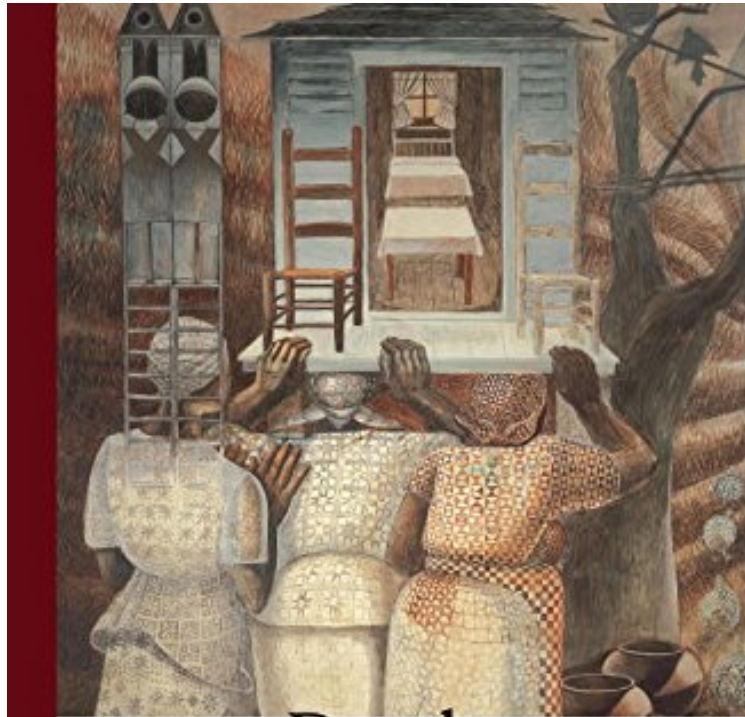


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# Development Arrested: The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta

Clyde Woods

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## Development Arrested

*The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta*

CLYDE WOODS

INTRODUCTION BY RUTH WILSON GILMORE

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Clyde Woods : **Development Arrested: The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Development Arrested: The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta:

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structural inequity ...By LinettaThis book provides an excellent analysis on the basis for long term structural inequity in the Deep South,past and present .

A new edition of a classic history of the Mississippi River DeltaDevelopment Arrested is a major reinterpretation of the 200-year-old conflict between African American workers and the planters of the Mississippi Delta. The book measures the impact of the plantation system on those who suffered its depredations firsthand, while tracing the decline and resurrection of plantation ideology in national public policy debate. Despite countless defeats under the planter regime, African Americans in the Delta continued to push forward their agenda for social and economic justice. Throughout this remarkably interdisciplinary book, ranging across fields as diverse as rural studies, musicology, development studies, and anthropology, Woods demonstrates the role of music—including jazz, rock and roll, soul, rap and, above all, the blues—in sustaining a radical vision of social change.

From Library JournalPart of Verso's "Haymarket" series, examining aspects of American history, politics, and culture from various perspectives on the political Left, this book covers the history of the conflict between the planter elite and African Americans in the Mississippi Delta. Woods (African and African American studies, Pennsylvania State Univ.) also discusses the part that blues and spiritual music have played in developing the "vision, spirit, philosophy and will" of African Americans in this struggle. While academics will find some of what Woods has to say about the Delta insightful, the value of this work is reduced by misleading statements (usually minor), the author's reliance on assertions when analysis is needed, and a writing style that resorts far too frequently to long lists and the overuse of "et cetera." An optional purchase for the history collections of academic libraries. ?Thomas H. Ferrell, Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana, LafayetteCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A stunning and fresh analysis of the political economy of white supremacy and the redemptive power of the blues. All Americans, especially students, scholars, general readers and policy makers, who care about the extension of democracy and the future of black freedom, should read and discuss Clyde Wood's intriguing book."—Darlene Clark Hine, coauthor of The African-American Odyssey"Development Arrested has no peer, for Clyde Woods is a rare scholar who takes the blues seriously as theory and social critique. Arguing that this folk discourse emerged in response to economic and political restructuring in the Delta during the twentieth century, he goes on to show how it constitutes a critique of the plantation South, New South modernization, and the transformation of capitalist agriculture during the so-called Green Revolution. To paraphrase something Marx said a long time ago, Development Arrested reveals the connection between the arm of criticism (i.e. the blues/social science) and the criticism of arms: struggle for power in the Delta."—Robin D.G. Kelley, author of Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original"Woods should be applauded for pointing out the absurdity of a situation in which, for instance, whole families—made obsolete by machinery, genetic research, and high yield fertilizers—are allowed to starve within eyeshot of fields that government pay affluent farmers to leave fallow."—Oxford AmericanAbout the AuthorClyde Woods (1957–2011) was an Associate Professor of Black Studies and Acting Director of the Center for Black Studies Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His other books include Development Drowned and Reborn: The Blues and Bourbon Restorations in Post-Katrina New Orleans.