

# Making black history : the color line, culture, and race in the age of Jim Crow (/review/10.5860/CHOICE.209160)

Snyder, Jeffrey Aaron. (/search?exactauthor=Snyder, Jeffrey Aaron)

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In this impressive study of the contributions of Carter Woodson, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and the *Journal of Negro History*, Snyder (educational studies, Carleton College) meticulously chronicles the efforts of scholars such as W. E. B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, Rayford Logan, Charles Wesley, and John Hope Franklin, among many others, to vindicate black people and defend black humanity against racial disparagement. Snyder especially focuses on the work of Woodson and his colleagues on the color line, culture, and the tortured concept of race. Scholars grappled with the contested terrain of race as viewed from the perspectives of biology or anthropology and struggled to refute hereditarian notions of immutable black inferiority. As Snyder indicates, notions of race (biology), culture (social arrangements and social mores), and the color line (power hierarchies) are all intertwined. Chapter 5 is especially enlightening, as the author traces the interaction of black scholars with the ideas of white anthropologists such as Franz Boas, Melville Herskovits, and Ruth Benedict. The epilogue, which pays homage to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History, is quite poignant.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All public and academic levels/libraries.

**Reviewer:** W. Glasker (/search?reviewer=W. Glasker), Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden

**Recommendation:** Highly recommended

**Readership Level:** All Readership Levels

**Interdisciplinary Subjects:** African and African American Studies ([/search?q=&ints\[\]=afa](/search?q=&ints[]=afa)).

**Subject:** Social & Behavioral Sciences - History, Geography & Area Studies - North America ([/search?q=&sbj\[\]=na](/search?q=&sbj[]=na)).

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