

Jack Bass

A historian and former journalist, Bass is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, studied as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, and received a Ph.D. from Emory University. He is author or co-author of nine nonfiction books, all related to the American South. In 2011 he received the South Carolina Governor's Award in the Humanities.

After 13 years as a newspaper reporter and editor, he twice was South Carolina "journalist of the year." He received grants from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations for two years at Duke University to research and write *The Transformation of Southern Politics* and 18 months at the Institute of Legal History at University of South Carolina School of Law for *Unlikely Heroes*.

He served five years as director of American South Special Projects at the University of South Carolina. There he produced a 14-part television course, "The American South Comes of Age" and a PBS documentary, "A Different Dixie: Portraits of Change."

In announcing Bass the winner of the 1994 Robert Kennedy Book Award grand prize for *Taming the Storm: The Life and Times of Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr.*, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. acclaimed it as "a strong and evocative work that illuminates the struggle for racial justice."

Calling *Unlikely Heroes* "an important book," Jonathan Yardley wrote in the Washington Post, "Jack Bass has done a first-rate job of cutting to the heart of a complex and at times ambiguous subject." The book tells the story of how a handful of Southern federal judges, most of them Republicans appointed by President Eisenhower, transformed the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown. v. Board of Education* into a broad mandate for racial justice.

David Broder characterized *Transformation of Southern Politics* as "a prime source for all those who follow contemporary politics . . . a compelling story with insights on every page."

In a review of *The Orangeburg Massacre*, Roy Reed wrote in *The New York Times Book Review*, "It is too often true that the only redress of a great wrong is good reporting of it. . . This book is excellent reporting, and it apparently will stand as the only righting of what went wrong at Orangeburg."

In reviewing *STROM: The Complicated Personal and Political Life of Strom Thurmond* (co-authored with Marilyn Thompson), Walter Russell Mead wrote in *Foreign Affairs* that *STROM* "opens a window into a region and a culture that foreigners and non-southern Americans must understand to have a clear picture of how the United States works." Michael Lind wrote for *The Washington Post* that the book makes a persuasive case that Thurmond was one of the most influential American politicians of the 20th century."

After teaching 11 years as professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi, he became Professor of Humanities and Social Science at the College of Charleston in 1999 and professor emeritus in 2008. As a Citadel Fellow, he subsequently directed The Citadel World War II Alumni Oral History Project. He has written for The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Atlanta Constitution, Washington Post, The New Republic, and The Nation. His listing since 2009 in *Who's Who in America* has been extended to the 2013 edition..

Bass's eighth and most recent book, co-authored with Scott Poole, is *The Palmetto State: The Making of Modern South Carolina*. Former Southern Historical Association President Dan Carter wrote, "Politics, literature, popular culture, the greatest transformation of race relations: it's all here in this new narrative history of the Palmetto State."

His ninth book, *Justice Abandoned*, tentatively scheduled for publication in 2015, will combine Supreme Court and Southern history. It will break new ground in fully telling the story of the Supreme Court's central role in ending Reconstruction and undermining congressional intent through its interpretation of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

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