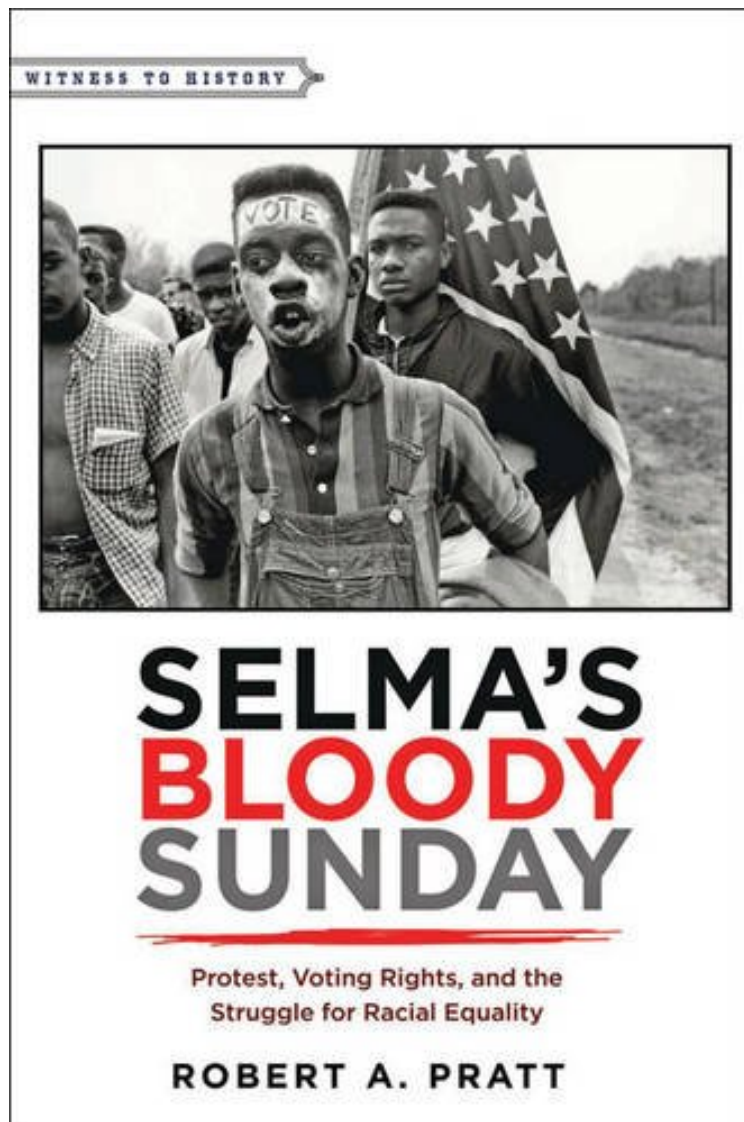


(Library ebook) Selma's Bloody Sunday: Protest, Voting Rights, and the Struggle for Racial Equality  
(Witness to History)

## Selma's Bloody Sunday: Protest, Voting Rights, and the Struggle for Racial Equality (Witness to History)

Robert A. Pratt

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**Robert A. Pratt : Selma's Bloody Sunday: Protest, Voting Rights, and the Struggle for Racial Equality (Witness to History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Selma's Bloody Sunday: Protest, Voting Rights, and the Struggle for Racial Equality (Witness to History):

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By MsChrisI have to say this is an absolutely incredible book. I grew up in a (basically) all white community and I had never learned about Selma's Bloody Sunday. I went into this book knowing nothing about this historic event and this book brought it to life. It explained the background leading up to the event, it illustrated exactly what happened and explored the ramifications of that day. A great read that I would highly recommend to everyone!

On Sunday afternoon, March 7, 1965, roughly six hundred peaceful demonstrators set out from Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in a double-file column to march from Selma, Alabama, to the state capital of Montgomery. Leading the march were Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Upon reaching Broad Street, the marchers turned left to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge that spanned the Alabama River. "When we reached the crest of the bridge," recalls John Lewis, "I stopped dead still. So did Hosea. There, facing us at the bottom of the other side, stood a sea of blue-helmeted, blue-uniformed Alabama state troopers, line after line of them, dozens of battle-ready lawmen stretched from one side of U.S. Highway 80 to the other. Behind them were several dozen more armed men—Sheriff Clark's posse—some on horseback, all wearing khaki clothing, many carrying clubs the size of baseball bats." The violence and horror that was about to unfold at the foot of the bridge would forever mark the day as "Bloody Sunday," one of the pivotal moments of the civil rights movement. Alabama state troopers fell on the unarmed protestors as they crossed the bridge, beating and tear gassing them. In *Selma's Bloody Sunday*, Robert A. Pratt offers a vivid account of that infamous day and the indelible triumph of black and white protest over white resistance. He explores how the march itself—and the 1965 Voting Rights Act that followed—represented a reaffirmation of the nation's centuries-old declaration of universal equality and the fulfillment of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution. *Selma's Bloody Sunday* offers a fresh interpretation of the ongoing struggle by African Americans to participate freely in America's electoral democracy. Jumping forward to the present day, Pratt uses the march as a lens through which to examine disturbing recent debates concerning who should, and who should not, be allowed to vote. Drawing on archival materials, secondary sources, and eyewitness accounts of the brave men and women who marched, this gripping account offers a brief and nuanced narrative of this critical phase of the black freedom struggle.

"By centering on Selma and the events surrounding the violent confrontation on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Robert A. Pratt offers a fresh look at this historical crossroads which marked the culmination of the Civil Rights Movement. Brisk and clearly written, this timely and engaging narrative captures the unfolding drama, key moments, major personalities, internal tensions, and triumphs and tragedies of Bloody Sunday." (Patricia Sullivan, author of *Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement*) "Pratt tells a story packed with drama, personal courage, political valor, and frustration." (Gregory Mixon, author of *The Atlanta Riot: Race, Class, and Violence in a New South City*)  
About the Author Robert A. Pratt is a professor of history at the University of Georgia. He is the author of *The Color of Their Skin: Education and Race in Richmond, Virginia, 1954–89* and *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Desegregation of the University of Georgia*.