

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

W. E. B. DU BOIS INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Barker Center • 12 Quincy Street • Cambridge, MA 02138-3879

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Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and Historian Leon Litwack Discusses the 20th Century Black Struggle for Freedom

Cambridge – Pulitzer prize-winning author and historian, Leon F. Litwack, Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of History at the University of California/Berkeley, discusses the black struggle for freedom during some of America's most turbulent times at the Nathan I. Huggins Lectures, a three-day series taking place at Harvard University on March 2-4.

On the first day of the series, Litwack focuses on the Jim Crow Era, often described as a nadir in U. S. history because of its bleak examples of state-sanctioned terrorism against blacks. On the second day, Litwack discusses the contradictions faced by blacks fighting on the battlefield during World War II yet who were denied the rights and privileges of white Americans. On the final day of the series, Litwack considers the Civil Rights Movement and those who questioned whether its political, social and cultural gains had more symbolism than substance.

Among Litwack's books are *The American Labor Movement* (ed., 1962); *North of Slavery: The Negro in the Free States, 1790-1860* (1961); *Black Leaders of the Nineteenth Century* (ed. with August Meier, 1988); *Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery* (1980), which won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award; and the seminal *Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow* (1998). Litwack is also testifying in the national case for reparations being headed by Harvard Law School Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.

A prolific essayist, Litwack has contributed to *The Antislavery Vanguard* (1965), *Anonymous Americans* (1971), *Ethnic Notions: Black Images in the White Mind* (1980), *Advancing Art: Painting, Politics, and Cultural Confrontation at Mid-Century* (1989), *Past Perfect: History According to the Movies* (1995), *Ken Burns' Civil War: The Historians Respond* (1995), *Historians and Race: Autobiography and the Writing of History* (1996); *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America* (2000), a new edition of Jean Toomer's *Cane* (2000) and *Camera Man's Journey: Julian Dimock's South* (2002).

The Nathan I. Huggins Lectures are named after the first W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities at Harvard and honor the memory and contributions of Nathan I. Huggins (1927-1989). Huggins served as the chair of the Department of African and African American Studies between 1980 and 1984 and 1987 and 1989. Co-sponsored by the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, the Department of African and African American Studies, the Department of History of American Civilization and Harvard University Press, the lectures were designed to bring distinguished scholars to deliver three lectures on a topic related to African American history.

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Who: Leon F. Litwack, Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of History,
University of California, Berkeley

What: Nathan I. Huggins Lecture Series

Stormy Monday: The Black Struggle for Freedom in the 20th Century

- High Water Everywhere
- Pearl Harbor Blues
- Fight the Power

When and Where: March 2 and 3 Lectures: Thompson Room, Barker Center, 12 Quincy Street. March 4 Lecture: Lower Level, Center for European Studies, 27 Kirkland Street. All lectures take place at 4 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. with a reception to follow. Free, open to the public and wheel chair accessible.

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