

although few of the Negroes could read or write; and none had any experience in government (pages 318-319).

There is no description of the advances in civil rights made under Reconstruction governments though the corruption of the carpetbaggers is vaguely described. There is also this totally amoral account of the Ku Klux Klan:

The purpose of the Ku Klux Klan was to frighten the Negroes and the people who were in control of the Southern state legislatures. The organization lasted for a time; but as the Southern states became once more part of the Union, *there was no longer any reason* for the existence of an organization such as the Ku Klux Klan (pages 319-320). (*Italics mine*)

Why there was no longer any reason for the Klan and precisely what happened to the Negro after Reconstruction is not explained. Indeed, this is the last mention of the Negro in this text. Although the book was published in 1959 and mentions events as recent as the launching of American space satellites in 1958, there is not one word about the civil rights movement, the migration of Negroes to the North, the condition of Negroes in the twentieth century, or the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown decision. After Reconstruction, the Negro, who was treated vaguely enough up till then, becomes wholly invisible.

The striking things about this volume is the dehumanized way in which Negroes are treated. They are mentioned only in the institutional setting of slavery, and there inadequately, but never as human beings; their way of life, their problems, their gains, their struggles are totally ignored. Not one Negro individual is named with the exception of Dred Scott. Words like "segregation," "desegregation," and "integration" do not appear once anywhere in this account. In a book which has two or three illustrations on every page, there are only two illustrations depicting Negroes, both of them during slavery.

It should be mentioned that the authors are not morally obtuse or unwilling to take a stand on every issue. Thus they criticize the manner in which the Mormons were treated and describe their hardships (page 263); they describe the often inhuman conditions of early factories, the plight of the workers, and justify the rise of labor unions (pages 275-276); the American Indians are treated sympathetically, and the treatment accorded them by the white settlers is criticized (page 336); the immigrants are treated with a bit less sympathy, but at least their plight is described (pages 360-361). The authors' treatment of the Negro, therefore, is not typical of their treatment of a number of other groups which have been victims of intolerance. The Negro above all is singled out not only for unsympathetic and inadequate treatment but for nontreatment.