



## Broadcasting Freedom: Radio, War, and the Politics of Race, 1938-1948 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture)

By Barbara D. Savage

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The World War II era represented the golden age of radio as a broadcast medium in the United States; it also witnessed a rise in African American activism against racial segregation and discrimination, especially as they were practiced by the federal government itself. In *Broadcasting Freedom*, Barbara Savage links these cultural and political forces by showing how African American activists, public officials, intellectuals, and artists sought to access and use radio to influence a national debate about racial inequality. Drawing on a rich and previously unexamined body of national public affairs programming about African Americans and race relations, Savage uses these radio shows to demonstrate the emergence of a new national discourse about race and ethnicity, racial hatred and injustice, and the contributions of racial and immigrant populations to the development of the United States. These programs, she says, challenged the nation to reconcile its professed egalitarian ideals with its unjust treatment of black Americans and other minorities. This examination of radio's treatment of race as a national political issue also provides important evidence that the campaigns for racial justice in the 1940s served as an essential, and still overlooked, precursor to the civil rights campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s, Savage argues. The next battleground would be in the South-and on television.

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## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

As the first national mass medium, radio emerged as a forum for debating racial injustice. Savage (history, Univ. of Pennsylvania) focuses on national public affairs programming from 1938 to 1948 and explores the interactions of radio, race, and politics. Tracing the origins, content, and reception of selected programs, Savage reveals the battle lines and hardworking heroes of the struggle to assure blacks a popularly accessible and politically acceptable place in the discourse of U.S. history and culture. Her deft treatment of the activists, programming, public policies, and symbolic politics broadens views of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s and pioneers new scholarship in radios rich but virtually ignored historical role. Savages work complements Melvin Patrick Elys *The Adventures of Amos N Andy: A Social History of an American Phenomenon* (Free Pr., 1991. o.p.), Herman Grays *Watching Race: Television and the Struggle for Blackness* (Univ. of Minnesota, 1995), and Sasha Torres *Living Color: Race and Television in the United States* (Duke Univ., 1998). Highly recommended. Thomas J. Davis, Arizona State Univ., Tempe  
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From [Booklist](#)

Savage, a University of Pennsylvania history professor, draws on largely unexplored material in tracing the efforts of African Americans between 1938 and 1950 to use radio to contradict stereotypes and develop a more inclusive history of the U.S. Part 1, "Federal Constructions of `the Negro,'" covers federal radio projects in the late 1930s and the early 1940s as well as efforts to win support from the Office of War Information. Part 2, "Airing the Race Question," addresses programs on network radio, including those developed by the National Urban League, African American involvement in network discussion programs, and notable local series--"New World A'Comin'" in New York and "Destination Freedom" in Chicago. An involving story, heavily documented; appropriate for larger media studies collections. *Mary Carroll*

Review

Clearly organized and well written.

"Choice"

Savage has done a superb job.

"Journal of Southern History"

A brilliant and provocative book.

"American Historical Review"

"A study of great value to scholars of black history, communications, propaganda, and mid-century America.

"The Historian""

A study of great value to scholars of black history, communications, propaganda, and mid-century America.

"The Historian"

This extraordinary book will help shape the way we think about both [civil rights and the development of radio].

"Journal of American History"

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sandra Conaway:**

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or even read a book titled Broadcasting Freedom: Radio, War, and the Politics of Race, 1938-1948 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture)? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have various other opinion?

#### **Jeffery Bruce:**

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#### **Rose Duprey:**

This Broadcasting Freedom: Radio, War, and the Politics of Race, 1938-1948 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture) is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it details accurately using great arrange word or we can claim no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Broadcasting Freedom: Radio, War, and the Politics of Race, 1938-1948 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture) in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen moment right but this e-book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that?

**Terry Snider:**

In this particular era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of the books in the top checklist in your reading list will be Broadcasting Freedom: Radio, War, and the Politics of Race, 1938-1948 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture). This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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