



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

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Earl Goodman:

This book untitled *Racism in the Nation's Service: Government Workers and the Color Line in Woodrow Wilson's America* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it via online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this book from your list.

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Elizabeth Nicholson:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this Racism in the Nation's Service: Government Workers and the Color Line in Woodrow Wilson's America guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written inside good manner for you, dripping every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still question Racism in the Nation's Service: Government Workers and the Color Line in Woodrow Wilson's America as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one e-book that can break don't determine book by its include, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

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