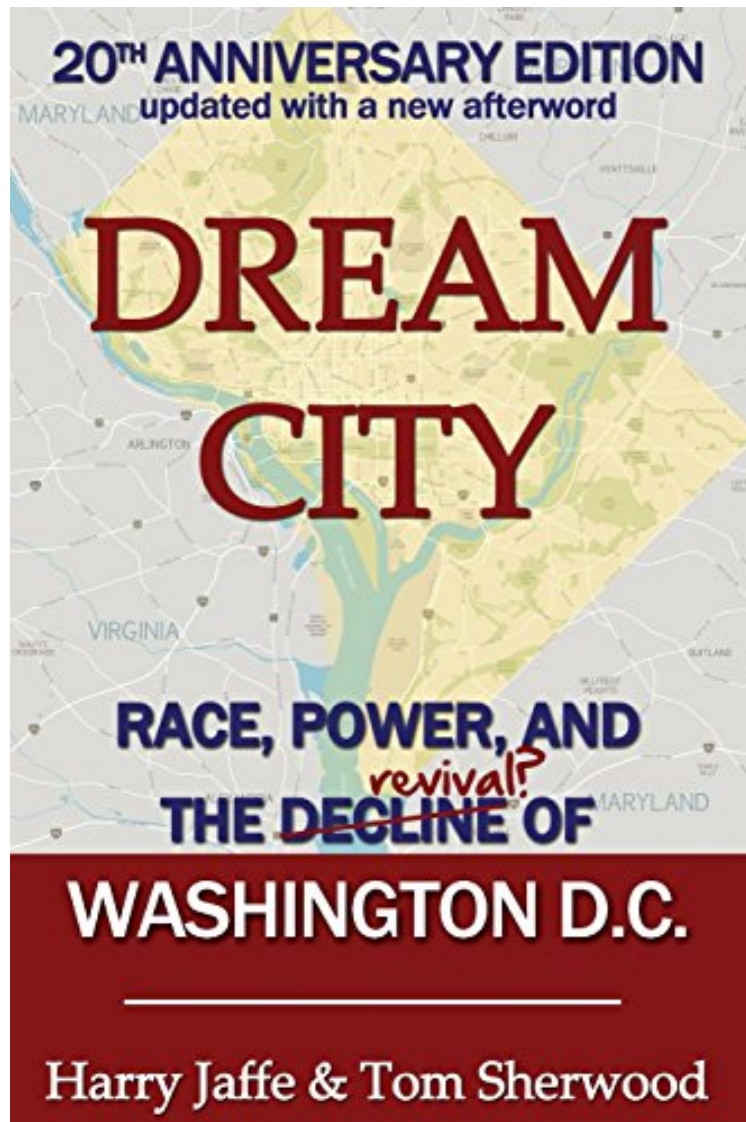


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Dream City: Race, Power, and the Decline of Washington, D.C.

Harry S. Jaffe, Tom Sherwood

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Harry S. Jaffe, Tom Sherwood : Dream City: Race, Power, and the Decline of Washington, D.C. before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dream City: Race, Power, and the Decline of Washington, D.C.:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. you have to read this to know DCBy ZetteZelleThis book has a copyright date of 1994, and as someone who moved to the District just after it was published, there were many moments of disconnect when the authors described a version of the city that I moved to that is nothing like the place where I live today. That said, if you love DC or are serious about wanting to understand its political backstory, you

have to read this book. When this was published, 14th St was littered with buildings destroyed during or after the 68 riots; they're all razed now, but those 45-year-old ghosts haunt the City Council and and ANCs, and probably will for decades more to come. This is an Important Book, but it's also a very engaging, readable book. You know how the story of young Marion Barry ends, but it's still fascinating to watch each step of his journey of reinvention and rise to power. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An easy-to-read, detailed look at D.C.'s dark past By Beth Silverstein This book is a great read for anyone who's ever lived or worked in the nation's capital -- whether for a summer internship or 15-year career. As a millennial living in the Virginia suburbs, I had no idea a city I loved so much had such a dark past. I also enjoyed how the authors used Marion Barry as a backbone, a guiding light through the tumultuous story. I learned a lot about a D.C. celebrity, as well how my favorite neighborhoods came to be. The in-depth reporting makes this the perfect history book. I hope the authors continue to update it with D.C.'s many transformations, because we all know this city is not done reviving itself. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great book, DREADFUL E-book version!!! By Peter Redding Excellent book. But the publisher must have stuck the print version through some sort of scanner with OCR to turn it into an e-book. Almost every page has typos, often humorous. There are random punctuations, spaces, h's come out as b's, e's are o's, etc. After a while you get use to it, but then you get angry because you suspect the publisher is making money off your purchase and they were too lazy and cheap to proof-read it. The new updated epilogue (written in 2014) is understandably free of mistakes. I complained to and they refunded some of the money, along with a non-committal assurance that they would send me a corrected version at some point in the future. Pretty lame. It definitely makes me think twice about buying older e-books.

With a new afterword covering the two decades since its first publication, two of Washington, D.C.'s most respected journalists expose one of America's most tragic ironies: how the nation's capital, often a gleaming symbol of peace and hope, is the setting for vicious contradictions and devastating conflicts over race, class, and power. Jaffe and Sherwood have chillingly chronicled the descent of the District of Columbia—congressional hearings, gangland murders, the establishment of home rule and the inside story of Marion Barry's enigmatic dynasty and disgrace. Now their afterword narrates the District's transformation in the last twenty years. New residents have helped bring developments, restaurants, and businesses to reviving neighborhoods. The authors cover the rise and fall of Mayors Adrian Fenty and Vince Gray, how new corruption charges are taking down politicians and businessmen, and how a fading Barry is still a player. The "city behind the monuments" remains flawed and polarized, but its revival is turning it into a distinct world capital—almost a dream city. Harry Jaffe has been a national editor at *The Washingtonian* magazine since 1990. He has received a number of awards for investigative journalism and feature writing from the Society of Professional Journalists. He has taught journalism at Georgetown University and American University. His work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Regardie's*, *Outside*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and other newspapers. Jaffe was born and raised in Philadelphia and began his journalism career with the *Rutland (Vermont) Herald*. He is the co-author of *Dream City: Race, Power and the Decline of Washington, D.C.* He lives in Clarke County, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., with his wife and daughters. Tom Sherwood is a reporter for NBC4 in Washington, specializing in politics and the District of Columbia government. Tom also is a commentator for WAMU 88.5 public radio and a columnist for the *Current Newspapers*. Tom has twice been honored as one of the Top 50 Journalists in Washington by *Washingtonian* magazine. He began his journalism career at *The Atlanta Constitution* and covered local and national politics for *The Washington Post* from 1979 to 1989. He is the co-author of *Dream City: Race, Power and the Decline of Washington, D.C.* A native of Atlanta, he currently resides in Washington, D.C. and has one son, Peyton.

From *Publishers Weekly* Elected mayor of Washington, D.C., in 1978, sharecropper's son Marion Barry Jr., a leading civil rights activist, began a descent into cocaine and alcohol addiction and demagoguery that mirrored the racially polarized city's decline. Jaffe, an editor of *Washingtonian* magazine, and WRC-TV political reporter Sherwood suggest that nearly two centuries of congressional domination of the capital, disenfranchisement and white racism have stunted local political traditions in Washington, creating a vacuum filled by power broker Barry. They blame the former mayor (sentenced in 1990 to six months in jail after a drug bust) for whipping up racial animosity, setting whites against blacks and scuttling a prime opportunity for advancing racial harmony. Their chronicle of the dream city turned urban nightmare sweeps from the riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., in 1968, and the real estate boom and crack epidemic of the 1980s to the beleaguered administration of Barry's successor, Sharon Pratt Kelly. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Journalists Jaffe and Sherwood, long-time Washington, D.C., residents, have covered that city's politics for many years. Their book is based on interviews with over 200 people (but not former mayor Marion Barry) and a variety of other sources, including congressional hearings and reports, police and court records, and journalistic accounts. While the book traces the history of the city from the Civil War to the present, its central reference point is the 1992 murder of Tom Barnes, a young intern for Alabama senator Richard Shelby, a few blocks from the Capitol and the racial turmoil that arose

when the senator questioned the ability of the largely African American government to run the city. Tracing former mayor Barry's career from his civil rights activism to his drug conviction, the authors provide a highly unflattering portrait of his weaknesses for sex, drugs, and political corruption. For them, Barry symbolizes both the tension between civil rights activists and Washington's African American middle class and the promise and subsequent failure of the social programs of the 1960s. Of interest to scholars of civil rights history, urban history, and political science; recommended for academic and larger public libraries. William Waugh Jr., Georgia State Univ., Atlanta Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Dream City has the strengths and weaknesses of its journalist-authors' approach to this enormously complex story. As a tale of the rise and fall (and restoration?) of Marion S. Barry Jr.--from civil rights organizer to capital-city mayor and national political figure to drug sting and jail and then back to Washington's City Council--Jaffe and Sherwood's reporting is solidly involving. An initial chapter on colonial control of the District by congressional committees until the first limited steps toward home rule in the late 1960s, a final chapter on the flaws of the mayoral administration that succeeded Barry's, and discussion throughout of the role of the city's white business leaders (particularly real-estate developers), of the impact of color and class distinctions within the city's African American community, and of the effects of drugs and drug-related crime provide essential context. Still, Dream City is journalism, not history: fascinating as Jaffe and Sherwood's lively narrative is, readers will need to wait for other authors to probe Washington, D.C.'s recent history with more precise instruments. Mary Carroll