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Book Review

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# Leon Litwack is able to take us back with graphic detail and accuracy to early twentieth century during the age of the Jim Crow laws with his book, *Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow.* Litwack is able to stimulate our imagination to what it was like for Blacks during one of the hardest times in American history. Litwack wants us not to forget all the misdeeds dealt to Blacks during the Jim Crow era, for instance, the author wants us to remember all the laws and norms made to exclude Blacks from particpating in mainstream society.

# He wants us never to forget that we have a society built on some of the fundamentals during this era. Also, he wants us to know how far we have come from normalizing of the spectacles of systemized lynching’s and burnings through laws set during the Jim Crow to relative freedom and that we have very far we still have to go. He wants us to know that it was far from just a Jim Crow law problem that our problems were and are root deep with the replacing of slavery with indecter servitude by keeping Blacks in debit, the lack of school for Blacks and the subservient relationship between white and of Blacks to mainstream society. Moreover, he also wants us to recollect on our past misdeeds in our very short history. The author writes in a way that allows us to see in detail all of the misdeeds *Blacks had (still suffer in many cases all across the USA).*

# This book has been hard to read from the get-go; I have a love hate relationship with it. I think everyone should read this book, this is especially for those that have no clue about America’s past; I have heard more than once that someone did not even know that there was slavery in the USA or that the slaves were happy and that Blacks in the USA during this era really did not have it all that bad. I think one of the most important parts of this book is not just the detail and all the historical fact that we get, it also allow one to connect the dots when discussing the foundation in which a lot of our current societal principles are set that keep us “playing” catch up when we start in the negative. This system in a lot of ways is still in place and it goes unnoticed by many that just do not know or who have given up and accepted things because “ that’s just how things are.” This book makes me want to be more and not just for myself, for my clients and for the brother and sisters I see everyday jaded by a corrupted system built on racism.

# Maybe I am the only one that has read this book but in a lot of way it reminds me a lot of *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa.* It is under different circumstances (not as different as we would all like to think) a very worthwhile read like Leon Litwack we are transported to another place/time and we feel the suffering of the people in our gut. A lot of our suffering like the people of the Congo goes unnoticed by mainstream media, we need to make ourselves heard and understood because soon I feel we are only going to have ourselves to blame for the same misfortunes of our childrens childrens.