

ination" but does not identify him as a Negro (page 705). This reference to racial discrimination is the most direct in the book; it also seems to be the only one.

Tightly linked with unwillingness to acknowledge race as a factor in American history is an apparent subservience to Southern sensitivities on the subject. Indications turn up at every hand. Among them, in addition to many cited above, are the treatment of Abolition (the extent, motivation, and arguments of which are accorded less space than the Southern proslavery defense, pages 309-11), the incorrect suggestion that opposition to slavery began "in the early 1800's" (and therefore, by implication, had no connection with the founding of the nation and the ideals of the Revolution and the Founding Fathers, page 309), the literally invariable use of the ingenious "War Between the North and the South," and, inevitably, the unflattering presentation of the Radical Republicans.

Finally, the treatment of the Negro in this book is strongly colored by blandness, timidity, and an underlying determination to present life as pretty. In fact, of course, much of the Negro's experience in America has been far from pretty, and by implying otherwise this book distorts an important aspect of the American past.

The Story of American Democracy¹

By Winthrop D. Jordan²

These remarks are merely by way of supplement to my report on the eighth grade textbook, *Story of the American Nation* (1962). The two books are substantially similar. Although the older book is used in the eleventh grade, it does not appear to be appreciably more sophisticated than the newer version; indeed the commercial publisher refers to the newer book as the "successor" of the older. While the newer book appears to be essentially an up-dated and more sprightly version of the older, there are important differences between the two in their treatment of the Negro which suggest that some of the newer book's deficiencies may have derived from an unwillingness to arouse certain Southern sensibilities.

Thus, though the older version is on most counts unsatisfactory in much the same ways as the newer, it includes several brief sections on the Negro which were altered or struck during revision. In contrast to the newer, it offers a picture of Crispus Attucks on a page headed "Patriots from Many Peoples" with the notation, "A Negro of Massachusetts, [who] was the first to die for American liberty" (page 133); a not unfavorable reference to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (page 358); the assertion that "As time passed, the Klan fell into the hands of men

¹ Mabel B. Casner and Ralph H. Gabriel, *The Story of American Democracy* (Third edition). New York: Harcourt, Brace, & Co., 1955. This is a high school textbook.

² See footnote 2 on page 19.