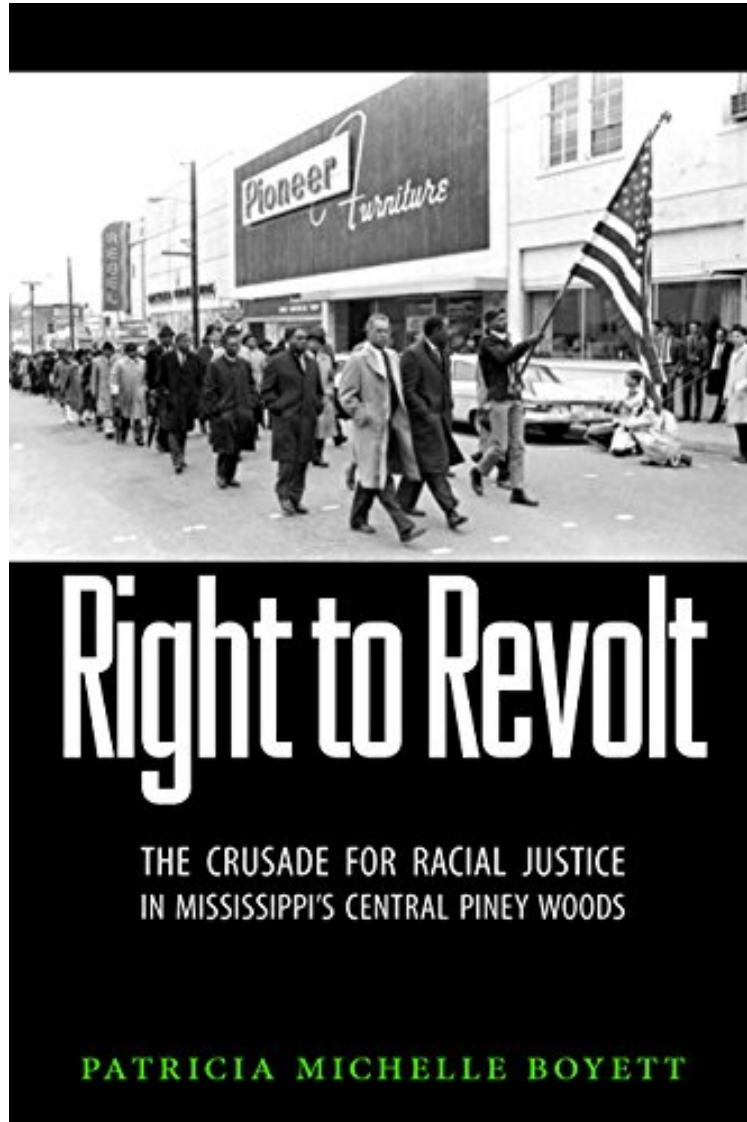


Right to Revolt: The Crusade for Racial Justice in Mississippi's Central Piney Woods

Patricia Michelle Boyett

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Patricia Michelle Boyett : Right to Revolt: The Crusade for Racial Justice in Mississippi's Central Piney Woods before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Right to Revolt: The Crusade for Racial Justice in Mississippi's Central Piney Woods:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent book. You can tell that Ms Boyett has ...By smackaufWOW! This is an excellent book. You can tell that Ms Boyett has really done her research. She has dug deep

and unearthed a lot of important information. While her book focuses on the Central Piney Woods area of Mississippi near Laurel and Hattiesburg, she clearly shows the significance of the events on the larger stage of the American Civil Rights movement. This is a must read for everyone wanting a deeper understanding of the history and condition of race relations in this country. I come away from reading this book with a feeling that there is so much more to learn and so much more that Ms Boyett has to share on this subject. She describes the historical roots that led to the vital struggle of the average people who became heroes of the movement of the 60s. Ms Boyett also makes definitive connections regarding the movement and past, present, and future issues of critical importance. I will mention just three that stood out to me: slavery as an American version of Nazi deportations and enslavement of innocent people, white supremacist terrorism of African Americans, and judicial and police brutality and injustice against an entire class of people who couldn't defend themselves. Ms Boyett has provided us with a detailed and convicting work that leaves us with a challenge to "carry the torch onward across the long road of redemption." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Harding A. Travis Interesting reading enjoying the book.

On January 10, 1966, Klansmen murdered civil rights leader Vernon Dahmer in Forrest County, Mississippi. Despite the FBI's growing conflict against the Klan, recent civil rights legislation, and progressive court rulings, the Imperial Wizard promised his men: "no jury in Mississippi would convict a white man for killing a nigger." Yet this murder inspired change. Since the onset of the civil rights movement, local authorities had mitigated federal intervention by using subtle but insidious methods to suppress activism in public arenas. They perpetuated a myth of Forrest County as a bastion of moderation in a state notorious for extremism. To sustain that fiction, officials emphasized that Dahmer's killers hailed from neighboring Jones County and pursued convictions vigorously. Although the Dahmer case became a watershed in the long struggle for racial justice, it also obscured Forrest County's brutal racial history. Patricia Michelle Boyett debunks the myth of moderation by exploring the mob lynchings, police brutality, malicious prosecutions, and Klan terrorism that linked Forrest and Jones Counties since their founding. She traces how racial atrocities during World War II and the Cold War inspired local blacks to transform their counties into revolutionary battlefields of the movement. Their electrifying campaigns captured global attention, forced federal intervention, produced landmark trials, and chartered a significant post-civil rights crusade. By examining the interactions of black and white locals, state and federal actors, and visiting activists from settlement to contemporary times, Boyett presents a comprehensive portrait of one of the South's most tortured and transformative landscapes.

"This is a compelling story, with excellent historical documentation that will be of use to scholars for years to come."?Minion K. C. Morrison, *American Historical*, June 2016 "Right to Revolt is an important book for anyone interested in the civil rights movement, Mississippi history, or racial justice. Through her profile of the freedom struggle in Hattiesburg and Laurel, Boyett demonstrates the deep roots of the 1960s mass movement and just how much was at stake. Black activists demanded full citizenship, thrived in freedom schools, and refused to back down, even in the face of unrelenting white resistance that ranged from the misuse of the legal system to economic terrorism and murder. Boyett details the horrific violence perpetrated by the Sam Bowers-led Klan, the eventual response by the FBI, and the subsequent court battles that illustrated the movement's achievements and limitations. Perhaps most importantly, Right to Revolt carries the story into the new century, highlighting the persistence of both African American activism and the white supremacy that remains the backdrop for life in Mississippi's Piney Woods."?Emilye Crosby, professor of history at the State University of New York at Geneseo and editor of *Civil Rights History from the Ground Up: Local Struggles, a National Movement* "Patricia Boyett has distilled a staggering amount of research into a remarkable examination of one of the least studied regions of the most chronicled civil rights battlegrounds in America?Mississippi. This book is essential reading for anyone who wonders what is left to learn about the Magnolia State's unfinished freedom struggle."?Jason Morgan Ward, associate professor of history at Mississippi State University "Boyett's evocative and richly detailed history of white supremacy and the struggle for black freedom in the Piney Woods region of Mississippi teaches us, as William Faulkner put it, 'The past is never dead. It's not even past.' From the first days of settlement to recent efforts to win convictions for civil rights era racial murders and wrongful convictions, Right to Revolt demonstrates both the deep roots and long reach of racism and inequality as well as the bold, consistent efforts by African Americans toward equal justice and human dignity. This is local history at its best?a deep plunge into a region that teaches us about the larger forces in America as a whole."?Danielle L. McGuire, author of *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance?a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power* About the Author Patricia Michelle Boyett, New Orleans, Louisiana, is the director of the Women's Resource Center at Loyola University, New Orleans, where she also teaches courses on race and gender and on comparative studies of oppression and resistance.