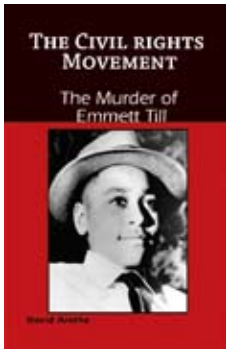


# The CIVIL RIGHTS Movement



## Booklist

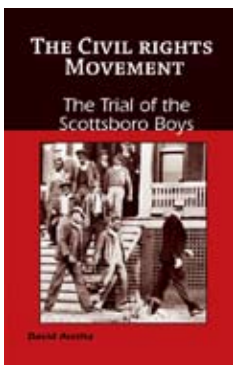
December 1, 2007

### **The Murder of Emmett Till.**

Aretha, David. 160 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (9781599350578). 364.1.

The heinous murder of Emmett Till galvanized the civil rights movement and raised the nation's awareness of the extreme racism in the South. Described by his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, as "a little nobody who shook up the world," Till was 14 in 1955, when he was kidnapped and murdered (for flirting with a white woman in the small town of Money, Mississippi). The killing proved even more shocking when the two men accused of the crimes were swiftly acquitted despite the testimony of several witnesses. This title in the Civil Rights Movement series details the events surrounding Till's murder, the trial and acquittal of his killers, and the nation's racial climate before and after this milestone in civil rights history. Concluding chapters deal with the killers' eventual confessions and Till-Mobley's later efforts to have the justice department reopen her son's case. Like others in the series, this

engaging title features a time line, an extensive source list, a bibliography for further research, and numerous photos.  
— Kristen McKulski



## VOYA

December 2007

**The Civil Rights Movement.** Morgan Reynolds, 2007. 128p. PLB \$27.95. Index. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology.

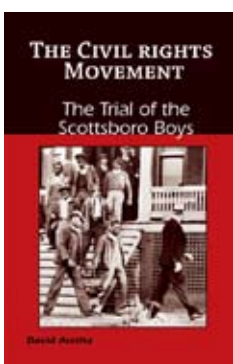
### **3Q • 2P • S**

Aretha, David. **The Trial of the Scottsboro Boys.** 978-1-59935-058-5.

In 1931, a group of young people, both black and white, jumped an Alabama freight car in search of work in nearby towns. The races scuffled, and at the next stop, nine young black men were accused of raping two white women on the train. These men became known as "The Scottsboro Boys." The initial legal proceedings were marked by overpowering racial prejudice, constantly changing testimony, and a lack of due process. The trials were also swift, resulting in eight death sentences

and a life sentence within fifteen days of the alleged crime. This legal process and later appeals over the course of nearly seven years (eventually leading to multiple United States Supreme Court decisions) are considered among the most important cases of the American civil rights movement and arguably the events that sparked the movement.

This brief but thorough book is illustrated with many well-captioned historical photographs. Explanations of potentially unfamiliar concepts are presented, with extended discussions of Jim Crow laws, the Communist Party in the United States, and the Supreme Court rulings related to this case. Because of the nature of the alleged crime, the evidence presented is rather explicit, including discussion of sperm motility and the results of rape exams. For readers interested in learning more, a bibliography and an annotated list of Web sites are offered. This book is recommended for public and school libraries serving high school aged students, it will be an excellent resource for those seeking to learn about the early rights movement.—Sherrie Williams.



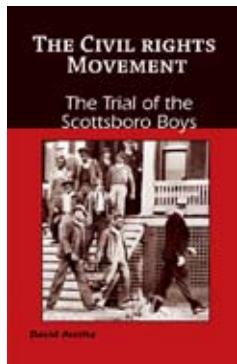
## School Library Journal

December 2007

ARETHA, David. **The Trial of the Scottsboro Boys.** 128p. (Civil Rights Series). photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2007. PLB \$27.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-058-5. LC 2007023818.

Gr 7 Up—The case of the Scottsboro Boys was a racial cause célèbre in the 1930s. Nine young black men between the ages of 13 and 20 were accused of rape by two white women. They were immediately arrested, tried by an all-white male jury in Alabama, and sentenced to death. Aretha writes clearly, with objectivity and compassion, allowing for the many flaws of the poorly educated

young men themselves and highlighting the background infighting of those purporting to be on their side. The book is organized around the case's progression through the various appeals courts. In the process, the author helps readers understand the plight of the defendants, who languished in jail under barbaric conditions. Historical photographs are included throughout, and a time line helps clarify some of the more confusing events. A must for libraries seeking to enhance their African-American history collections.—Carol Jones Collins, Columbia High School, Maplewood, NJ



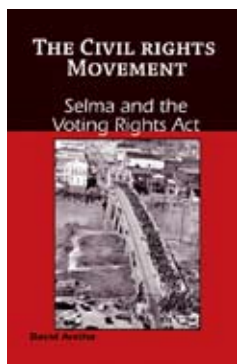
### Booklist

November 1, 2007

**The Trial of the Scottsboro Boys.** Aretha, David. 128 p. Morgan Reynolds, hardcover, \$27.95. (1599350580). 345.761.

The account of how nine black youths were arrested in Alabama in 1931, falsely accused of raping two white women on a train, and sentenced to death is a horrific story of racism, poverty, and of public, sanctioned cruelty. Part of the Civil Rights series, this volume clearly describes a time when street mobs in the Jim Crow South spoke openly of lynching, while the innocent youths, denied adequate legal defense and due process, were convicted by all-white juries and suffered in prison for years. Aretha details the furor of national and international protest against the trial, and the roles of the NAACP and the Communist ILD, which stood up in the defense of the youths. News photos throughout show the accused, the accusers, and the defenders, including lawyer Samuel Leibovitz. The back matter is excellent; there are full chapter source notes and a bibliography of books, articles, and Web sites. The youth of the accused in this tragic

story will bring teen readers to the big issues. — Hazel Rochman



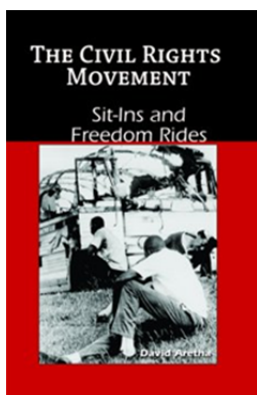
### Booklist

December 15, 2007

**Selma and the Voting Rights Act.** Aretha, David (Author) Dec 2007. 128 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (1599350564). 324.6.

In *The Trial of the Scottsboro Boys* (2007), Aretha covered racism and official cruelty in the 1930s Jim Crow South. In this title, also in the Civil Rights series, he moves to mid-1960s Alabama and the black struggle to exercise the constitutional right to vote. Even those who know the story of the famous protest marches will be interested in the details here, which include a look at infighting within the protest movement, discussion of the role of leaders on all sides, descriptions of flagrant prejudice and physical abuse, and an account of the final triumphant march. There are quotes from and photos of the famous as well as the unknown, as well as excerpts from speeches and news photos of jeering whites and state troopers with guns, clubs, and gas. More than 20 pages of back matter, featuring a time line, detailed chapter notes, and a bibliography, will help readers find out

more. — Hazel Rochman



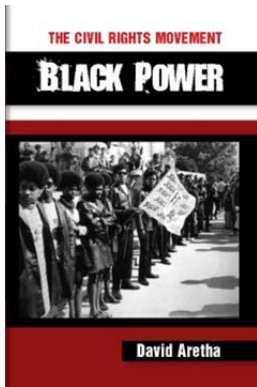
School Library Journal - September, 2009

ARETHA, David. *Sit-Ins and Freedom Rides*. 128p. (The Civil Rights Movement Series). photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2009. PLB \$28.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-098-1. LC 2008039660.

Gr 5 Up—Aretha opens with an introduction to the four college students who orchestrated the famous sit-in at Woolworth's in Greensboro, NC, in 1960. He follows that with chapters that describe slavery, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow in terms of how they set the stage for the resistance efforts. The focus on the lesser-known sit-ins and the earlier "Journey of Reconciliation" bus rides, and the emphasis on integral but less-famous members of the Civil Rights Movement offers insight into the workings of the protests at the grassroots level. Individual anecdotes interspersed throughout the detailed narrative provide personal and effective accounts that go beyond mere facts.

Black-and-white and some color photographs appear on almost every spread. The

poignant conclusion profiles the later lives of the Greensboro college students who began it all.—Margaret Auguste, Franklin Middle School, Somerset, NJ

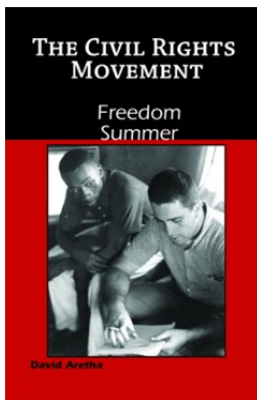


School Library Journal - October, 2011

ARETHA, David. *Black Power*. 128p. (The Civil Rights Movement Series). photos. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2011. PLB \$28.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-164-3. LC 2010046103.

Gr 9 Up—Aretha's history of the Black Power movement begins where many Civil Rights accounts leave off, with the formation of organizations that rejected nonviolence as too slow and ineffectual a means of achieving racial equality. Black Power is often associated with militancy, and both sides of that image are presented here. Aretha examines the foundations of the movement and the backlash against it, the Black Pride and Black Arts movements, and the state of Black Power in the age of Obama. Illustrations are mainly photographs, both historical and contemporary; the one exception is a page from a coloring book put out by the FBI to discredit the Black Panthers. The caption is slightly

unclear, but the text resolves the matter. This is a solid introduction to a subject that teens may have read about in fiction like Kekla Magoon's *The Rock and the River* (S & S, 2009).—*Rebecca Donnelly, Loma Colorado Public Library, Rio Rancho, NM*



Booklist

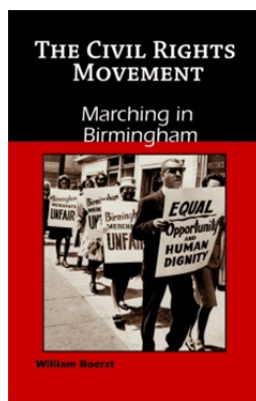
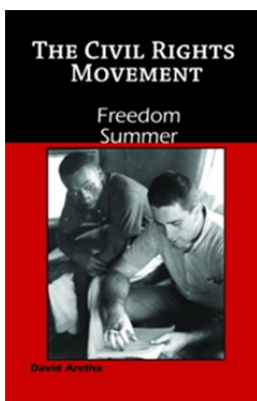
Issue: February 1, 2008

Freedom Summer. Aretha, David (Author) Dec 2007.

128 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (1599350599). 323.1196.

The author's latest title in the Civil Rights Movement series (earlier ones focused on Emmett Till, the Scottsboro Boys, and Selma) spotlights SNCC's 1964 Summer Project. Better known as "Freedom Summer," the project famously brought white students to Mississippi to register blacks to vote and to help organize Freedom Schools. The brevity of the book and the complexity of the issues involved result in sometimes confusing coverage, and some readers may think the author overstates the impact of the project. That said, Aretha does bring immediacy and passion to idealism by quoting extensively from his interviews with both white and black volunteers. He also expands his coverage to include the establishment of the

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and, to his credit, candidly acknowledges the sometimes difficult interactions between privileged white volunteers and impoverished blacks. Back matter includes a time line, an index (of names only), a bibliography, and extensive source notes. —*Michael Cart*



School Library Journal - March, 2008

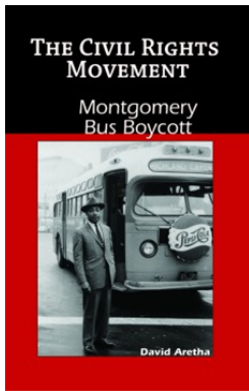
ARETHA, David. *Freedom Summer*. 128p. ISBN 978-1-59935-059-2. LC 2007023815.

BOERST, William. *Marching in Birmingham*. 112p. ISBN 978-1-59935-055-4. LC 2007026640.

ea vol: (Civil Rights Series). photos. reprod. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2008. PLB \$27.95.

Gr 7 Up—Beginning with descriptions of African Americans' segregated and oppressive living conditions prior to the Civil Rights era, these books chronicle significant events in the struggle for equality. Freedom Summer discusses the collaborative strategies black and white Americans (especially privileged white college students) devised to dismantle the restrictive, often violent

measures used in the South to prevent most African Americans from voting. Birmingham focuses on Alabama and the organized efforts by both black and white Americans to end local-government-sanctioned segregation and inequality. These titles are visually appealing with generous white space around the texts. Throughout, mostly black-and-white historical photos—some famous, others not—enhance the narratives. Also adding impact are numerous dramatic accounts by participants in the struggle. For the most part the books are easy to read; however, occasionally flashbacks to events leading up to a particular situation can be somewhat jarring. The authors do a good job of detailing some of the behind-the-scenes challenges, frustrations, and tensions within and between the various organizations and individuals involved in the campaign for civil rights. The difficulties, struggles, divisions, and uncertainties of the country in confronting and dealing with the reality of its own history and image are well highlighted, especially in Freedom Summer. Good general resources.—*Mary N. Oluonye, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH*



## Booklist

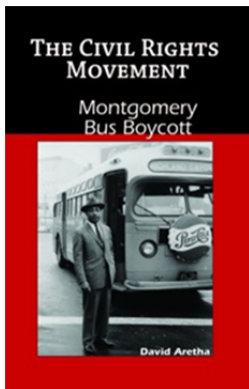
Issue: February 1, 2009

Montgomery Bus Boycott. Aretha, David (Author)

Nov 2008. 128 p. Morgan Reynolds, hardcover, \$28.95. (9781599350202). 323.1196.

From the Civil Rights Movement series, this book opens with Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on the Montgomery, Alabama, bus in 1955. It backtracks to provide more information about Mrs. Parks, segregation in the South, and civil-rights issues related to Montgomery and its bus system. Parts of the first chapters are confusing, with some information repeated in different sections and some facts stated in the text but contradicted in a reproduced court document (the seating diagram of the bus), which shows where Rosa Parks sat. Later chapters, however, offer more clearly written accounts of events surrounding the Montgomery bus boycott and, in the last chapter,

brief reports of actions it inspired. Throughout the book, black-and-white photos and reproductions of documents provide helpful glimpses of people, settings, and events. The discussion concludes with a time line, source notes for the many quotes, a bibliography, and recommended Web sites. -Carolyn Phelan

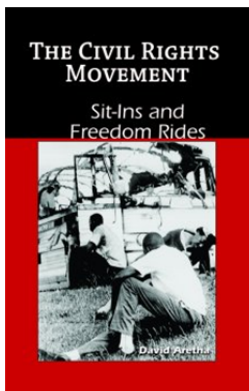


School Library Journal - February, 2009

ARETHA, David. *Montgomery Bus Boycott*. 128p. (The Civil Rights Movement Series). photos. reprod. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2008. PLB \$28.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-020-2. LC 2008018679.

Gr 7 Up—The wrenching consequences of Rosa Parks's decision that sparked the Civil Rights Movement are depicted in this well-written book. Descriptions of civil rights activism dating back to 1865, including multiple attempts to desegregate streetcars, trains, and buses, provide historical context and a sense of the fervor surrounding discrimination and segregation. The facts of the boycott are documented with supportive news articles, relevant quotations, moving individual stories, and significant court cases. Extra details distinguish this book from similar titles. For example, Aretha tells the little-known story of a courageous white librarian who wrote letters praising the

boycott only to commit suicide after she was harassed and ostracized by her community. Photographs—mostly black-and-white but some color—depict significant figures and document incidents such as meetings and carpooling to avoid buses. The final chapters characterize the boycott in terms of its positive influence on other Americans and people around the world.—Margaret Auguste, Franklin Middle School, Somerset, NJ



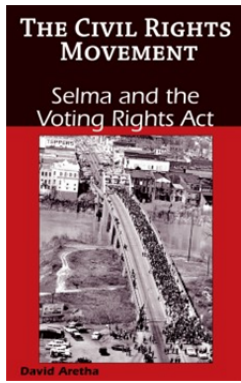
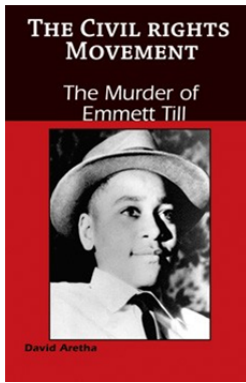
## Booklist

Sit-ins and Freedom Rides. Aretha, David (Author). Oct 2009. 128 p. Morgan

Reynolds, library edition, \$28.95. (9781599350981). 323.1196.

Though general histories of the civil rights movement cover the southern sit-ins and freedom rides of 1960–61, this case study adds (sometimes harrowing) detail while highlighting the courage of the more than 70,000 nonviolent activists who participated in them. After sketching in the historical background of organized protest, from the formation of the NAACP to the “Don’t Buy Where You Can’t Work” campaigns of the 1930s, Aretha first notes early examples of sit-ins (members of CORE staged one in Chicago as early as 1943), then describes the watershed one at the Greensboro, North Carolina, lunch counter and the wave of similar efforts it inspired. He goes on to take up the freedom rides, which were designed to desegregate interstate buses, and the escalating violence that met both the original riders and

many of those who worked on voter registration drives in 1964’s “Freedom Summer.” Period photos put faces to most of the major figures in this multi-stranded tale, and a useful chronology and a generous array of additional resources flank extensive endnotes. -John Peters



School Library Journal - January, 2008

ARETHA, David. *The Murder of Emmett Till*.

160p. ISBN 978-1-59935-057-8. LC 2007026250.

*Selma and the Voting Rights Act*.

128p. ISBN 978-1-59935-056-1. LC 2007024655.

ea vol: (The Civil Rights Movement Series). photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2007. PLB \$27.95.

Gr 7 Up—The African-American experience, from 1619 to the present, is fraught with turbulence and terror, joy and heartache. Still, it is difficult for those born after the Civil Rights Movement to understand fully what that period was all about. These two books

can help to inform that understanding. The first one looks at the event that is thought by many to have ignited the Civil Rights Movement itself. The murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in 1955 by two or more racist white men was a horrendous act that shocked America. The second title presents a comprehensive look at the events in Selma, AL, that led to the passage of the groundbreaking Voting Rights Act of 1965. Both books give readers an insider look at the internal conflicts, contradictions, and controversies that surrounded each event. Both books are well organized and clearly written, and have extensive bibliographies, time lines, and black-and-white photos that help place each event within a cultural context. While there are several titles available about the Till murder, fewer books deal solely with the pivotal civil rights campaign in Selma. First purchases for most collections.—*Carol Jones Collins, Columbia High School, Maplewood, NJ*