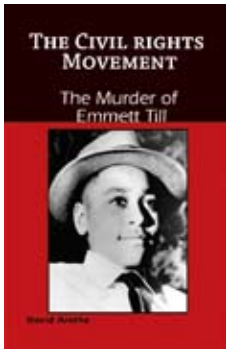


The CIVIL RIGHTS Movement



Booklist

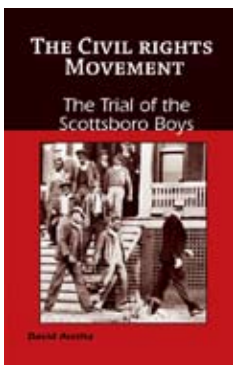
December 1, 2007

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.

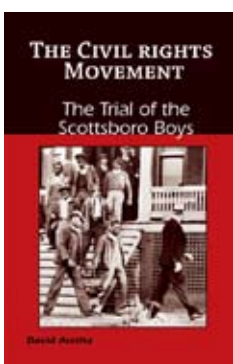
3Q • 2P • S

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.



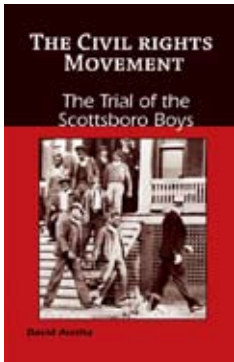
School Library Journal

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



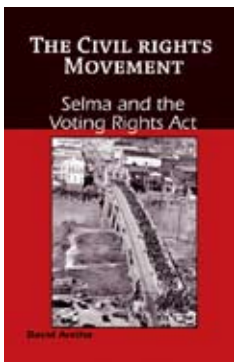
Booklist

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