

civil rights and social wrongs john higham

Civil Rights and Social Wrongs: Exploring John Higham's Impact on American Historiography

civil rights and social wrongs john higham is a phrase that calls attention to the nuanced and critical examination of America's struggles with equality, justice, and identity. John Higham, a prominent American historian, profoundly influenced how scholars and readers alike understand the complex interplay between civil rights movements and the social injustices embedded in the country's history. His work sheds light on the recurring themes of exclusion, discrimination, and the quest for social justice, making his perspectives invaluable for anyone interested in the evolution of civil rights in the United States.

Understanding Higham's Approach to Civil Rights and Social Wrongs

John Higham's scholarship is notable for its depth and for challenging simplistic narratives about American progress. Unlike historians who focused solely on political milestones or landmark legislation, Higham delved into the cultural and social undercurrents that shaped civil rights struggles. He explored how social wrongs—such as racism, xenophobia, and economic inequality—persisted even as legal rights were extended to marginalized groups.

One of Higham's key contributions was highlighting the tension between American ideals and realities. He emphasized that while the United States has long professed values of liberty and equality, its history is riddled with contradictions where these ideals were often denied to large segments of the population. Understanding this tension is crucial for grasping why civil rights movements arose and why social wrongs have been so resilient.

The Role of Nativism in Shaping Social Wrongs

A significant theme in Higham's work is the concept of nativism—the preference for established inhabitants over immigrants and minorities—which he argued was a persistent social wrong influencing American politics and society. In his influential book, **Strangers in the Land**, Higham traced the history of nativist attitudes in the United States, showing how fear of the "other" fueled discrimination against immigrants, African Americans, and other minority groups.

Nativism, as Higham described, was more than just prejudice; it was often institutionalized in laws and policies that curtailed civil rights. This historical insight is critical for understanding how social wrongs are not merely isolated acts of unfairness but systemic problems rooted in cultural and political frameworks.

Civil Rights Movements Through Higham's Lens

Examining civil rights movements through John Higham's perspective offers a richer understanding of these pivotal chapters in American history. Higham saw the civil rights era not just as a political struggle but as part of a broader social reckoning with America's identity and values.

He argued that civil rights activism was a response to the social wrongs

perpetuated by systemic racism and exclusion. This activism highlighted the gap between America's democratic ideals and its social realities, pushing society toward greater inclusion and equality. Higham's analysis encourages readers to see civil rights movements as dynamic forces that challenged deeply ingrained social norms and helped reshape national identity.

The Intersection of Race, Class, and Social Justice

John Higham's work often intersected with discussions about race and class, two crucial factors in understanding social injustices. He pointed out that civil rights issues cannot be fully understood without considering economic disparities and social hierarchies.

For example, Higham explored how poverty and economic inequality often exacerbated racial discrimination, creating layers of social wrongs that were difficult to dismantle. This intersectional approach remains relevant today, as scholars and activists recognize that achieving civil rights requires addressing multiple dimensions of inequality.

Why Higham's Insights Matter Today

In contemporary discussions about civil rights and social justice, John Higham's scholarship continues to resonate. His emphasis on historical context reminds us that social wrongs are deeply embedded in societal structures and cannot be resolved simply through legal reforms. Instead, lasting change requires addressing underlying cultural attitudes and systemic inequalities.

For students, activists, and anyone interested in social justice, Higham's work offers valuable lessons. It highlights the importance of understanding history not as a series of isolated events but as a complex narrative shaped by competing ideals, fears, and struggles for power.

Tips for Applying Higham's Perspectives in Modern Social Justice Work

- ****Study history critically:**** Recognize that social wrongs have deep roots and that progress often involves ongoing struggles rather than quick fixes.
- ****Address systemic issues:**** Focus not only on individual acts of discrimination but also on the policies and cultural norms that sustain inequality.
- ****Embrace intersectionality:**** Understand how race, class, gender, and other identities intersect to shape experiences of injustice.
- ****Promote inclusive narratives:**** Use varied historical perspectives to challenge dominant narratives that overlook marginalized voices.
- ****Engage in dialogue:**** Encourage conversations that acknowledge past wrongs while envisioning more equitable futures.

The Legacy of John Higham in Civil Rights Scholarship

John Higham's legacy in the field of civil rights and social wrongs is marked by his commitment to uncovering the often uncomfortable truths about American history. His work has inspired generations of historians and activists to look beyond surface-level accounts and to grapple with the complexities of social justice.

By bringing attention to themes like nativism, racial discrimination, and economic inequality, Higham helped pave the way for a more nuanced and inclusive understanding of civil rights history. His scholarship serves as a reminder that progress is possible but requires vigilance, critical

reflection, and a willingness to confront difficult realities.

Exploring Further: Resources on Civil Rights and Social Wrongs

For those eager to delve deeper into the themes John Higham addressed, several resources can enrich your understanding:

- **Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925** by John Higham – a foundational text exploring the roots of nativism.
- Works by historians like Eric Foner and Nell Irvin Painter, who expand on race and civil rights history.
- Documentaries and oral histories that capture firsthand accounts of civil rights struggles.
- Academic journals focusing on social justice, race relations, and American history.

By engaging with these materials, readers can appreciate the ongoing relevance of Higham's insights in today's efforts to address civil rights and social wrongs.

In the end, the study of civil rights and social wrongs through the lens of John Higham invites us all to reflect on the stories we tell about our past, the injustices we confront in the present, and the kind of society we aspire to build in the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is John Higham and what is his contribution to the study of civil rights?

John Higham was a prominent American historian known for his work on American intellectual history and social issues, including civil rights. He contributed significant scholarship analyzing the social dynamics and historical context of civil rights movements in the United States.

What are some key themes in John Higham's analysis of social wrongs?

John Higham's analysis often focuses on themes such as racial discrimination, social injustice, the persistence of prejudice, and the struggle for equality. He explored how these social wrongs influenced American history and the development of civil rights legislation.

How did John Higham view the civil rights movement in the context of American history?

John Higham viewed the civil rights movement as a pivotal moment in American history that challenged longstanding social wrongs and systemic discrimination. He emphasized the movement's role in reshaping American society and advancing the principles of equality and justice.

What is the significance of John Higham's work for contemporary civil rights discussions?

John Higham's work provides valuable historical perspective that helps contextualize ongoing civil rights issues. By understanding the roots and evolution of social wrongs, contemporary discussions can be better informed about the challenges and progress related to civil rights.

Can you recommend any specific works by John Higham related to civil rights and social wrongs?

One notable work by John Higham is "Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925," which, while focusing on nativism, also addresses themes of social exclusion and injustice relevant to civil rights. His essays and lectures often delve into topics surrounding social wrongs and the quest for civil rights in the U.S.

Additional Resources

Civil Rights and Social Wrongs: An Analytical Review of John Higham's Contributions

civil rights and social wrongs john higham represents a critical intersection in American historiography, where the struggle for equality meets the persistent challenges of social injustice. John Higham, a distinguished historian and scholar, significantly shaped the discourse on civil rights and social wrongs, offering nuanced perspectives that continue to influence contemporary understanding of American social dynamics. This article delves into Higham's analytical framework, exploring how his work navigates the complexities of civil rights movements and the entrenched social wrongs within the United States.

John Higham's Contextualization of Civil Rights and Social Wrongs

John Higham's scholarship stands out for its rigorous examination of American social history, particularly his exploration of civil rights through the lens of cultural conflict and social identity. His seminal works dissect the evolution of civil rights movements, emphasizing not only legislative milestones but also the broader societal currents that both propel and hinder progress. Higham's approach transcends a mere chronological recounting of events, opting instead for an investigative narrative that interrogates the underlying social wrongs—such as racism, segregation, and systemic inequality—that civil rights activism seeks to redress.

A key feature of Higham's analysis is his attention to the interplay between majority and minority groups in American society. He highlights the paradoxes inherent in a nation founded on liberty yet marred by exclusion and discrimination. This duality is central to understanding the persistent social wrongs that fuel civil rights struggles, making Higham's work indispensable for scholars and activists alike.

The Role of Cultural Conflict in Higham's Thesis

One of Higham's most influential contributions is his theory of cultural conflict, which posits that many social wrongs arise from clashes between differing cultural identities and values. In the context of civil rights, this framework explains how racial prejudices and social hierarchies become entrenched through cultural misunderstanding and fear. Higham's cultural conflict theory serves as a diagnostic tool, revealing why certain social wrongs resist resolution despite legal reforms.

This perspective is particularly relevant when examining the resistance to civil rights legislation in the mid-20th century. Higham's work elucidates how white majority groups often perceived civil rights gains as threats to their cultural dominance, leading to backlash movements and social unrest. Understanding this dynamic is critical for contemporary discussions on systemic racism and ongoing social inequities.

Impact of John Higham's Work on Civil Rights Scholarship

Higham's insights have had a profound impact on the field of civil rights history, influencing both academic research and public discourse. His balanced and investigative tone provides a model for analyzing contentious social issues without succumbing to partisanship or oversimplification. By framing civil rights struggles within the broader context of social wrongs, Higham enables a more holistic understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities.

Moreover, Higham's work underscores the importance of historical memory in shaping civil rights narratives. He argues that acknowledging past social wrongs is essential for fostering reconciliation and social progress. This emphasis on historical context helps explain why civil rights activism remains relevant today, as unresolved social wrongs continue to manifest in modern forms of discrimination and inequality.

Comparative Perspectives: Higham and Contemporary Civil Rights Historians

When compared to other scholars in the field, John Higham's approach is distinguished by its cultural and social complexity. While many historians focus narrowly on legal battles or prominent leaders, Higham broadens the lens to include everyday social interactions and cultural tensions. This comparative perspective enriches the understanding of civil rights as not only a political movement but also a social phenomenon deeply embedded in the fabric of American life.

For instance, unlike histories that center exclusively on landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Higham's work probes the subtler, pervasive social wrongs that legislation alone cannot eradicate. This includes economic disparities, educational inequities, and cultural prejudices that persist despite formal legal equality. His scholarship thus serves as a bridge between legal history and social history, offering a comprehensive narrative that captures the multifaceted nature of civil rights

struggles.

Key Themes in John Higham's Exploration of Social Wrongs

Several recurring themes define Higham's examination of social wrongs related to civil rights:

- **Racism and Segregation:** Higham meticulously documents how systemic racism and enforced segregation created structural barriers to equality.
- **Social Identity and Otherness:** His work explores how social identities are constructed and weaponized to justify exclusion and discrimination.
- **Cultural Anxiety:** Higham highlights the fears and insecurities of dominant groups that often drive social backlash against civil rights progress.
- **Legal vs. Social Change:** He distinguishes between legal victories and deeper social transformation, pointing out the limits of legislation.
- **Historical Memory:** The importance of confronting uncomfortable historical truths to understand and address present-day social wrongs.

These themes collectively provide a robust framework for analyzing civil rights history, emphasizing that social wrongs are multidimensional and require multifaceted responses.

The Pros and Cons of Higham's Analytical Approach

Higham's methodology offers numerous advantages but is not without critiques:

1. Pros:

- Provides a comprehensive understanding of civil rights beyond legal frameworks.
- Integrates cultural and social analysis, enriching historical interpretation.
- Encourages critical reflection on both majority and minority perspectives.

2. Cons:

- Some critics argue that the broad cultural approach may dilute focus on specific legal or political actions.

- Higham's emphasis on cultural conflict might understate the agency of marginalized groups in shaping their destinies.
- His work occasionally risks portraying social wrongs as inevitable cultural clashes rather than problems that can be overcome.

Despite these critiques, Higham's contributions remain foundational, offering invaluable tools for understanding the persistent challenges of civil rights and social wrongs.

Relevance of John Higham's Insights in Contemporary Society

In today's climate of renewed civil rights activism and social justice advocacy, John Higham's work resonates with enduring relevance. His examination of cultural conflict helps explain ongoing tensions surrounding race, immigration, and identity politics. The persistence of social wrongs such as systemic racism and economic inequality underscores the need for the kind of nuanced historical understanding Higham advocates.

Contemporary movements can draw upon Higham's insights to navigate the complexities of social change, recognizing that legal reforms must be accompanied by cultural shifts and societal reconciliation. This holistic perspective fosters more effective strategies for addressing deep-rooted social wrongs.

Higham's scholarship also serves as a reminder that history is not static; the narratives we construct about civil rights influence present and future policies. Engaging critically with his work encourages a balanced approach to social justice—one that acknowledges past injustices while striving for inclusive progress.

The legacy of John Higham's analysis, therefore, extends beyond academia into the practical realm of social advocacy and policymaking, where understanding the roots of civil rights and social wrongs is essential for creating a more equitable society.

Civil Rights And Social Wrongs John Higham

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: Civil Rights and Social Wrongs John Higham, 2010-11-01

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: Fighting for Rights Ronald R. Krebs, 2011-02-23 Leaders around the globe have long turned to the armed forces as a school for the nation. Debates over who serves continue to arouse passion today because the military's participation policies are seen as shaping politics beyond the military, specifically the politics of identity and citizenship. Yet how and when do these policies transform patterns of citizenship? Military service, Ronald R. Krebs argues, can play a critical role in bolstering minorities' efforts to

grasp full and unfettered rights. Minority groups have at times effectively contrasted their people's battlefield sacrifices to the reality of inequity, compelling state leaders to concede to their claims. At the same time, military service can shape when, for what, and how minorities have engaged in political activism in the quest for meaningful citizenship. Employing a range of rich primary materials, Krebs shows how the military's participation policies shaped Arab citizens' struggles for first-class citizenship in Israel from independence to the mid-1980s and African Americans' quest for civil rights, from World War I to the Korean War. Fighting for Rights helps us make sense of contemporary debates over gays in the military and over the virtues and dangers of liberal and communitarian visions for society. It suggests that rhetoric is more than just a weapon of the weak, that it is essential to political exchange, and that politics rests on a dual foundation of rationality and culture.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: "At This Defining Moment" Enid Lynette Logan, 2011-10-01 In January 2009, Barack Obama became the 44th president of the United States. In the weeks and months following the election, as in those that preceded it, countless social observers from across the ideological spectrum commented upon the cultural, social and political significance of "the Obama phenomenon." In "At this Defining Moment," Enid Logan provides a nuanced analysis framed by innovative theoretical insights to explore how Barack Obama's presidential candidacy both reflected and shaped the dynamics of race in the contemporary United States. Using the 2008 election as a case study of U.S. race relations, and based on a wealth of empirical data that includes an analysis of over 1,500 newspaper articles, blog postings, and other forms of public speech collected over a 3 year period, Logan claims that while race played a central role in the 2008 election, it was in several respects different from the past. Logan ultimately concludes that while the selection of an individual African American man as president does not mean that racism is dead in the contemporary United States, we must also think creatively and expansively about what the election does mean for the nation and for the evolving contours of race in the 21st century.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: The Impact of Immigration on African Americans Steven Shulman, 2017-09-04 Immigration has significant consequences for all Americans, but especially for African Americans. The sheer magnitude of immigration--it is the primary factor driving population growth--is so large that it directly or indirectly affects the economic, political, social, and environmental circumstances of most Americans. But the geographic concentration of immigrants in urban areas, and the economic concentration of immigrants in the low-wage sector of the labor market, have special consequences for African Americans since they are especially likely to live in urban areas and to be low-wage workers. These effects can be both negative and positive. Immigration has sharply increased the supply of labor into the low-wage sector of the labor market, which tends to reduce wages and employment opportunities for low-wage native workers. Employers may prefer hiring immigrants, who are perceived to be hard working and uncomplaining, to hiring African Americans. Immigrants can also increase the competition for scarce public services (especially education) on which African Americans depend. Yet immigration can also stimulate economic growth and urban revitalization, which can increase job opportunities and spread an ideology of multiculturalism. Immigration can dilute the political power of African Americans, but it can also strengthen the civil rights coalition. Immigration can benefit some groups while hurting others. This volume presents research and analysis that reflects and advances the debates about the economic and political consequences of immigration for African Americans. The contributors include Gerald Jaynes (Yale University), Vernon Briggs (Cornell University), Frank Bean and Jennifer Lee (University of California, Irvine), Robert Cherry (Brooklyn College), Manuel Pastor (University of California, Santa Cruz) and Enrique Marcelli (University of Massachusetts, Boston), Steven Camarota (Center for Immigration Studies), Frank Morris (University of Texas, D

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: The Achievement of American Liberalism William H. Chafe, 2002-12-18 The New Deal established the contours and character of modern American democracy. It created an anchor and a reference point for American liberal politics through the struggles for racial, gender, and economic equality in the five decades that followed it.

Indeed, the ways that liberalism has changed in meaning since the New Deal provide a critical prism through which to understand twentieth-century politics. From the consensus liberalism of the war years to the strident liberalism of the sixties to the besieged liberalism of the eighties and through the more recent national debates about welfare reform and Social Security privatization, the prominent historians gathered here explore the convoluted history of the complex legacy of the New Deal and its continuing effect on the present. In its scope and variety of subjects, this book reflects the protean quality of American liberalism. Alan Brinkley focuses on the range of choices New Dealers faced. Alonzo Hamby traces the Democratic Party's evolving effort to incorporate New Deal traditions in the Cold War era. Richard Fried offers a fresh look at the impact of McCarthyism. Richard Polenberg situates Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atomic bomb, in a tradition of liberal thought. And Melvin Urofsky shows how the Roosevelt Court set the legal dimensions within which the debate about the meaning of liberalism would be conducted for decades. Other subjects include the effect of the Holocaust on relations between American Jews and African Americans; the limiting effects of racial and gender attitudes on the potential for meaningful reform; and the lasting repercussions of the tumultuous 1960s. Provocative, illuminating and sure to raise questions for future study, *The Achievement of American Liberalism* testifies to a vibrant and vital field of inquiry.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Brown V. Board of Education* James T. Patterson, William W. Freehling, 2001-03 Appendix II contains tables and statistics on segregation and race and education.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *The Evolution of Political Knowledge* American Political Science Association. Meeting, Edward D. Mansfield, Richard Sisson, 2004 Over the course of the last century, political scientists have been moved by two principal purposes. First, they have sought to understand and explain political phenomena in a way that is both theoretically and empirically grounded. Second, they have analyzed matters of enduring public interest, whether in terms of public policy and political action, fidelity between principle and practice in the organization and conduct of government, or the conditions of freedom, whether of citizens or of states. Many of the central advances made in the field have been prompted by a desire to improve both the quality and our understanding of political life. Nowhere is this tendency more apparent than in research on American politics, a field in which concerns for the public interest have stimulated various important insights. This volume systematically analyzes the major developments within the broad field of American politics over the past three decades. Each chapter is composed of a core paper that addresses the major puzzles, conversations, and debates that have attended major areas of concern and inquiry within the discipline. These papers examine and evaluate the intellectual evolution and natural history of major areas of political inquiry and chart particularly promising trajectories, puzzles, and concerns for future work Each core paper is accompanied by a set of shorter commentaries that engage the issues it takes up, thus contributing to an ongoing and lively dialogue among key figures in the field.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Race and Renaissance* Joseph William Trotter Jr., Jared N. Day, 2010-06-27 African Americans from Pittsburgh have a long and distinctive history of contributions to the cultural, political, and social evolution of the United States. From jazz legend Earl Fatha Hines to playwright August Wilson, from labor protests in the 1950s to the Black Power movement of the late 1960s, Pittsburgh has been a force for change in American race and class relations. *Race and Renaissance* presents the first history of African American life in Pittsburgh after World War II. It examines the origins and significance of the second Great Migration, the persistence of Jim Crow into the postwar years, the second ghetto, the contemporary urban crisis, the civil rights and Black Power movements, and the Million Man and Million Woman marches, among other topics. In recreating this period, Trotter and Day draw not only from newspaper articles and other primary and secondary sources, but also from oral histories. These include interviews with African Americans who lived in Pittsburgh during the postwar era, which reveal firsthand accounts of what life was truly like during this transformative epoch. *Race and Renaissance* illuminates how Pittsburgh's African Americans arrived at their present moment in

history. It also links movements for change to larger global issues: civil rights with the Vietnam War; affirmative action with the movement against South African apartheid. As such, the study draws on both sociology and urban studies to deepen our understanding of the lives of urban blacks.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Migrants and Race in the US* Philip

Kretsedemas, 2013-10-23 This book explains how migrants can be viewed as racial others, not just because they are nonwhite, but because they are racially alien. This way of seeing makes it possible to distinguish migrants from a set of racial categories that are presumed to be indigenous to the nation. In the US, these indigenous racial categories are usually defined in terms of white and black. Kretsedemas explores how this kind of racialization puts migrants in a quandary, leading them to be simultaneously raced and situated outside of race. Although the book focuses on the situation of migrants in the US, it builds on theories of migrants and race that extend beyond the US, and makes a point of criticizing nation-centered explanations of race and racism. These arguments point toward the emergence of a new field visibility that has transformed the racial meaning of nativity, migration and migrant ethnicity. It also situates these changing views of migrants in a broader historical perspective than prior theory, explaining how they have been shaped by a changing relationship between race and territory that has been unfolding for several hundred years, and which crystallizes in the late colonial era.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Beyond Blackface* W. Fitzhugh Brundage,

2011-07-15 This collection of thirteen essays, edited by historian W. Fitzhugh Brundage, brings together original work from sixteen scholars in various disciplines, ranging from theater and literature to history and music, to address the complex roles of black performers, entrepreneurs, and consumers in American mass culture during the early twentieth century. Moving beyond the familiar territory of blackface and minstrelsy, these essays present a fresh look at the history of African Americans and mass culture. With subjects ranging from representations of race in sheet music illustrations to African American interest in Haitian culture, *Beyond Blackface* recovers the history of forgotten or obscure cultural figures and shows how these historical actors played a role in the creation of American mass culture. The essays explore the predicament that blacks faced at a time when white supremacy crested and innovations in consumption, technology, and leisure made mass culture possible. Underscoring the importance and complexity of race in the emergence of mass culture, *Beyond Blackface* depicts popular culture as a crucial arena in which African Americans struggled to secure a foothold as masters of their own representation and architects of the nation's emerging consumer society. The contributors are: Davarian L. Baldwin, Trinity College W. Fitzhugh Brundage, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Clare Corbould, University of Sydney Susan Curtis, Purdue University Stephanie Dunson, Williams College Lewis A. Erenberg, Loyola University Chicago Stephen Garton, University of Sydney John M. Giggie, University of Alabama Grace Elizabeth Hale, University of Virginia Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa David Krasner, Emerson College Thomas Riis, University of Colorado at Boulder Stephen Robertson, University of Sydney John Stauffer, Harvard University Graham White, University of Sydney Shane White, University of Sydney

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *At the Heart of It All?* Anne Overbeck,

2019-01-29 The structure of the African American family has been a recurring theme in American discourse on the African American community. The role of African American mothers especially has been the cause of heated debates since the time of Reconstruction in the 19th century. The discourse, which often saw the African American family as something that needed fixing, also put the issue of women's reproductive rights on the political agenda. Taking a long-term perspective from the 1920s to the early 1990s, Anne Overbeck aims to show how normative notions of the American family influenced the perspective on the African American family, especially African American women. The book follows the negotiations on African American women's reproductive rights within the context of eugenics, modernization theory, overpopulation, and the War on Drugs. Thereby it sets out to trace both continuities and changes in the discourse on the reproductive rights of African American women that still influence our perspective on the African American family

today.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *The Diversity Paradox* Jennifer Lee, Frank D. Bean, 2010-05-13 African Americans grappled with Jim Crow segregation until it was legally overturned in the 1960s. In subsequent decades, the country witnessed a new wave of immigration from Asia and Latin America—forever changing the face of American society and making it more racially diverse than ever before. In *The Diversity Paradox*, authors Jennifer Lee and Frank Bean take these two poles of American collective identity—the legacy of slavery and immigration—and ask if today's immigrants are destined to become racialized minorities akin to African Americans or if their incorporation into U.S. society will more closely resemble that of their European predecessors. They also tackle the vexing question of whether America's new racial diversity is helping to erode the tenacious black/white color line. *The Diversity Paradox* uses population-based analyses and in-depth interviews to examine patterns of intermarriage and multiracial identification among Asians, Latinos, and African Americans. Lee and Bean analyze where the color line—and the economic and social advantage it demarcates—is drawn today and on what side these new arrivals fall. They show that Asians and Latinos with mixed ancestry are not constrained by strict racial categories. Racial status often shifts according to situation. Individuals can choose to identify along ethnic lines or as white, and their decisions are rarely questioned by outsiders or institutions. These groups also intermarry at higher rates, which is viewed as part of the process of becoming American and a form of upward social mobility. African Americans, in contrast, intermarry at significantly lower rates than Asians and Latinos. Further, multiracial blacks often choose not to identify as such and are typically perceived as being black only—underscoring the stigma attached to being African American and the entrenchment of the one-drop rule. Asians and Latinos are successfully disengaging their national origins from the concept of race—like European immigrants before them—and these patterns are most evident in racially diverse parts of the country. For the first time in 2000, the U.S. Census enabled multiracial Americans to identify themselves as belonging to more than one race. Eight years later, multiracial Barack Obama was elected as the 44th President of the United States. For many, these events give credibility to the claim that the death knell has been sounded for institutionalized racial exclusion. *The Diversity Paradox* is an extensive and eloquent examination of how contemporary immigration and the country's new diversity are redefining the boundaries of race. The book also lays bare the powerful reality that as the old black/white color line fades a new one may well be emerging—with many African Americans still on the other side.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *The History of the Supreme Court of the United States* William M. Wiecek, 2006-01-23 *The Birth of the Modern Constitution* recounts the history of the United States Supreme Court in the momentous yet usually overlooked years between the constitutional revolution in the 1930s and Warren-Court judicial activism in the 1950s. 1941-1953 marked the emergence of legal liberalism, in the divergent activist efforts of Hugo Black, William O. Douglas, Frank Murphy, and Wiley Rutledge. The Stone/Vinson Courts consolidated the revolutionary accomplishments of the New Deal and affirmed the repudiation of classical legal thought, but proved unable to provide a substitute for that powerful legitimating explanatory paradigm of law. Hence the period bracketed by the dramatic moments of 1937 and 1954, written off as a forgotten time of failure and futility, was in reality the first phase of modern struggles to define the constitutional order that will dominate the twenty-first century.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Hanging Together* John Higham, 2001-01-01 This book presents three decades of writings by one of America's most distinguished historians. John Higham, renowned for his influential works on immigration, ethnicity, political symbolism, and the writing of history, here traces the changing contours of American culture since its beginnings, focusing on the ways that an extraordinarily mobile society has allowed divergent ethnic, class, and ideological groups to hang together as Americans. The book includes classic essays by Higham and more recent writings, some of which have been substantially revised for this publication. Topics range widely from the evolution of American national symbols and the fate of our national character to new perspectives on the New Deal, on other major turning points, and on changes in race

relations after major American wars. Yet they are unified by an underlying theme: that a heterogeneous society and an inclusive national culture need each other.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Newcomers, Outsiders, and Insiders* Rodney E. Hero, Sr., Ronald Schmidt, Sr., Andrew L. Aoki, Yvette M Alex-Assensoh, 2009-12-21 How has the arrival of new racial and ethnic groups affected the political gains of long-standing minorities in the United States?

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Paint the White House Black* Michael P. Jeffries, 2013-02-13 Barack Obama's election as the first black president in American history forced a reconsideration of racial reality and possibility. It also incited an outpouring of discussion and analysis of Obama's personal and political exploits. *Paint the White House Black* fills a significant void in Obama-themed debate, shifting the emphasis from the details of Obama's political career to an understanding of how race works in America. In this groundbreaking book, race, rather than Obama, is the central focus. Michael P. Jeffries approaches Obama's election and administration as common cultural ground for thinking about race. He uncovers contemporary stereotypes and anxieties by examining historically rooted conceptions of race and nationhood, discourses of biracialism and Obama's mixed heritage, the purported emergence of a post-racial society, and popular symbols of Michelle Obama as a modern black woman. In so doing, Jeffries casts new light on how we think about race and enables us to see how race, in turn, operates within our daily lives. Race is a difficult concept to grasp, with outbursts and silences that disguise its relationships with a host of other phenomena. Using Barack Obama as its point of departure, *Paint the White House Black* boldly aims to understand race by tracing the web of interactions that bind it to other social and historical forces.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *The Politics of Presidential Appointment* Sheldon Hackney, 2002-08-01 Historian and former university president Sheldon Hackney recounts how he became an unwitting combatant in the Culture Wars when his nomination to become President Bill Clinton's chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities came under fire from right-wing conservatives. Hackney meticulously describes the background of ideological maneuvering that was behind not only the attacks on him but also the fierce campaign to bring down Clinton. He says, "I believe my story illustrates how the Culture War and the current media environment combine to polarize discussion until the public has no chance to understand complex issues. Not only are moderates trampled underfoot, but the great gray areas where life is actually lived, the areas of ambiguity and tradeoffs between competing values, are rendered toxic to human habitation. This is not healthy for a democracy."

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: *Just Neighbors?* Edward Telles, Mark Sawyer, Gaspar Rivera-Salgado, 2011-09-01 Blacks and Latinos have transformed the American city—together these groups now constitute the majority in seven of the ten largest cities. Large-scale immigration from Latin America has been changing U.S. racial dynamics for decades, and Latino migration to new destinations is changing the face of the American south. Yet most of what social science has helped us to understand about these groups has been observed primarily in relation to whites—not each other. *Just Neighbors?* challenges the traditional black/white paradigm of American race relations by examining African Americans and Latinos as they relate to each other in the labor market, the public sphere, neighborhoods, and schools. The book shows the influence of race, class, and received stereotypes on black-Latino social interactions and offers insight on how finding common ground may benefit both groups. From the labor market and political coalitions to community organizing, street culture, and interpersonal encounters, *Just Neighbors?* analyzes a spectrum of Latino-African American social relations to understand when and how these groups cooperate or compete. Contributor Frank Bean and his co-authors show how the widely held belief that Mexican immigration weakens job prospects for native-born black workers is largely unfounded—especially as these groups are rarely in direct competition for jobs. Michael Jones-Correa finds that Latino integration beyond the traditional gateway cities promotes seemingly contradictory feelings: a sense of connectedness between the native minority and the newcomers

but also perceptions of competition. Mark Sawyer explores the possibilities for social and political cooperation between the two groups in Los Angeles and finds that lingering stereotypes among both groups, as well as negative attitudes among blacks about immigration, remain powerful but potentially surmountable forces in group relations. Regina Freer and Claudia Sandoval examine how racial and ethnic identity impacts coalition building between Latino and black youth and find that racial pride and a sense of linked fate encourages openness to working across racial lines. Black and Latino populations have become a majority in the largest U.S. cities, yet their combined demographic dominance has not abated both groups' social and economic disadvantage in comparison to whites. *Just Neighbors?* lays a much-needed foundation for studying social relations between minority groups. This trailblazing book shows that, neither natural allies nor natural adversaries, Latinos and African Americans have a profound potential for coalition-building and mutual cooperation. They may well be stronger together rather than apart.

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity Frank D. Bean, Gillian Stevens, 2003-05-01 The attacks of September 11, 2001, facilitated by easy entry and lax immigration controls, cast into bold relief the importance and contradictions of U.S. immigration policy. Will we have to restrict immigration for fear of future terrorist attacks? On a broader scale, can the country's sense of national identity be maintained in the face of the cultural diversity that today's immigrants bring? How will the resulting demographic, social, and economic changes affect U.S. residents? As the debate about immigration policy heats up, it has become more critical than ever to examine immigration's role in our society. With a comprehensive social scientific assessment of immigration over the past thirty years, *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* provides the clearest picture to date of how immigration has actually affected the United States, while refuting common misconceptions and predicting how it might affect us in the future. Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens show how, on the whole, immigration has been beneficial for the United States. Although about one million immigrants arrive each year, the job market has expanded sufficiently to absorb them without driving down wages significantly or preventing the native-born population from finding jobs. Immigration has not led to welfare dependency among immigrants, nor does evidence indicate that welfare is a magnet for immigrants. With the exception of unauthorized Mexican and Central American immigrants, studies show that most other immigrant groups have attained sufficient earnings and job mobility to move into the economic mainstream. Many Asian and Latino immigrants have established ethnic networks while maintaining their native cultural practices in the pursuit of that goal. While this phenomenon has led many people to believe that today's immigrants are slow to enter mainstream society, Bean and Stevens show that intermarriage and English language proficiency among these groups are just as high—if not higher—as among prior waves of European immigrants. *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* concludes by showing that the increased racial and ethnic diversity caused by immigration may be helping to blur the racial divide in the United States, transforming the country from a biracial to multi-ethnic and multi-racial society. Replacing myth with fact, *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* contains a wealth of information and belongs on the bookshelves of policymakers, pundits, scholars, students, and anyone who is concerned about the changing face of the United States. A Volume in the American Sociological Association's Rose Series in Sociology

civil rights and social wrongs john higham: Debt and Redemption in the Blues Julia Simon, 2023-03-16 This volume explores concepts of freedom and bondage in the blues and argues that this genre of music explicitly calls for a reckoning while expressing faith in a secular justice to come. Placing blues music within its historical context of the post-Reconstruction South, Jim Crow America, and the civil rights era, Julia Simon finds a deep symbolism in the lyrical representations of romantic and sexual betrayal. The blues calls out and indicts the tangled web of deceit and entrapment constraining the physical, socioeconomic, and political movement of African Americans. Surveying blues music from the 1920s to the early twenty-first century, Simon's analyses focus on economic relations, such as sharecropping, house contract sales, debt peonage, criminal surety, and convict lease. She demonstrates how the music reflects this exploitative economic history and how it is

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