STRUGGLE FOR MASTERY

DISFRANCHISEMENT IN THE SOUTH

1888-1908

MICHAEL PERMAN
Resumo de Struggle for Mastery: Disfranchisement in the South, 1888-1908

Around 1900, the southern states embarked on a series of political campaigns aimed at disfranchising large numbers of voters. By 1908, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia had succeeded in depriving virtually all African Americans, and a large number of lower-class whites, of the voting rights they had possessed since Reconstruction—rights they would not regain for over half a century. "Struggle for Mastery" is the most complete and systematic study to date of the history of disfranchisement in the South.

After examining the origins and objectives of disfranchisement, Michael Perman traces the process as it unfolded state by state. Because he examines each state within its region-wide context, he is able to identify patterns and connections that have previously gone unnoticed.

Broadening the context even further, Perman explores the federal government's seeming acquiescence in this development, the relationship between disfranchisement and segregation, and the political system that emerged after the decimation of the South's electorate.

The result is an insightful and persuasive interpretation of this highly significant, yet generally misunderstood, episode in U.S. history.

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