched and transporting exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history, How the Word Is Passed illustrates how some of our most essential stories are hidden in plain view - whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth or entire neighbourhoods like downtown Manhattan, where the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women and children has been deeply imprinted. How the Word is Passed is a landmark book that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of the United States. Chosen as a book of the year by President Barack Obama, The Economist, Time, the New York Times and more, fans of Brit(ish) and Natives will be utterly captivated. What readers are saying about How the Word is Passed: 'How the Word Is Passed frees history, frees humanity to reckon honestly with the legacy of slavery. We need this book.' Ibram X. Kendi, Number One New York Times bestselling author 'An extraordinary contribution to the way we understand ourselves.' Julian Lucas, New York Times Book Review 'The detail and depth of the storytelling is vivid and visceral, making history present and real.' Hope Wabuke, NPR 'This isn't just a work of history, it's an intimate, active exploration of how we're still constructing and distorting our history. Ron Charles, The Washington Post 'In re-examining neighbourhoods, holidays and quotidian sites, Smith forces us to reconsider what we think we know about American history.' Time 'A history of slavery in this country unlike anything you've read before.' Entertainment Weekly 'A beautifully written, evocative, and timely meditation on the way slavery is commemorated in the United States.' Annette

Gordon-Reed, Pulitzer Prize-winning author

remembering jim crow: Jumpin' Jim Crow Jane Dailey, Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore, Bryant Simon, 2020-07-21 White supremacy shaped all aspects of post-Civil War southern life, yet its power was never complete or total. The form of segregation and subjection nicknamed Jim Crow constantly had to remake itself over time even as white southern politicians struggled to extend its grip. Here, some of the most innovative scholars of southern history question Jim Crow's sway, evolution, and methods over the course of a century. These essays bring to life the southern men and women--some heroic and decent, others mean and sinister, most a mixture of both--who supported and challenged Jim Crow, showing that white supremacy always had to prove its power. Jim Crow was always in motion, always adjusting to meet resistance and defiance by both African Americans and whites. Sometimes white supremacists responded with increased ferocity, sometimes with more subtle political and legal ploys. Jumpin' Jim Crow presents a clear picture of this complex negotiation. For example, even as some black and white women launched the strongest attacks on the system, other white women nurtured myths glorifying white supremacy. Even as elite whites blamed racial violence on poor whites, they used Jim Crow to dominate poor whites as well as blacks. Most important, the book portrays change over time, suggesting that Strom Thurmond is not a simple reincarnation of Ben Tillman and that Rosa Parks was not the first black woman to say no to Jim Crow. From a study of the segregation of household consumption to a fresh look at critical elections, from an examination of an unlikely antilynching campaign to an analysis of how miscegenation laws tried to sexualize black political power, these essays about specific southern times and places exemplify the latest trends in historical research. Its rich, accessible content makes Jumpin' Jim Crow an ideal undergraduate reader on American history, while its methodological innovations will be emulated by scholars of political history generally. In addition to the editors, the contributors are Edward L. Ayers, Elsa Barkley Brown, W. Fitzhugh Brundage, Laura F. Edwards, Kari Frederickson, David F. Godshalk, Grace Elizabeth Hale, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, Stephen Kantrowitz, Nancy MacLean, Nell Irwin Painter, and Timothy B. Tyson.

remembering jim crow: Emancipation Betrayed Paul Ortiz, 2005 Paul Ortiz's lyrical and closely argued study introduces us to unknown generations of freedom fighters for whom organizing democratically became in every sense a way of life. Ortiz changes the very ways we think of Southern history as he shows in marvelous detail how Black Floridians came together to defend themselves in the face of terror, to bury their dead, to challenge Jim Crow, to vote, and to dream.—David R. Roediger, author of Colored White: Transcending the Racial Past "Emancipation Betrayed is a remarkable piece of work, a tightly argued, meticulously researched examination of the first statewide movement by African Americans for civil rights, a movement which since has been effectively erased from our collective memory. The book poses a profound challenge to our understanding of the limits and possibilities of African American resistance in the early twentieth century. This analysis of how a politically and economically marginalized community nurtures the capacity for struggle speaks as much to our time as to 1919."—Charles Payne, author of I've Got the Light of Freedom

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