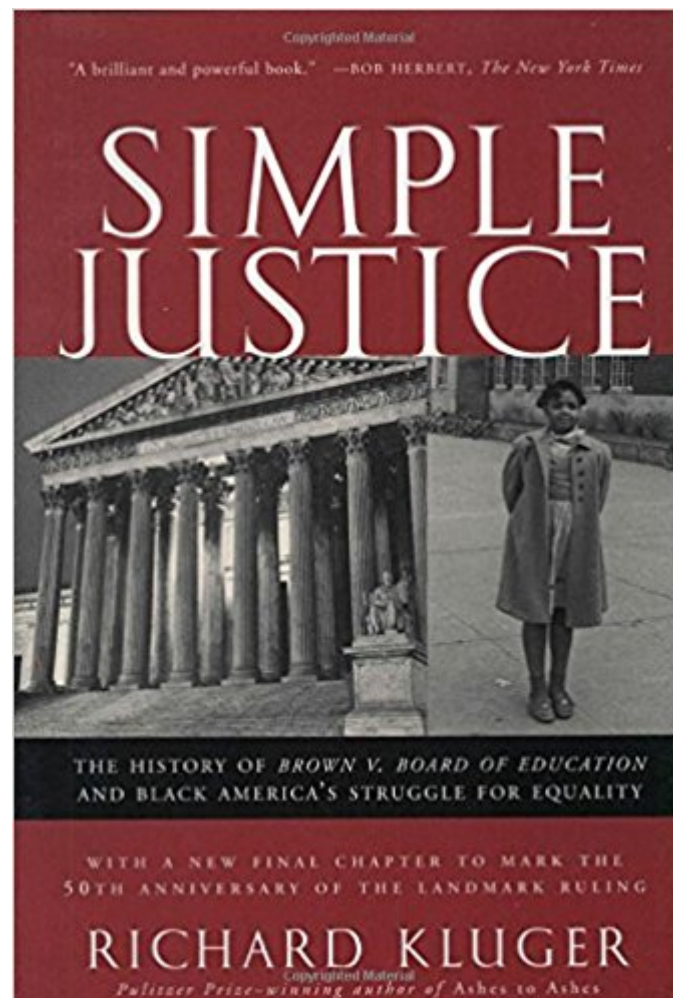




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# Simple Justice: The History Of Brown V. Board Of Education And Black America's Struggle For Equality



## Synopsis

Simple Justice is the definitive history of the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* and the epic struggle for racial equality in this country. Combining intensive research with original interviews with surviving participants, Richard Kluger provides the fullest possible view of the human and legal drama in the years before 1954, the cumulative assaults on the white power structure that defended segregation, and the step-by-step establishment of a team of inspired black lawyers that could successfully challenge the law. Now, on the fiftieth anniversary of the unanimous Supreme Court decision that ended legal segregation, Kluger has updated his work with a new final chapter covering events and issues that have arisen since the book was first published, including developments in civil rights and recent cases involving affirmative action, which rose directly out of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

## Book Information

Paperback: 880 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Vintage Books ed. edition (April 13, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400030617

ISBN-13: 978-1400030613

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #256,057 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Law >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** Published to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark *Brown* decision, this update and expansion of the widely acclaimed original work, published in 1976, goes beyond portrayals of the major players involved in the decision--the NAACP legal team, including Thurgood Marshall and Charles Houston; the defender of states' rights, John Davis; and Chief Justice Earl Warren, who brokered a unanimous decision shortly after joining the Court; and the complainants, who undertook personal risk to challenge the doctrine of separate but equal. In this volume, Kluger also analyzes the nation's progress on race issues in the intervening 28 years since the book was first published. In a new chapter, he looks at the politics and policies of the Nixon and Reagan

eras--courting the South through retrenchment on racial integration and frontal attacks on busing--up to the current national obsession with colorblindness that has fostered a hypersegregation that mirrors conditions before the Brown decision. This is a powerful resource for readers interested in reviewing the particulars of Brown and the changes that have occurred since that landmark ruling. Vernon Ford Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“One of the most important books published in our American times. . . . A major accomplishment.” • Philadelphia Inquirer “Extraordinary. . . . An outstanding piece of legal and social history.” • Washington Post “A thought-provoking work that should become part of the standard literature on race relations.” • New York Times Book Review “The definitive account, to date, of the struggle for black equality in America. . . . A monumental accomplishment.” • The Nation “This huge, fascinating book . . . classic in its clarity and dimensions . . . should become part of our nation’s scriptures.” • Chicago Sun-Times “An extraordinary research effort, and a major contribution to our understanding of the Supreme Court.” • Harvard Law Review “A brilliant and powerful book.” • Bob Herbert, The New York Times “A gripping story . . . epic history.” • Los Angeles Times “A remarkable act of scholarship. . . . A book about values. . . . Its reader should be prepared to be moved.” • The Atlantic Monthly “A noble study, written in the grand manner.” • Geoffrey Wolff, Newsday “A remarkable book, moving and intellectually rich, mixing scholarship and humanity as it explores the modern Supreme Court’s most important decision.” • Anthony Lewis “A masterful storyteller. . . . Kluger finds heroes all along the way. . . . Embellished with captivating anecdotes . . . [and] engrossing character vignettes.” • St. Louis Post-Dispatch “An exciting story of an American happening as important as the Revolution itself. . . . Superb narrative history.” • Kansas City Star

After all these years, this poignant tale of "Simple Justice" shows that it was not so simple and there was not a whole lot of justice at any singular point in the entire civil rights battle. Your blood will boil at act after act of discrimination if you have an ounce of empathy or sense of social justice. I had to read this in the morning, otherwise, I would be too fired up to sleep. Fascinating back stories abound throughout.

An extremely thorough study of the Brown case and the historical background of the segregation issues involved -- a complex subject. The book is mainstream readable and comprehensive in scope. I'd pair this with SCORPIONS, a book which examines the personalities and political significance of the FDR and post-FDR appointed Supreme Court, reading SCORPIONS first.

This is an incredibly well written book that describes the events and court cases that led up to Brown v. Board of Education. I'm not sure that you can understand the system of government in the United States of America without reading a book like this. It lays out the ongoing conflict between the relationships between the federal government and state governments. Without books like this people might think that history moves in a straight line and civil rights continue to be more clearly defined and defended. If anything the author tells us that the pendulum swings and the constitution and the role of the supreme court is not fixed.

I am taking the time to write a review of this book simply because I consider it the best non-fiction book I have ever read. (And no, I am not a friend or relative of the author.) The topic is an important topic, but that is not what made this book special for me. What made it special is the narrative style employed by Kluger that makes this book read like a novel. It engaged me and pulled me through to see how the story turned out. (Not the Court Case, I knew that result; but what I didn't know was how the case impacted each of the individual actors. It was a life changing event for all of them and Kluger explores this in detail.)

One of those stories everyone with a historical bent should read. Amazing how convoluted the Constitution can be when people start interpreting it. This still does not answer one question that's been coming up for me: why is the 14th Amendment used in so many legal circumstances that seem to have nothing to do with its original intent?

Great read for history of racial struggles in this country including extensive details about litigation leading up to Brown v. Board.

Everyone should read this book. It's an excellent review of segregation policy in this country, South and North. It's also a great read, not at all boring. If you are interested in race relations at all, and you haven't read this, you are missing a really important contribution to this issue.

A most excellent book covering the work and trials of extraordinary people looking for the basic rights and status that should have been their birth right so very long ago. Highly recommended.

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