

regime, one where the White corporate class espoused relatively moderate views on race for the sake of political expediency and economic gain. Wilson recapitulates his thesis in the concluding chapter 18.

The interdisciplinary geography field draws upon history, economics, sociology, and political science, among others. Although Wilson cites primary sources such as zoning maps, municipal codes, coal mine statistics, convict labor statistics, newspaper articles, and Alabama Labor History archives, much of his argument relies on secondary sources, particularly a reexamination of Marxism and social Darwinism along with other multidisciplinary books, journal articles, and dissertations. He also references classic Black studies texts by Carter G. Woodson, Frederick Douglass, and W.E.B. Du Bois, and even Black theologian James Cone—no doubt a novel disruption to traditional academic geographical narratives at the turn of the twenty-first century.

*America's Johannesburg* is a complex race, class, and regional analysis of Birmingham's emergence as a post-Civil War industrial city with Alabama's antebellum era dominant in its DNA. While he briefly mentions Johannesburg, South Africa (and Birmingham, England), the book is not a comparative study, although Wilson points out the false equivalence of comparing Birmingham, Alabama, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Some readers could use a primer on Marxism before reading this book, although Wilson strives to make his theoretical arguments somewhat lucid to diverse audiences. Historians of southern politics might find his discussion of Republicans, Whigs, Jacksonian Democrats, and Jeffersonian Democrats some of the most intriguing portions of the book. His analyses of Black workers' transition from slavery to sharecropping to convict labor to wage labor would be of notable interest to labor historians and African American history scholars. Wilson is among a rare cadre of scholars, including Horace Mann Bond, Robin D. G. Kelley, and Horace Huntley and his collaborators, who pioneered studies on the Black freedom struggle in Birmingham and in Alabama at the nexus of macro historical, political, economic, and social transformations across region, nation, and globe.

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MAURICE C. DANIELS *Ground Crew: The Fight to End Segregation at Georgia State*

Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2019. Pp. 184. \$99.95 (cloth); \$29.95 (paper)

Currently, forty-two percent of Georgia State University's student body identifies as Black (US Department of Education College Scorecard). This masks the

arduous battle to integrate Georgia State. Maurice C. Daniels provides an in-depth analysis of the legal strategy that made the presence of Black students in such large numbers possible. The book traces a chapter in educational desegregation history that has to date received far less attention despite its centrality to the integration of higher education within Georgia and the nation as a whole. The book's six chapters demonstrate how the interconnections between Black Atlanta's political leaders and the NAACP provided a staging ground for the identification of suitable plaintiffs and the piecing together of an effective legal strategy. Daniels weaves together extensive archival research and interviews with people involved in, familiar with, and affected by the case to illustrate how the fight to desegregate Georgia State fit within the NAACP's overarching strategy to desegregate higher education. *Ground Crew* represents an excellent addition to the literature on higher education desegregation. It complements works such as Mark V. Tushnet's *The NAACP's Legal Strategy against Segregated Education, 1925-1950* (1987) by highlighting how the inner workings of one case contributed to the grand agenda.

In marshaling such varied primary and secondary sources, Daniels adds depth and dimension to his narrative. Yes, this is "history," but many of the key figures remained alive as Daniels was researching this book and were able to attest to the personal impact the case and surrounding events had on their lives. Adding to the book's originality is the focus placed on the toll these proceedings took on the plaintiffs. Daniels shines a spotlight on the brave young people who subjected themselves to immense and unfair levels of scrutiny. As lead plaintiffs in the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund lawsuit that challenged Georgia State's admission policies, the moral standing of Barbara Hunt, Myra Dinsmore, and Iris Mae Welch was called into question as a part of the state's legal strategy to thwart desegregation efforts. The plaintiffs found themselves having to account for the timing of births in relation to marriage. The defendant's attorneys claimed that it wasn't the plaintiffs' race that prevented them from gaining admission to the school but that their "character was unsuitable for admission to the college" (99). This line of questioning painfully highlights the race and gender intersect leaving Black women uniquely vulnerable to character assaults of a different order and magnitude than a male plaintiff may have faced.

In helping us understand the human toll of desegregation lawsuits, the book is also significant in its ability to allow us to reflect on the present moment. As I write this review, in the summer of 2020 we are in the midst of a global health pandemic and daily protests against police brutality directed at Black communities within the United States. The fight to desegregate Georgia State that began in 1956 has much in common with the Black Lives Matter Movement in 2020. There is a certain symmetry to the fact that three Black women served as lead

plaintiffs in the fight to desegregate Georgia State and the role that three Black women, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, played in bringing the Movement for Black Lives to fruition. Though not always credited for it, Black women are often at the forefront in the fight for racial justice. The degree of White resistance to sharing power and space with Black people in 2020 also feels eerily reminiscent to the events that unfolded during the trial profiled in *Ground Crew*. After all, American schools are legally desegregated. Yet and still, White flight and the rejection of plans to desegregate across district lines means that many schools are more segregated now than they were in the 1960s. This book also relates to the present moment by reminding us that those who lead the charge willingly or unwillingly don't always benefit from the fight. Despite "winning" the case, none of the plaintiffs were ultimately admitted to Georgia State. Contemporarily, defunding the police will never benefit the many Black Americans who have lost their lives to police violence, even if their deaths spurred the initiative. *Ground Crew*, a well-researched presentation of one historical episode, allows us to interrogate the present moment.

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WESLEY C. HOGAN *On the Freedom Side: How Five Decades of Youth Activists Have Remixed American History*

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. Pp. 368. \$90.00 (cloth); \$27.95 (paper)

Wesley C. Hogan's new book on youth movements charts the shift from "slogans" like "Jim Crow must go" or "water is life" to "strategies and tactics that actually get the job done" (6). The book's five case studies are a "mixtape" of youth activism from the 1980s to 2018, with numerous social movement lineages picked up and "spliced together" to establish a "remix culture" of American youth activism (12). The book is centered around the organizing ethic of Ella Baker, who Hogan rightly describes as "a critic of leader centered organizations." Baker "believed in empowering people—through building relationships and training and, above all, thoughtful action," and Hogan argues the actions of young people in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the early 1960s—whom Baker mentored—became "the bedrock of a new kind of political life" (20, 28).

Hogan traces this new political life in an exploration of Southerners on New Ground (SONG). Uncovering obstacles to "intersectional" organizing across lines of race, class, sex, and gender in the post-civil rights US South, Hogan cites discrimination "within" movements—but notes also the powerful forces outside