

THE LIBERAL CONSENSUS RECONSIDERED: AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN THE POSTWAR ERA

EDITED BY ROBERT MASON AND IWAN MORGAN

[HTTP://UPF.COM/BOOK.ASP?ID=9780813054261](http://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813054261)

When first published in 1976, Godfrey Hodgson's *America in Our Time* won immediate recognition as a major interpretive study of the postwar era. Although the term *liberal consensus*, or its approximation, had received some previous expression, Hodgson was responsible for its entry into the lexicon of American history. Yet what he considered a substantive phenomenon would inevitably become a controversial paradigm as a massive outpouring of literature cited evidence of a significant conservative presence at the grassroots level from the 1930s to the 1960s.

Here, leading scholars--including Hodgson himself--confront the longstanding theory that a liberal consensus shaped the United States after World War II. The essays draw on fresh research to examine how the consensus related to key policy areas, how it was viewed by different factions and groups, what its limitations were, and why it fell apart in the late 1960s. They find that although elite politicians from both parties did share certain principles that gave direction to postwar America, the nation still experienced major political, cultural, and ideological conflict.

Identifying the forces at work that gave rise to a newly confident conservatism promoted by corporate leaders, Sunbelt boosters, and religious activists, the contributors offer new insights into the era and diverging opinions on one of the most influential interpretations of mid-twentieth-century U.S. history.

CONSERVATIVE BIAS: HOW JESSE HELMS PIONEERED THE RISE OF RIGHT-WING MEDIA AND REALIGNED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

[HTTP://UPF.COM/BOOK.ASP?ID=9780813049311](http://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813049311)

Before Bill O'Reilly and Glenn Beck, there was Jesse Helms. From in front of a camera at WRAL-TV, Helms forged a new brand of southern conservatism long before he was a senator from North Carolina. As executive vice president of the station, Helms delivered commentaries on the evening news and directed the news and entertainment programming. He pioneered the attack on the liberal media, and his editorials were some of the first shots fired in the culture wars, criticizing the influence of "immoral entertainment." Through the emerging power of the household television Helms established a blueprint and laid the foundation for the modern conservative movement.

Bryan Thrift mines over 2,700 WRAL-TV "Viewpoint" editorials broadcast between 1960 and 1972 to offer not only a portrait of a skilled rhetorician and wordsmith but also a lens on the way the various, and at times competing, elements of modern American conservatism cohered into an ideology couched in the language of anti-elitism and "traditional values." Decades prior to the invention of the blog, Helms corresponded with his viewers to select, refine, and sharpen his political message until he had reworked southern traditionalism into a national conservative movement. The realignment of southern Democrats into the Republican Party was not easy or inevitable, and by examining Helms's

oft-forgotten journalism career, Thrift shows how delicately and deliberately this transition had to be cultivated.

EXTREMISM IN AMERICA

EDITED BY GEORGE MICHAEL

<http://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813044972>

The American Republic was born in revolt against the British crown, and ever since, political extremism has had a long tradition in the United States. To some observers, the continued presence of extremist groups--and the escalation of their activities--portends the fragmentation of the country, while others believe such is the way American pluralism works. The word *extremism* often carries negative connotations, yet in 1964 Barry Goldwater famously said, "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice."

Extremism in America is a sweeping overview and assessment of the various brands of bigotry, prejudice, zealotry, dogmatism, and partisanship found in the United States, including the extreme right, the antiglobalization movement, Black Nationalism, Chicano separatism, militant Islam, Jewish extremism, eco-extremism, the radical antiabortion movement, and extremist terrorism.

Many of these forms of single-minded intolerance are repressed by both the state and society at large, but others receive significant support from their constituencies and enjoy a level of respectability in some quarters of the mainstream. The essays in this volume examine the relationship between these movements and the larger society, dissect the arguments of contemporary American anarchist activists, look at recent trends in political extremism, and suggest how and why such arguments resonate with a considerable number of people.

DIXIE'S DAUGHTERS: THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY AND THE PRESERVATION OF CONFEDERACY

[HTTP://UPF.COM/BOOK.ASP?ID=9780813026251](http://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813026251)

Even without the right to vote, members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy proved to have enormous social and political influence throughout the South--all in the name of preserving Confederate culture. Karen L. Cox's history of the UDC, an organization founded in 1894 to vindicate the Confederate generation and honor the Lost Cause, shows why myths surrounding the Confederacy continue to endure.

The Daughters, as UDC members were popularly known, were literally daughters of the Confederate generation. While southern women had long been leaders in efforts to memorialize the Confederacy, UDC members made the Lost Cause a movement about vindication as well as memorialization.

They erected monuments, monitored history for "truthfulness," and sought to educate coming generations of white southerners about an idyllic past and a just cause--states' rights. Soldiers' and widows' homes, perpetuation of the mythology of the antebellum South, and pro-southern textbooks in the region's white public schools were all integral to their mission of creating the New South in the image of the Old.

UDC members aspired to transform military defeat into a political and cultural victory, in which states' rights and white supremacy remained intact. To the extent they were successful, the Daughters helped to preserve and perpetuate an agenda for the New South that included maintaining the social status quo. Placing the organization's activities in the context of the postwar and Progressive-Era South, Cox describes in detail the UDC's origins and early development, its efforts to collect and preserve manuscripts and artifacts and to build monuments, and its later role in the peace movement and World War I.

This remarkable history of the organization presents a portrait of two generations of southern women whose efforts helped shape the social and political culture of the New South. It also offers a new historical perspective on the subject of Confederate memory and the role southern women played in its development.

UNEQUAL FREEDOMS: ETHNICITY, RACE, AND WHITE SUPREMACY IN CIVIL WAR–ERA CHARLESTON

JEFF STRICKLAND

[HTTP://UPF.COM/BOOK.ASP?ID=9780813060798](http://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813060798)

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the complex interplay of race, ethnicity, and class shaped the political economy and society of seaport cities from New Orleans to New York to Boston. Immigrants, African Americans, and native-born whites lived and worked together and nowhere was this level of interethnic relations so pronounced as in Charleston, South Carolina, the South's most economically and politically significant city.

Jeff Strickland examines how German and Irish immigrants in Charleston were both agents of change during the transition from slavery to freedom, as well as embodiments of that change. As fears of strengthening antislavery sentiments took root in Charleston, racial tensions became ever more pronounced. Immigrant artisans and entrepreneurs occupied a middle tier in the racial and ethnic hierarchy, acting as a buffer between the disparate white southerners and African Americans. While relations between European immigrants and black southerners were often positive during the Civil War era, reconstruction brought new opportunities for upward socioeconomic mobility to Charleston's immigrants. By the end of the nineteenth century, German and Irish immigrants were easily able to cross the permeable white boundaries and, through their assimilation as white southerners, effectively embraced the ideals of white supremacy.

Using an innovative framework, Jeff Strickland adds much to our knowledge about the ways European immigrant communities functioned in the South during the nineteenth century, and the significance of his research extends far beyond the geographic south.

THEOLOGY OF HATE: A HISTORY OF THE WORLD CHURCH OF THE CREATOR

GEORGE MICHAEL

<http://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813033501>

During the weekend of July 4, 1999, Benjamin "August" Smith went on a three-day rampage in Illinois and Indiana, attacking Asians, Orthodox Jews, and African Americans. He left two dead and nine wounded, and then committed suicide. As a former member--conveniently resigning the day before the shootings--of the World Church of the Creator (now officially known as the Creativity Movement), Smith was praised by the leader of the church as "Creator of the Year" for bringing attention to their existence and radical beliefs.

Smith's rampage was the first many Americans had heard of this small, previously obscure organization. In this fascinating and comprehensive history of the Creativity Movement, one of the most radical organizations in the history of the American far right, George Michael reminds us that some of the most dangerous radical elements in the United States are home grown.

FROM SIT-INS TO SNCC: THE STUDENT CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE 1960S

EDITED BY IWAN MORGAN AND PHILIP DAVIES

<HTTP://UPF.COM/BOOK.ASP?ID=9780813049595>

In the wake of the fiftieth anniversary of the historic sit-in at Woolworth's lunch counter by four North Carolina A&T college students, *From Sit-Ins to SNCC* brings together the work of leading civil rights scholars to offer a new and groundbreaking perspective on student-oriented activism in the 1960s. The eight substantive essays in this collection not only delineate the role of SNCC over the course of the struggle for African American civil rights but also offer an updated perspective on the development and impact of the sit-in movement in light of new research into organizational records and the personal papers of key actors. The contributors provide novel analyses of such topics as the dynamics of grassroots student civil rights activism, the organizational and cultural changes within SNCC, the impact of the sit-ins on the white South, the evolution of black nationalist ideology within the student movement, works of the fiction written by movement activists, and the changing international outlook of student-organized civil rights movements.

SOUTHERN CHARACTER: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF BERTRAM WYATT- BROWN

EDITED BY LISA TENDRICH FRANK AND DANIEL KILBRIDE

<HTTP://UPF.COM/BOOK.ASP?ID=9780813036908>

"A rich and diverse look at the many identities of a rich and diverse region. More than an homage to a gifted historian, it is a stand-alone, interdisciplinary inquiry into just how complicated this thing called 'the South' can be. It's all here, from literature to politics, race to religion, gender to genealogy,

Old South to New--with voodoo and a doomed barge canal as added twists. Fascinating and absolutely up-to-date."--John Mayfield, author of *Counterfeit Gentlemen*

"Honors a truly preeminent scholar with essays of very high quality and clear significance. No historian has assayed the 'southern character' more cogently than has Bertram Wyatt-Brown. From start to finish throughout this volume his former students affirm his great achievements and convincingly elaborate on them."--James Stewart, Macalester College emeritus

Bertram Wyatt-Brown (b. 1932) is one of America's most recognized and quoted historians. His work on honor, war, manhood, and religion, as well as his deeply interdisciplinary approach, has profoundly influenced the way historians understand the South.

The essays in this volume honor Wyatt-Brown and his work by using the concept of southern identities as a jumping-off point, examining a wide range of topics. *Southern Character* explores Quaker antislavery in Virginia, Lincoln's sense of southern honor, white and black uses of voodoo, contemporary southern conservatives' struggle for place, and the behavior of Confederate women during Sherman's invasion.

More than a *festschrift*, this volume demonstrates that southern identity is plural, not monolithic, and reveals how the region's uniqueness marginalizes many populations that contribute to "southernness."