

Brown V Board of Education

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Brown v. Board of Education



Caste, Culture, and the Constitution

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出版者:University Press of Kansas

出版时间:2003-10

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780700612895

Before 1954, both law and custom mandated strict racial segregation throughout much of the nation. That began to change with "Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark decision that overturned the pernicious "separate but equal" doctrine. In declaring that legally mandated school segregation was unconstitutional, the Supreme Court Played a critical role in helping to dismantle America's own version of apartheid, Jim Crow. This new study of "Brown--the title for a group of cases drawn from Kansas, Virginia, South Carolina, Delaware, and the District of Columbia--offers an insightful and original overview designed expressly for students and general readers. It is concise, up-to-date, highly readable, and very teachable. The authors, all recognized authorities on legal history and civil rights law, do an admirable job of examining the fight for legal equality in its broad cultural and historical context. They convincingly show that "Brown cannot be understood apart from the history of caste and exclusion in American society. That history antedated the very founding of the country and was supported by the nation's highest institutions, including the Supreme Court whose decision in "Plessy v. Frequson (1896) supported the notion of "separate but equal." Their book traces the lengthy court litigations, highlighting the pivotal role of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and including incisive portraits of key players, including co-plaintiff Oliver Brown, newly appointed Chief Justice Earl Warren, NAACP lawyer and future Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall, and Justice Felix Frankfurter, who recognized the crucial importance of a unanimous court decision andhelped produce it. The authors simply but powerfully narrate their story and show that "Brown not only changed the national equation of race and caste--it also changed our view of the Court's role in American life. As we prepare to commemorate the decision's fiftieth anniversary in May 2004, this book invites readers to appreciate the lasting importance of what was indisputably a landmark case.

作者介绍:

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标签

美国

法学

宪政

评论

写得很有意思，感觉很多地方都可以展开讲，但也可能会让人觉得散漫，不过一本二百多页的书署名作者就有三个，散漫也就散漫吧。而且有些出其不意的幽默感，如忽然写道“一个重要进展出现了“之后紧接的是”首席法官去世了”，接着补充了法兰克福特法官对此的评论“这证明上帝确实存在”。哈哈。后面读得很仓促，希望以后能整理一下。

布朗案的“前世今生”和影响

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书评

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