
The first major work on the history of African Americans in Texas. Originally published in 1971, this reprint is dated in style and approach. Unfortunately, this “updated” version of Barr’s original work does little more than add information on African American history since the 1960s without incorporating new scholarship on previous subjects in the book. While this book could serve as a good source of factual information, it also offers little analysis.


One of a number of works on the lynching of Jesse Washington, Bernstein effectively recounts the events leading to the lynching as well as the lynching itself. The real contribution of this work, however, is Bernstein’s analysis of the impact of the lynching on the city of Waco in the years after the lynching, arguing that Waco never recovered from the negative image of the city that the lynching spawned.


Bullard provides a good source of demographic data on Houston during the 1970s and 1980s. Not only is the work dryly written, however, it also belies the title as there is little on the actual black experience.


The best study of slavery in Texas, Campbell’s monograph is thoroughly researched with regard to the institution of slavery and is well written. This is, however, a top-down study of slavery so those looking for a rich discussion of slave life will not find it here. One troubling aspect of Campbell’s work is his contention that there was little difference between slavery in Texas and elsewhere in the South without investigating some local conditions that should have impacted slavery in profound ways (proximity of Mexico, Indian problems on the frontier, and a large immigrant population as compared to many other deep South states).


A good study of Reconstruction-era politics in Texas. Campbell looks at five diverse counties in the state and analyzes the varying success of redeemers within
those counties. The work, however, focuses on political leaders rather than true grass roots political action and organization.


Cantrell traces the lives of a white North Carolina politician Kenneth Rayner and his black son John who follows him into politics. John Rayner remains active politically after migrating to Texas, raising issues of race, class, and populism. A useful work for those interested in politics from the Gilded Age to Progressivism.


Like Patricia Bernstein, Carrigan uses the Jesse Washington lynching as a focal point for his study. Where Bernstein looks at the impact of the Washington lynching, however, Carrigan looks at the lynching as the natural result of a Texas culture that was based on violence and vigilantism. He argues that the frontier experience, along with slavery and the war for Texas independence, led to hero worship that exalted those seen as protecting community values. Lynching was a natural extension of those cultural attitudes.


A well-written and thoroughly-researched study of black soldiers in Texas at a time of high racial tensions. Christian’s focuses on a number of episodes of racial violence perpetrated against, and by, black soldiers stationed in Texas after the Spanish American War.


A short but thorough look at NAACP efforts to force integration of University of Texas Law School with the *Sweatt* decision.


Probably the best place to start in trying to acquaint oneself with the black experience in Texas. The editors have collected some of the best scholarship on African American history in Texas. The selections also cover a wide range of themes and topics.

Dryly written, this study of eleven private black colleges in Texas highlights a shift from vocational training to liberal arts education in those institutions. Based largely on the records of the colleges themselves, this work reads like institutional history with little broader analysis.


A thorough, yet brief, look at efforts to end the all-white primary in Texas.


A well-written case study of desegregation following the *Brown* decision. Kellar’s study of desegregation in Houston demonstrates to complex nature of desegregation on the local level and the general lack of speed at which the *Brown* decision was implemented. Kellar also looks at opposition to desegregation from within the black community.


A good resource for those interested in black churches in Texas. McQueen, however, offers no analysis making his work much like Heintze’s work on black colleges – little more than institutional history.


This well-researched biography of Lulu B. White offers a look at local NAACP organization in Texas although Pitre’s admiration for White is typical of many biographies. Despite the inherent limitations with such a work, Pitre does demonstrate the limits to strong civil rights organization in Texas while also illustrating the close ties between national NAACP leadership and local leaders in Texas. The work also places Texas at the forefront of the national movement.


This brief study of miscegenation laws argues that after Reconstruction ended in Texas, miscegenation laws were passed as an attempt to maintain white superiority. Robinson further argues that, while these laws made interracial marriage illegal in
Texas, they did not address interracial sex (especially between white men and black women) since such liaisons did not undermine white supremacy.


A fascinating look at black self-segregation in Jim Crow Texas. Conrad and Sitton look at land-owning blacks and the communities that they form on the fringes of white society. Those communities offer the residents some independence and protection from the racial tension and animosity of wider Texas society between Reconstruction and the 1950’s.


Smallwood and Crouch are two of the leading scholars on Reconstruction history in Texas. Here they use the story of a feud in rural North Texas to argue that violence was the main reason for the success of the redeemers.


A bit dated, this is the first book-length study of the Brownsville raid. In this readable work Weaver condemns the U.S. Army and President Theodore Roosevelt for their handling of the events in Brownsville.


This work offers little that is new or scholarly and would be more suited to a middle school audience, maybe owing to Williams’ long service as a secondary school teacher. Moreover, despite its title, this work is not comprehensive and offers more straw than bricks.


This brief case study of the Hamilton Park neighborhood of Dallas traces the rise and fall of a middle-class black suburb. Wilson argues that the creation of the community was aimed at solving the needs and desires of Dallas blacks and white civic leaders. The work also illustrates the difficulty of maintaining a segregated community during a time of integration.