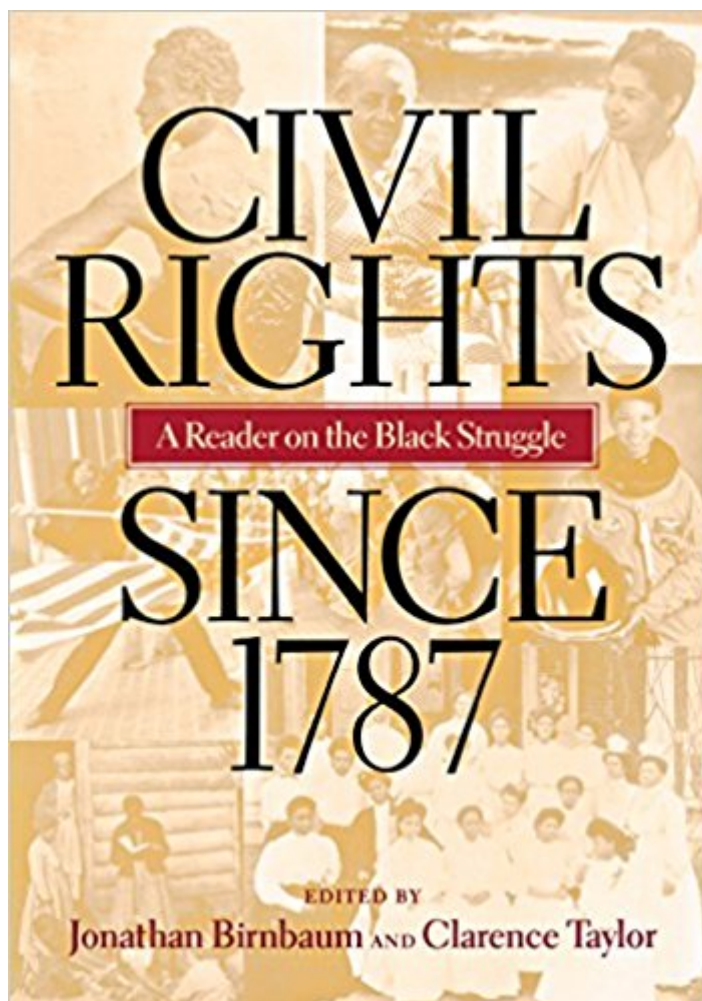


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# Civil Rights Since 1787



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2001 Gustavus Myers Program Book Award. Contrary to simple textbook tales, the civil rights movement did not arise spontaneously in 1954 with the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The black struggle for civil rights can be traced back to the arrival of the first Africans, and to their work in the plantations, manufacturies, and homes of the Americas. Civil rights was thus born as labor history. *Civil Rights Since 1787* tells the story of that struggle in its full context, dividing the struggle into six major periods, from slavery to Reconstruction, from segregation to the Second Reconstruction, and from the current backlash to the future prospects for a Third Reconstruction. The "prize" that the movement has sought has often been reduced to a quest for the vote in the South. But all involved in the struggle have always known that the prize is much more than the vote, that the goal is economic as well as political. Further, in distinction from other work, *Civil Rights Since 1787* establishes the links between racial repression and the repression of labor and the left, and emphasizes the North as a region of civil rights struggle. Featuring the voices and philosophies of orators, activists, and politicians, this anthology emphasizes the role of those ignored by history, as well as the part that education and religion have played in the movement. *Civil Rights Since 1787* serves up an informative mix of primary documents and secondary analysis and includes the work of such figures as Ella Baker, Mary Frances Berry, Clayborne Carson, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. DuBois, Eric Foner, Herb Gutman, Fannie Lou Hamer, A. Leon Higginbotham, Darlene Clark Hine, Jesse Jackson, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Manning Marable, Nell Painter, Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, A. Philip Randolph, Mary Church Terrell, and Howard Zinn.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This is a particularly valuable collection, an excellent reader on the struggle for racial equality.”—Howard Zinn, author of *A People’s History of the United States* “Civil Rights Since 1787 is one of those rare documentary collections that rewrites history. Birnbaum and Taylor not only take a long and wide view of the movement, but they persuasively re-define civil rights to encompass many critical struggles for social justice. This book is indispensable.”—Robin D.G. Kelley, author of *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class* “As a reference book, *Civil Rights Since 1787* serves as an outstanding source. The book gives a lucid account of the history of institutional slavery and racism in America that is all too often perplexing when presented by educational texts.”—Chicago Streetwise “Jonathan Birnbaum and Clarence Taylor have plumbed historical documents to produce a study that has both truth and urgency. . . . You could not do better than this book.”—Jewish Currents “An unusually challenging illumination of our still very unfinished history of equal protection of the laws. No classroom, library, or legislature at any level should be without it, and nearly everyone will want to argue with parts of it.”—Nat Hentoff, author of *Living the Bill of Rights and Free Speech for Me—but Not for Thee*

Jonathan Birnbaum is the editor, with Bertell Ollman, of *The United States Constitution: 200 Years of Anti-Federalist, Abolitionist, Feminist, Muckraking, Progressive, and Especially Socialist Criticism* (also available from NYU Press). His work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *New Politics*, *Socialism & Democracy*, *New Political Science*, and other publications. He lives in Illinois. Clarence Taylor is Professor of History at Baruch College, CUNY, and author of *The Black Churches of Brooklyn*, *Knocking at Our Own Door: Milton Galamison and the Struggle to Integrate New York City Schools* and most recently *Black Religious Intellectuals: The Fight for Equality from Jim Crow to the 21st Century*.

*Civil Rights Since 1787* is a reader on the black struggle since 1787 that provides a powerful collection of articles which rewrites history, charting an earlier struggle for civil rights than most titles would present and using primary documents and secondary analysis to spice the presentation. Works by DuBois, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, Manning Marable and more are outstanding

presentations.

If you really want to know what the Civil Rights Movement accomplished, you should read this novel that has annotations and reference pages. The book quotes Reconstruction and Civil Rights experts. The book details how blacks were able to manage schools, the limit and broadness of the tobacco trade, the labor movement and how the African-American struggle assisted this movement. The book gives statistics that purport the glass ceiling. It is an informative text that should be read by people who want to appreciate and comprehend the history of struggles for equality.

this guy is my professor this semester, i figured a little sucking up wouldn't hurt. on a more serious note, i have to admit that mr. taylor (smart-ass comments aside) is fully versed on a number of historical themes, it is truly admirable. he seems to be a strict individual but not to the point of being unyielding. i trust that his book will be an engaging read.

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