

The Betrayal Of Equal Rights By The Supreme Court 1865-1903

From 1865 to 1903, the Supreme Court of the United States committed a series of betrayal against equal rights, shaping the nation's history. This period marked a time of profound social and political changes in the aftermath of the Civil War and during the era of Jim Crow laws. Despite the advances made by the Reconstruction Amendments - the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments - these decisions undermined the very principles of equality and justice that had been fought for.

The Reconstruction Period: Hope for Equal Rights

Following the end of the Civil War in 1865, the United States faced the task of rebuilding a nation torn apart by conflict. As part of this process, the Reconstruction Amendments were ratified, aiming to secure equal rights for African Americans. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, the Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship and equal protection under the law, and the Fifteenth Amendment prohibited the denial of voting rights based on race.

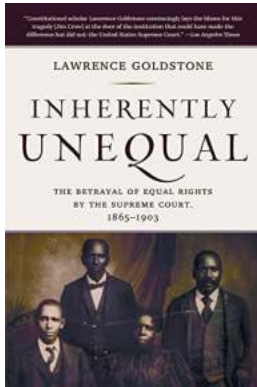
These amendments offered hope for a society where equal rights were respected and protected. However, the U.S. Supreme Court, through numerous decisions, gradually weakened the foundation of these amendments and betrayed the promise of equal rights.

Inherently Unequal: The Betrayal of Equal Rights by the Supreme Court, 1865-1903

by Lawrence Goldstone (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



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X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 243 pages
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Plessy v. Ferguson: "Separate but Equal"

In 1892, Homer Plessy, an African American, challenged Louisiana's segregation laws in a case that ultimately reached the Supreme Court. In the infamous decision of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), the Court upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation, introducing the "separate but equal" doctrine. This ruling perpetuated discriminatory practices and legitimized racial segregation for decades to come.

PLESSY V. FERGUSON

Supreme Court Case 1896



" SEPARATE BUT EQUAL "

Power point created by Robert L. Martinez
Primary Content: *The Americans*

The "separate but equal" doctrine provided a legal basis for maintaining racial segregation in all aspects of society, from schools to transportation and public facilities. Despite the clear violation of the equal protection clause enshrined in the Fourteenth Amendment, the Supreme Court justified racial discrimination, perpetuating inequality and denying basic civil rights.

Disempowering the Civil Rights Act of 1875

The Civil Rights Act of 1875 aimed to eradicate racial discrimination in public spaces, including hotels, theaters, and transportation. However, in 1883, the Supreme Court declared the Act unconstitutional in the case of the Civil Rights Cases.

The Court's decision held that the Fourteenth Amendment did not grant Congress the power to regulate private acts of discrimination. This ruling severely limited the scope of the Civil Rights Act and rendered it largely ineffective, contributing to the continuation of racial segregation and discrimination across the country.

Undermining Voting Rights

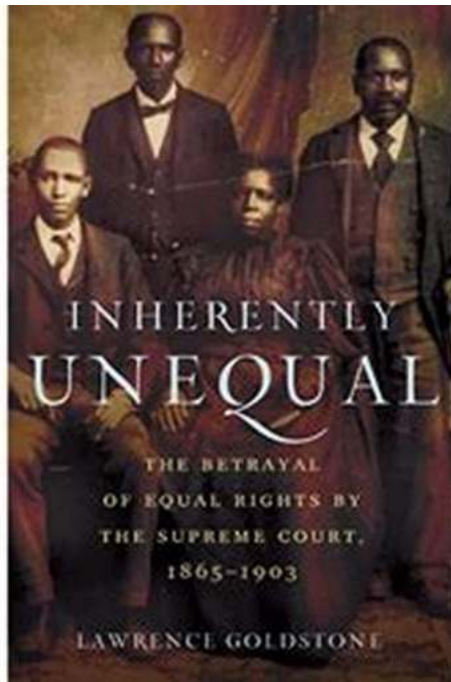
The Voting Rights Act of 1870, also known as the Fifteenth Amendment, extended voting rights to African American men. However, the Supreme Court's decisions during this period directly undermined these critical voting rights.

In *United States v. Cruikshank* (1876), the Court ruled that the protection of voting rights against private individuals came under the jurisdiction of the states, not the federal government. This decision led to numerous acts of voter suppression and intimidation, denying African Americans their right to vote.

Furthermore, in *Williams v. Mississippi* (1898), the Court upheld the use of discriminatory voting practices, such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses. These measures effectively disenfranchised African American voters, restricting their political power and perpetuating systemic inequalities.

The Repercussions and Lasting Impact

The betrayal of equal rights by the Supreme Court during the period from 1865 to 1903 had far-reaching repercussions. It weakened the progress made by the Reconstruction Amendments and allowed for the institutionalization of racial discrimination.

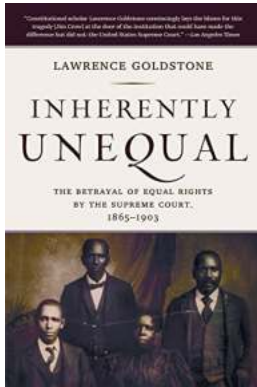


The decisions made during this time perpetuated inequality and denied African Americans their civil rights. It took many more years and continued fights for justice and equality to reverse these harmful precedents and restore the promise of equal rights.

The betrayal of equal rights by the Supreme Court from 1865 to 1903 remains a dark chapter in American history. Through decisions such as Plessy v. Ferguson and the disempowerment of the Civil Rights Act of 1875, the Court undermined the progress towards equality and justice.

It is crucial to acknowledge and learn from the mistakes of the past to ensure that such betrayals never happen again. The fight for equal rights continues today, and it is our responsibility to carry on the legacy of those who fought for justice during this turbulent period.

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...A potent and original examination of how the Supreme Court subverted justice and empowered the Jim Crow era.

In the years following the Civil War, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery; the 14th conferred citizenship and equal protection under the law to white and black; and the 15th gave black American males the right to vote. In 1875, the most comprehensive civil rights legislation in the nation's history granted all Americans "the full and equal enjoyment" of public accommodations. Just eight years later, the Supreme Court, by an 8-1 vote, overturned the Civil Rights Act as unconstitutional and, in the process, disemboweled the equal protection provisions of the 14th Amendment. Using court records and accounts of the period, Lawrence Goldstone chronicles how "by the dawn of the 20th century the U.S. had become the nation of Jim Crow laws, quasi-slavery, and precisely the same two-tiered system of justice that had existed in the slave era."

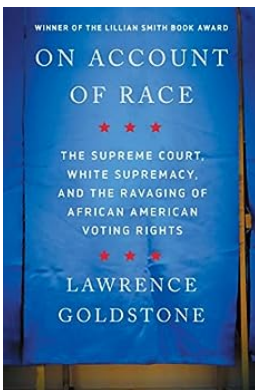
The very human story of how and why this happened make *Inherently Unequal* as important as it is provocative. Examining both celebrated decisions like *Plessy v. Ferguson* and those often overlooked, Goldstone demonstrates how the

Supreme Court turned a blind eye to the obvious reality of racism, defending instead the business establishment and status quo--thereby legalizing the brutal prejudice that came to define the Jim Crow era.



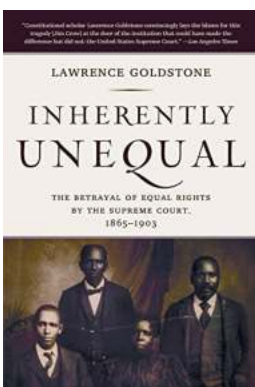
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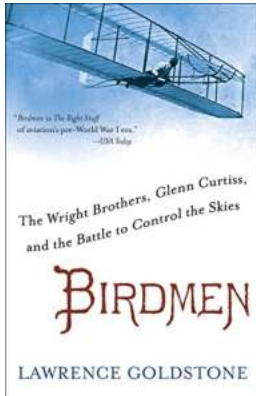
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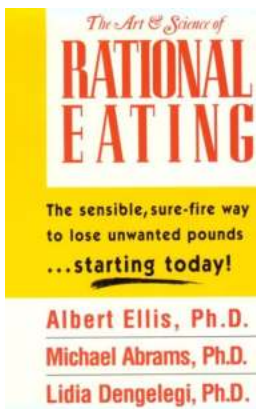
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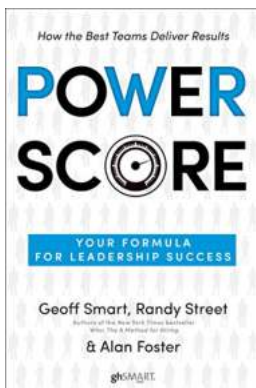
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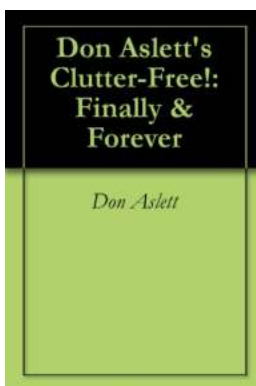
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