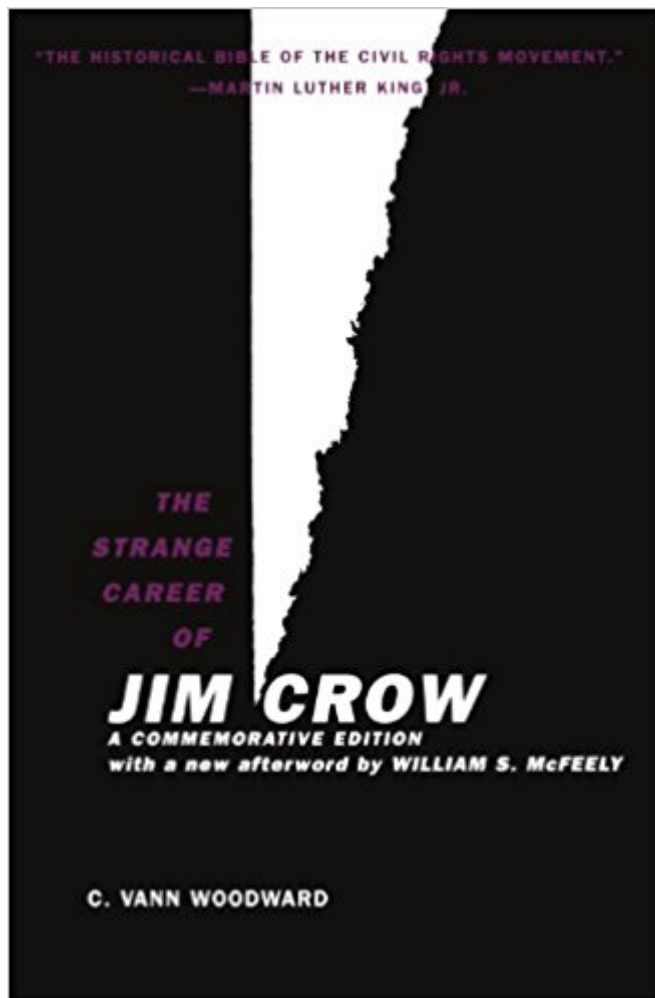


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# The Strange Career Of Jim Crow



## Synopsis

C. Vann Woodward, who died in 1999 at the age of 91, was America's most eminent Southern historian, the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for *Mary Chestnut's Civil War* and a Bancroft Prize for *The Origins of the New South*. Now, to honor his long and truly distinguished career, Oxford is pleased to publish this special commemorative edition of Woodward's most influential work, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* is one of the great works of Southern history. Indeed, the book actually helped shape that history. Published in 1955, a year after the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* ordered schools desegregated, *Strange Career* was cited so often to counter arguments for segregation that Martin Luther King, Jr. called it "the historical Bible of the civil rights movement." The book offers a clear and illuminating analysis of the history of Jim Crow laws, presenting evidence that segregation in the South dated only to the 1890s. Woodward convincingly shows that, even under slavery, the two races had not been divided as they were under the Jim Crow laws of the 1890s. In fact, during Reconstruction, there was considerable economic and political mixing of the races. The segregating of the races was a relative newcomer to the region. Hailed as one of the top 100 nonfiction works of the twentieth century, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* has sold almost a million copies and remains, in the words of David Herbert Donald, "a landmark in the history of American race relations."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"C. Vann Woodward's *Strange Career* is one of the most important works to an American historian of any period. Not only is *Strange Career* a great work of history, it is history. It is still enthralling students today."--Carlos Blanton, Rice University  
 "This classic study of the history of segregation in the United States still has much to teach us."--The Diversity Factor  
 "A unique, revealing, and 'eye-opening' volume that deals with a most sensitive aspect of U.S. history."--Arthur E. Chapman, University of Miami  
 Praise for previous editions: "Excellent perspective of development of Jim Crow laws in South and , what is unusual, in the North. The revision has a good analysis of the irony of modern black separatism."--Ben F. Fordney, James Madison Univ.  
 "A witty, learned, and unsettling book...a book of permanent significance."--Robert Penn Warren  
 "A landmark in the history of American race relations."--David Herbert Donald  
 "I have used this work as a required reading in my freshman-level U.S. history class for twenty-two years and found it a most appropriate assignment."--Peter Sehlinger, Indiana University, Indianapolis  
 "Absolutely useful."--Jennie La Monte, University of New Hampshire  
 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The late C. Vann Woodward was the Sterling Professor of History at Yale until his death in 1999. Among his books are *Mary Chestnut's Civil War*, *The Origins of the New South*, *Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel*, and *The Burden of Southern History*. He was also General Editor of *The Oxford History of the United States* series. William S. McFeely won the Lincoln Prize in 1992 for *Frederick Douglass* and the Pulitzer Prize in 1982 for *Grant: A Biography*. He is Abraham Baldwin Professor of the Humanities Emeritus at the University of Georgia and lives in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

I'm tempted to give five stars -- this book is so important for the information it contains, the analysis it presents, and the influence it had on the civil rights movement in the United States. On the other hand, it suffers from academese, overly long sentences with almost countless subclauses of polysyllabic Latinate words, and the final section of the book, covering the period after 1955, is of much lower quality than what came before. It is comparatively jumbled and without the same depth of insight. On balance, every American should know the material in this book. Blacks so they know the history of public policy addressing them, whites so they understand why black people are angry about it, and everybody because it contains a lot of wisdom about political reaction and the harm it can wreak.

Birthday present for a Southern Gentleman who actually doesn't know everything about the south.

Much appreciated for its scholarship and historical sweep.

CVW only 2nd author ive read with 2 Pulitzer prizes - well deserved

I had to read this book for class, it really gives a good understanding of Jim Crow laws.

This book is an eye opener, especially for those of us who think we know the history of racial problems in America. A must read for everyone. But be prepared to take it slow. In places it is as dense as a college history course with a lot of detail.

Good read.

excellent background for reading The New Jim Crow

As one who lived in the South during the last years of segregation, I thought I knew its essentials, but this book really illuminated the evolution and consequences of this vile institution.

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