

(Ebook pdf) Crusaders In The Courts: How A Dedicated Band Of Lawyers Fought For The Civil Rights Revolution

# Crusaders In The Courts: How A Dedicated Band Of Lawyers Fought For The Civil Rights Revolution

*Jack Greenberg*

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#662805 in Books 1994-04-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 6.50 x 2.00l, #File Name: 0465015182656 pages | File size: 53.Mb

**Jack Greenberg : Crusaders In The Courts: How A Dedicated Band Of Lawyers Fought For The Civil Rights Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crusaders In The Courts: How A Dedicated Band Of Lawyers Fought For The Civil Rights Revolution:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must reading for history of the law on civil rightsBy Boyd BosmaJack Greenberg headed the NAACP Legal Defense Fund for 35 years and was a leading participant in many of the most important Supreme Court decisions in our history. Well-written and moving. What a career!7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Beynd Brown vs. Board of EducationBy Alan MillsWith 20-20 hindsight, when most people think of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, they remember Brown vs. Board of Education as the case which changed racial relations in America over night.Jack Greenberg's insider's account of the Inc. Fund provides an excellent antidote to this time-warped perspective. Brown vs. Board did not come out of no where, it did not revolutionize race relations over night, and it is not all that the Fund did.Historically, Greenberg provides an overview of the decades long legal strategy, begun prior to the War, which lead up to the Brown decision, and the decade of extraordinarily frustrating litigation that followed. While Brown is an important turning point, it was preceded by a long series of carefully orchestrated piecemeal attacks on segregation, each victory carefully built upon until the time

was ripe for the Supreme Court to render a favorable decision in a frontal attack on the entire system of legally mandated segregation in *Brown*. But the Inc. Fund did so much more. It led the way in employment discrimination, death penalty reform/abolition, prisoners rights, and many, many other fields. During the approximately 30 years covered by Greenberg in depth, no one, including the United States Department of Justice, had a broader array of civil rights cases, and no one other than the United States Government appeared more often before the Supreme Court. An interesting by play throughout the book is the role of racial tension within the "movement". As a white civil rights lawyer, Greenberg was an easy target for all who believed that the struggle against segregation should be led by blacks. At the same time, there was much soul searching within the NAACP as to how they could discriminate against Greenberg solely because he was white, given that the NAACP's reason d'etre was to battle racial discrimination. One final note, while paying appropriate homage to Thurgood Marshall, Greenberg dispels the myth that the Inc. Fund was a one man shop. Its work continued for many years after Marshall left to join the government (one of Lyndon Johnson's finest hours), and continues today. It is a shame that such a worthwhile book is no longer in print, and never made it out as a paperback. Everyone interested in the judicial system, the post war history of America, or the civil rights movement should read this book. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A good I was there account

By A Customer I didn't want the only review of this book to be the one above. You get the feeling that that reviewer would prefer that African Americans were still taught in tar paper shacks. Remember that segregationists didn't object to busing before '54 when it kept the races separate. The book provided an interesting perspective on the legal battles for civil rights and provided an especially vivid picture of Thurgood Marshall in his younger, heroic days and belied the man I remembered from news reports at the time of the Souter nomination as an old crank. I had two criticisms of the book. The book, like Marshall himself, overstated the legal battle for civil rights and downplayed the efforts of leaders like Martin Luther King. The crusade was fought outside the courts as well. Second, Greenberg provides too much detail on certain points. The book was at least 100 pages too long and sometimes too chronologically jumpy.

A personal memoir and in-depth history of the civil rights movement traces the development of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund and the author's experiences with Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, Marian Wright Edelman, and others.

From Publishers Weekly While this rich memoir/history covers some of the same ground as Mark Tushnet's recent *Making Civil Rights Law*, it adds the perspective and anecdotes of Greenberg, who from 1961 to 1984 headed the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and is now professor of law at Columbia University. Valuable are personal glimpses of his boss, Thurgood Marshall, and colleagues like Constance Baker Motley, and his reflections on how his own "moderate iconoclasm" led this Jewish youth from the Bronx to support black causes. Greenberg provides solid background on the strategies behind landmark civil rights cases, the growth of the LDF and its break with its parent NAACP. The black press largely supported Greenberg's appointment to succeed Marshall as counsel to the LDF, with the *Pittsburgh Courier* stating, "hardly anyone remembers that he is white." He later split with some of his staff on defending '60s radicals like Angela Davis and was picketed by black students at Harvard Law School. The somewhat disjointed narrative conveys how Greenberg and the LDF have contributed immeasurably to bettering American life by fostering integration, attacking the death penalty, helping birth rights organizations for Mexican-Americans and other groups and promoting human rights abroad. Greenberg judiciously weighs the victories and defeats in the civil rights struggle. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Greenberg (Race Relations in American History, not reviewed), former head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, recounts the revolutionary and riveting saga of the fight for civil rights in the 1950s and '60s. The author discusses how he, a Jew from the Bronx, dedicated most of his professional life to the advancement of civil rights for blacks. In an expressive and often humorous style, Greenberg recalls the days of segregation, when black and white civil rights attorneys often feared for their lives. The book's strongest points include a full, human portrait of the late Thurgood Marshall, who headed the LDF prior to becoming a federal judge and then a Supreme Court justice. Greenberg brings many of the characters involved in the civil rights struggle to life with personal anecdotes while explaining the issues of constitutional law in a way that laypeople can understand. He provides perspective on the role of Jews in the civil rights movement, saying that it has often been overstated. His account of the drama leading up to the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision is particularly compelling. He also does not hesitate to criticize President Eisenhower for, in his view, failing to provide strong leadership in integration. Greenberg fully grasps the irony of a protest aimed at him when he was asked to teach a civil rights course at Harvard: The Black Law Students Association there objected to the notion of a white man--also a Jew--teaching such a class. Greenberg, who went on to teach law at Columbia, is neither self-righteous nor sanctimonious as he delineates how legal changes engendered by the NAACP LDF affected daily life in America. Yet, despite past victories, he is only too aware of the continuing, desperate plight of the African-American underclass. -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

From the Publisher A powerful

personal memoir and the definitive history of an organization that helped change American society.