

African Americans and Jim Crow: Repression and Protest, 1883-1922

From the Library Company of Philadelphia's acclaimed Afro-Americana Collection



Quick Facts

More than 1,000 fully searchable printed works covering the pivotal post-Reconstruction period

The most significant works by and about African Americans from the beginning of Jim Crow to post-World War I

New perspectives on African-American culture, rights and daily life during a time of segregation and disenfranchisement

Overview

African Americans and Jim Crow: Repression and Protest offers more than 1,000 fully searchable printed works critical for insight into African-American culture and life from the beginning of Jim Crow to World War I and beyond. In the previous period—from the end of the Civil War and Reconstruction to the year 1883—newly freed blacks in the United States witnessed significant gains. Progress, however, was short-lived. Through the development of Jim Crow laws and numerous other acts hostile to their interests, the rights of African Americans were systematically stripped away.

In 1883 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Civil Rights Act of 1875 to be invalid. The decision—known as “The Civil Rights Cases” because it involved five separate proceedings—declared the federal government cannot keep businesses or individuals from discriminating on the basis of race. The Court’s decision severely restricted the power of the federal government to guarantee equal status under the law to African Americans. In addition, certain states adopted new statutes establishing racial segregation, thereby legalizing the treatment of African Americans as second-class citizens. The 1883 decision ultimately led to the enactment of Jim Crow laws that codified racial segregation in many U.S. states.

The years 1883 to 1922: Reversal of hard-earned gains

African Americans and Jim Crow consolidates many of the most noteworthy works by and about African Americans during a pivotal period of segregation and disenfranchisement. Capturing voices of, by, for, and about African Americans, this one-of-a-kind digital resource covers such critically important subjects as the evolution of African-American identity; eyewitness accounts of African-American life throughout the United States; relationships between African Americans and peoples of other nations; race in literature; and official reports on the changing status of African Americans. Also included are important printed works of African-American individuals and organizations and numerous works of fiction, poetry and drama.

New opportunities for scholars, students and teachers

African Americans and Jim Crow offers a comprehensive survey of the black experience during the period from post-Reconstruction through the early 1920s. Using this multifaceted collection researchers can easily uncover patterns of thought and compare points of view comprehensively. Students will find numerous new topics for term papers, group study and oral presentations, and teachers and faculty will discover multiple paths for classroom study. And by using helpful features such as “Suggested Searches,” users at all levels can drill into the content by topic, time period, theme or subject matter.

The Library Company of Philadelphia and its Afro-Americana collection

The Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library specializing in American history and culture from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Both *African Americans and Jim Crow* and its companion collection, *African Americans and Reconstruction*, were created from the Library Company’s renowned collection of Afro-Americana, also available from Readex in digital form. The magisterial bibliography *Afro-Americana 1553-1906* provides the bibliographic control for these collections.



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