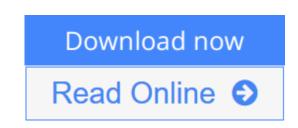


Racism in the Nation's Service: Government Workers and the Color Line in Woodrow Wilson's America

By Eric S. Yellin



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Between the 1880s and 1910s, thousands of African Americans passed civil service exams and became employed in the executive offices of the federal government. However, by 1920, promotions to well-paying federal jobs had nearly vanished for black workers. Eric S. Yellin argues that the Wilson administration's successful 1913 drive to segregate the federal government was a pivotal episode in the age of progressive politics. Yellin investigates how the enactment of this policy, based on Progressives' demands for whiteness in government, imposed a color line on American opportunity and implicated Washington in the economic limitation of African Americans for decades to come.

Using vivid accounts of the struggles and protests of African American government employees, Yellin reveals the racism at the heart of the era's reform politics. He illuminates the nineteenth-century world of black professional labor and social mobility in Washington, D.C., and uncovers the Wilson administration's progressive justifications for unraveling that world. From the hopeful days following emancipation to the white-supremacist "normalcy" of the 1920s, Yellin traces the competing political ideas, politicians, and ordinary government workers who created "federal segregation."

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Editorial Review

Review

Yellin's scholarship fills an important gap in our understanding of what Wilsonian progressivism was all about . . . but also explores less well understood connections between racism, progressive politics, and the state.--*American Historical Review*

Carefully researched and well-written. . . . [Yellin's] book deserves a wide reading among scholars and students of labor and race in the twentieth century.--*Labor*

Yellin's well-written treatise reminds readers how far the U.S. has come in its quest for racial equality. Recommended. Most levels/libraries.--*Choice*

A very compelling read.--History: Reviews of New Books

[A] thoroughly researched and artfully crafted book.--Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

Yellin's work is lucid and illuminating. He provides a thorough, readable, and well-rounded narrative filled with vivid examples and sharp analysis.--*Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*

His nuanced and sober book carefully chronicles the rationales and practices of racial subordination in the realm of federal employment and the personal and collective consequences that this unfolding tragedy had on the lives of black Washingtonians.--*Journal of Southern History*

Excellent new book .-- Journal of Southern History

Yellin makes an important contribution to our understanding of 'white supremacy.'--Journal of Interdisciplinary History

This is an excellent, well-researched, and well-written study. Yellin's diverse sources are impressive as is his ability to weave them into a tight analysis.-- *Journal of American History*

Review

This is a highly readable and compelling narrative based on extraordinary research. Yellin fills in a crucial gap in the history of sanctioned segregation and its effect between *Plessy* and *Brown* and illuminates a crucial shift in the way institutional racism worked and was largely accepted, despite extensive efforts to prevent it from taking hold. This is a story manifestly worth telling, and Yellin does so in outstanding fashion.--Howard Gillette Jr., Rutgers University-Camden

The best book yet written on the segregationist racial politics of Woodrow Wilson's presidency and their devastating effects on Washington's accomplished and proud black community. A powerful and tragic story, exquisitely crafted and movingly told.--Gary Gerstle, author of *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*

Emphasizing the complexity and devastating impact of institutional racism, Yellin's pathbreaking study sheds new light on Wilsonian progressivism, public sector employment, and early-twentieth-century civil rights activism. Deeply researched, dazzlingly well written, and persuasively argued, *Racism in the Nation's Service* is an important book that deserves a wide audience.--Kate Masur, author of *An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C.*

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marla Mestas:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Racism in the Nation's Service: Government Workers and the Color Line in Woodrow Wilson's America it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a

smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

Barbara Barnes:

The reason why? Because this Racism in the Nation's Service: Government Workers and the Color Line in Woodrow Wilson's America is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book possess such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Joshua Stickley:

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Julie Bailey:

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