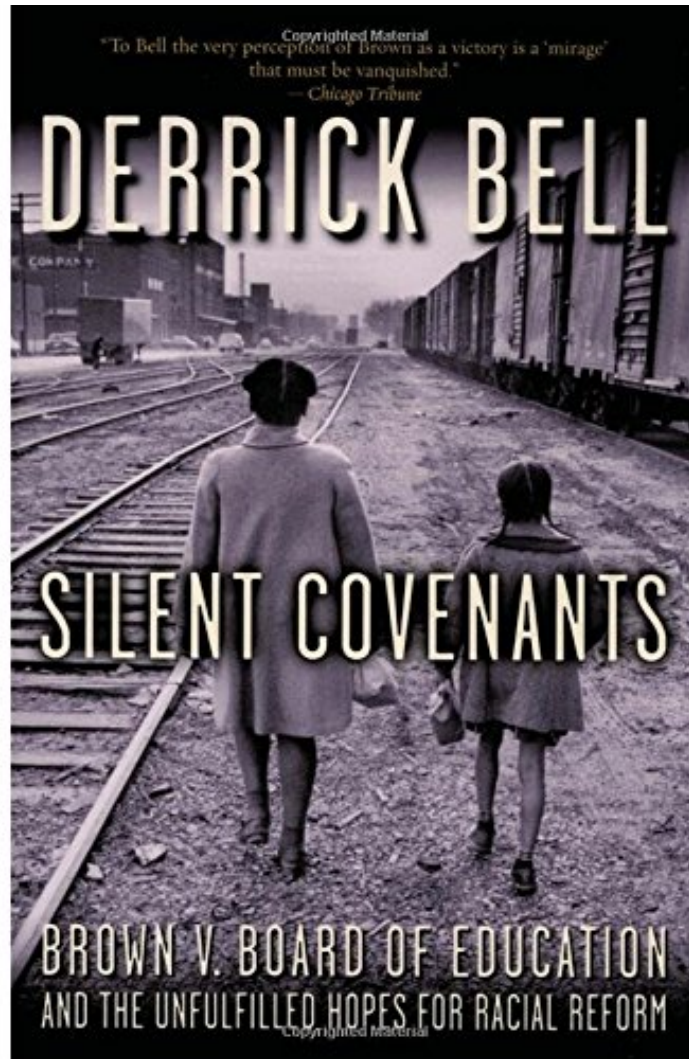


(Mobile book) Silent Covenants: Brown v. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform

Silent Covenants: Brown v. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform

Derrick Bell

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#376981 in Books Derrick Bell 2005-08-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 5.60 x .70 x 8.80l, .71 #File Name: 0195182472240 pages Silent Covenants Brown V Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform | File size: 31.Mb

Derrick Bell : Silent Covenants: Brown v. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Silent Covenants: Brown v. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Very Eye-Opening Read By Lindsay Baker My only complaint is that it was written for people already inclined to agree with him. I wish he had written to poor white people instead of other academics. Some of his complaints were a bit of a stretch which might discredit his arguments to some readers

like poor white people, but if you read it with an open mind, you might think much differently about race relations in the United States.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Learn your historyBy Trish Millines DzikoThis book does a great job outlining the journey of African American's in our public education system. I really like the alternative solution to the Brown vs Board of Education case, but alas that's not the direction we went and we didn't have the benefit of hindsight.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An illuminating read!By Yo MamaDerrick Bell does a fantastic job recounting his personal experiences while delving deep into the ramifications of the Brown v. Board of Ed decision. This book helped to illuminate a very complex topic for me.

When the landmark Supreme Court case of Brown vs. Board of Education was handed down in 1954, many civil rights advocates believed that the decision, which declared public school segregation unconstitutional, would become the Holy Grail of racial justice. Fifty years later, despite its legal irrelevance and the racially separate and educationally ineffective state of public schooling for most black children, Brown is still viewed by many as the perfect precedent. Here, Derrick Bell shatters the shining image of this celebrated ruling. He notes that, despite the onerous burdens of segregation, many black schools functioned well and racial bigotry had not rendered blacks a damaged race. He maintains that, given what we now know about the pervasive nature of racism, the Court should have determined instead to rigorously enforce the "equal" component of the "separate but equal" standard. Racial policy, Bell maintains, is made through silent covenants--unspoken convergences of interest and involuntary sacrifices of rights--that ensure that policies conform to priorities set by policy-makers. Blacks and whites are the fortuitous winners or losers in these unspoken agreements. The experience with Brown, Bell urges, should teach us that meaningful progress in the quest for racial justice requires more than the assertion of harms. Strategies must recognize and utilize the interest-convergence factors that strongly influence racial policy decisions.In *Silent Covenants*, Bell condenses more than four decades of thought and action into a powerful and eye-opening book.

From BooklistBell, the first tenured black professor at Harvard and a veteran civil rights lawyer, reflects critically on the function and limitation of the landmark Brown decision. He asserts that he, like many of his colleagues, confused the means of integration with the objectives of high-quality education and racial equality. To analyze racial reforms, he has developed a theory of converging interests into one of racial fortuity. For example, it was U.S. cold war interests that necessitated the elimination of legal segregation rather than purported concern with quality education for black children. In other words, when the interests of blacks converge with the interests of whites, blacks are more likely to have their needs addressed; otherwise they are not. Thus white resistance to busing and other integration strategies has reduced the Brown decision and its promise to mostly symbolic value. However, Bell admonishes blacks to not forgo their real interests even when they do not converge with the majority, and certainly prime among those interests is the educational development of black children. Vernon FordCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Mournful.... Captures the significance of Brown at the time of its pronouncement and of African Americans' then-unconquerable optimism about the country's ultimate goodness."--Debra J. Dickerson, *Mother Jones*"Bell, always a self-consciously provocative writer, remains true to form in *Silent Covenants*. In his most creative chapter, Bell imagines an alternative Brown decision that would have upheld segregation but insisted on the equalization of resources between blacks and whites. Had that road been followed, he suggests, black children might have gotten the education they needed and deserved."--Boston Globe"Provocatively sardonic.... His pervasive melancholy may surprise readers who expect movement veterans to celebrate victories rather than rue their missteps, but to Bell the very perception of Brown as a victory is a 'mirage' that must be vanquished."--Chicago Tribune"A bold and sobering counterproposal."--The New YorkerAbout the AuthorDerrick Bell is Visiting Professor of Law at New York University Law School. As an NAACP Legal Defense Fund lawyer, he handled and supervised hundreds of school desegregation cases during the 1960s. He is the author of several books, including *And We Are Not Saved*. He lives in New York City.