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Patterson's autobiography, published in 1950—the year the final Scottsboro Boy was released from prison—was published as “the story of Haywood Patterson,” with all facts, episodes, and information within the book provided by Patterson himself.¹ The purpose of this text was to give at least one Scottsboro Boy a published account of his own interpretation of the events. That the text's appendix includes exclusively court documents and evidence as well as a timeline of events suggests that the book was also meant to be a tool used to understand the case. In fact, as the text's editor Earl Conrad notes, “histories of [the case] are yet to be written” and therefore this text should be seen as a “phase of the case rather than a history of it.”² When Patterson's autobiography was published, the case was still fresh and arguably still playing out. Thus, Patterson's account falls into the gray area of being both a part of the history as well as a remembering of the history.

Conversely, Clarence Norris's autobiography, published three years following the Scottsboro Boys' full pardon, serves more so as a reflection on the past. It also has strong themes of the feeling of success, both because of the long-overdue pardon of the Scottsboro Boys as well as the accomplishments made by the Civil Rights Movement. Editor Sybil D. Washington sets the tone of the text by claiming on the very first page that the years between 1931 and 1979 had seen “much social change for blacks, particularly in the Southern states.”³ This tone carries through to the text's final words, wherein Norris reflects on his time spent in Alabama in 1976 upon receiving his pardon: “The world had changed and in the three days I was in Alabama ... ”

¹ Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad, *Scottsboro Boy* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1950), vii.

² Patterson and Conrad, *Scottsboro Boy*, Appendix.

³ Clarence Norris and Sybil D. Washington, *The Last of the Scottsboro Boys: An Autobiography* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1979), 9.

impossible to understand how the Scottsboro Trials impacted its participants and American society without first understanding the case itself.

A quarter century after Carter's publication, James E. Goodman followed suit with his own analysis of the Scottsboro Trials. However, while Goodman's approach is similar to Carter's in that he too is interested in explaining the case, he differs from Carter in his method as he hopes to explain the "What" of the story through the study of the different perspectives of those involved. Since Carter had already explained the details of the case, Goodman needed to take the study of the Scottsboro Trials a few steps further. Thus, it was important to analyze and interpret the case from the perspective of all of those involved since they came from such varying backgrounds. Goodman wanted to explain that one cannot understand the Scottsboro Trials without trying to understand it from many different points of view or without trying to understand how people make sense of their experiences.⁴ There is not one way to interpret an event, and thus each interpretation holds its own value.

Goodman also departs from Carter's analysis in his suggestion that some of the ideology surrounding the Scottsboro Trials, namely that black men are represented in American society as rapists, is perpetuated.⁵ Goodman considers this an "essential fact" of the case whereas Carter does not at all address this concern in his text.⁶ Goodman's text therefore marks the emergence of the idea that the Scottsboro Case is important and should be studied specifically because it remains inherently connected to present-day American society.

Goodman's idea that present day America reflects the ideologies surrounding the Scottsboro Trials is reiterated in the 2001 documentary *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*, which is based on Goodman's text. Produced by Barak Goodman (no relation to James Goodman) ...

⁴ James E. Goodman, *Stories of Scottsboro* (New York: Vintage Books, 1995), xiii.

⁵ Goodman, *Stories of Scottsboro*, xiii.

⁶ Ibid.

Bibliography

Goodman, James E. *Stories of Scottsboro*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.

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