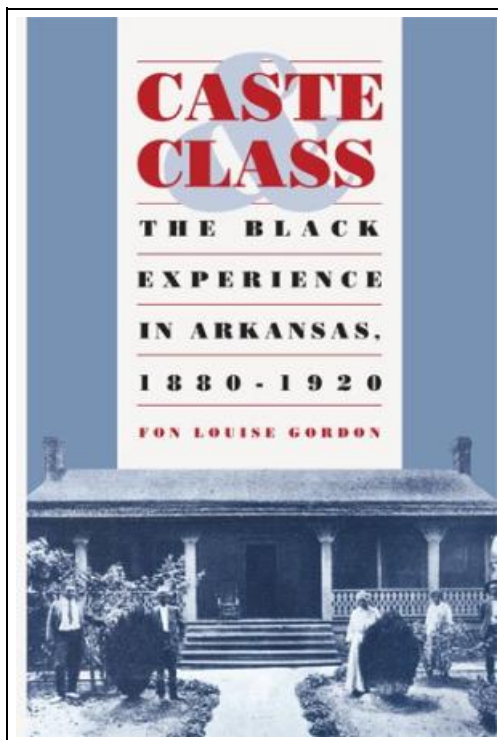


Caste and Class: The Black Experience in Arkansas, 1880-1920



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Reviews

*I just started off reading this article publication. This really is for all who statte there had not been a really worth looking at. You will not feel monotony at anytime of your own time (that's what catalogs are for about should you ask me).
(Prof. Jeremie Kozey)*

CASTE AND CLASS: THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN ARKANSAS, 1880-1920



University of Georgia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 200 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 0.8in. In this history of African American society from the end of Reconstruction to the end of World War I, Fon Louise Gordon focuses on dissent within Arkansas's black community. In particular, Gordon studies friction between elites and the agricultural and laboring classes over ideological and procedural aspects of their response to the caste strictures of Jim Crow. Because opinions on how to oppose segregation and disfranchisement ran along class lines, Gordon is also able to offer one of the most discerning portrayals to date of that era's black society. It was, Gordon demonstrates, a society apart from mainstream America, yet similar in its stratification. Through individual profiles and numerous examples, Gordon shows how class within the black community was determined by skin color, family background, and education in combination with such indicators of status as occupation and religious affiliation. At the same time, *Caste and Class* tells two concurrent and closely linked stories. One story is of the rise, growing self-absorption, and finally flagging influence of Arkansas's first black middle and upper classes. Primarily urban, professional, and conservative, these elites were relatively insulated from white oppression and supported the conciliatory race policies of Booker T. Washington. The other story Gordon tells is of the long, arduous emergence of the working classes, which was brought on in part by an exposure to a wider range of opportunities during and after World War I and the birth of the New Negro Movement. Overwhelmingly rural, these blacks were isolated from black middle-class culture and values and were oriented toward agitation and protest. In general, Gordon shows, the upper classes sought stability and prosperity apart from the white power structure, while the lower classes sought to improve their...



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