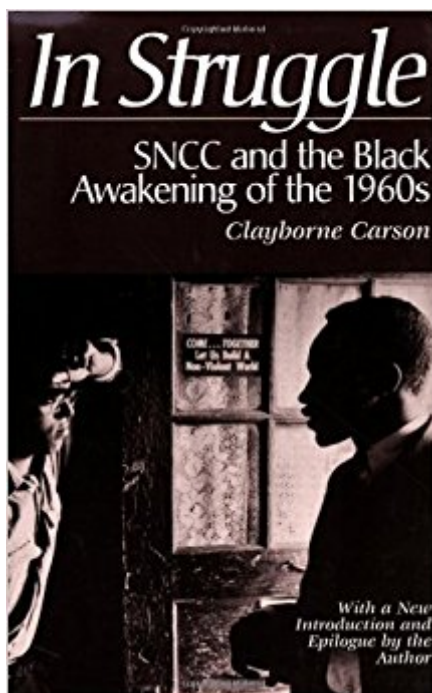


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# In Struggle : SNCC And The Black Awakening Of The 1960s



## Synopsis

With its radical ideology and effective tactics, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was the cutting edge of the civil rights movement during the 1960s. This sympathetic yet even-handed book records for the first time the complete story of SNCC's evolution, of its successes and its difficulties in the ongoing struggle to end white repression. At its birth, SNCC was composed of black college students who shared an ideology of moral radicalism. This ideology, with its emphasis on nonviolence, challenged Southern segregation. SNCC students were the earliest civil rights fighters of the Second Reconstruction. They conducted sit-ins at lunch counters, spearheaded the freedom rides, and organized voter registration, which shook white complacency and awakened black political consciousness. In the process, Carson shows, SNCC changed from a group that endorsed white middle-class values to one that questioned the basic assumptions of liberal ideology and raised the fist for black power. Indeed, SNCC's radical and penetrating analysis of the American power structure reached beyond the black community to help spark wider social protests of the 1960s, such as the anti-Vietnam War movement. Carson's history of SNCC goes behind the scene to determine why the group's ideological evolution was accompanied by bitter power struggles within the organization. Using interviews, transcripts of meetings, unpublished position papers, and recently released FBI documents, he reveals how a radical group is subject to enormous, often divisive pressures as it fights the difficult battle for social change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In Clayborne Carson SNCC has at last found a scholar capable of probing its radical and fractious nature in a manner both sympathetic and prudently critical ... Students of social protest will be deeply in the author's debt for years to come. (Francis M. Wilnoit American Historical Review) To anyone who would understand SNCC, this is an essential book. (James Polk Newsday) Not only an important contribution to the history of the struggle for civil rights; it also enlarges our general understanding of contemporary politics and culture. (Abigail Thernstrom New Republic) This splendid history of SNCC has successfully captured the dynamic interplay of two parallel but contradictory elements ... This is a well-researched, balanced, and analytical assessment of the history of a primarily black student activist group that, with all its failings, made its special contribution to the political awakening of American blacks and to the changing of American institutions and practices. (Abraham Holtzman American Political Science Review)

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee ( SNCC, pronounced 'snick') emerged from the seemingly sterile American political landscape of the 1950s, thrived amidst the mass struggles of the 1960s, and died in the barren atmosphere of repression, divisiveness, and self-absorption of the early 1970s. As racial discord and discontent broke through a facade of accommodation, a series of isolated acts of resistance ignited the modern African-American freedom struggle.

I received this product on time as promised and in great condition. I grew up during the late 50's, and didn't really appreciate the prime focus of SNCC. This book gives me a comprehensive look at how this group was started, and how it grew to such a well known organization. Very satisfied with this book. M. Sims

In Struggle gives a very rationalistic view and accurate story of the SNCC. You can understand the wins and the fails of SNCC policies throughout the book and understand why has not continued. You learn to favor certain leader rather than others because of the factions withing the SNCC. Sometimes I felt like telling the SNCC "Don't do that, your abandoning your old Ghandian principles that made you strong!" So I'm glad I read this book even though I had to do it for an assignment. It's a good read, and I suggest it to those who like to study about the young black militancy spirit of the 1960's.

This book shows leaders of SNCC like H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael and their context in the Black Power movement. It shows SNCC from a lunch counter protesting because of boredom

until H. Rap Brown's arrest and the end of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Very good book. provides information on the most active group of the civil rights movement. The grass roots group. It is great

The book arrived on time and in great condition. .it was easy to read..it was interesting and enjoyable .i would recommend it for personal research and educational..it really is an interesting book..

This book traces the rise and fall of SNCC:the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. At the time Carson wrote it, it was one of the few books on the Civil Rights Movement that didn't focus on Martin Luther King and SCLC, and as such provided a welcome addition, even corrective, to the mainstream narrative of the movement. It is also a brilliant analysis of the dynamics of a reform movement and the tensions between leader centered and group centered styles of leadership. The analysis of Bob Moses and his approach to grass roots empowerment is right on target and provides a whole new way for thinking about Freedom Summer and organizing in Mississippi. This book is not for the fainthearted--its academic prose is dense at times and details can be a little confusing for those unfamiliar with SNCC personnel, hence four stars and not five. Nonetheless, it's worth taking time with, and I assign this book regularly for upper level directed studies and recommend it to students for research papers. Whether or not SNCC's achievements were compromised by the antics of former members in the 80s and 90s, Carson's book is a great analysis of its formation, tactics, and dissolution.

This book is a great account of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, which was started in 1960 in regard to Segregation on Americas buses and in the Woolworth dining room. This book leaves out no account, and anyone who had anything to do with the movement and SNCC is mentioned in this book. Carson went all out, and I think this book should be required reading in every Civil Rights History course.

In Struggle recounts the progression of the SNCC from its early days of assimilationism and conventional middle class values, through its radical and militant period, its separatist and provocative period, and then back again into conventionalism and low-level activism. Many SNCC members during its radical period, debated whether the victim should become the executioner.

Instead, the victim becomes part of the system, such as Marion Barry's accession to the mayor's office in Washington, D.C. And the idealism of the movement went out the window as well, when in the 1990s much more mundane pursuits took over Barry's life, including crack cocaine and prostitutes. One reason for the winding-down of the SNCC may stem from the conditions that spawned it. Under an oppressive system of the Jim Crow South, the SNCC had a common enemy to fight, and clear goals to achieve. Once the 1964 Civil Rights Act had been passed, and subsequent advances were made at the legislative level, the goals and mission became less clear and less defined. Now that so much had been achieved, the SNCC began to fight amongst itself as each faction attempted to secure ever smaller slices of the revolutionary pie. The cautious liberalism of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations proved fatal to the more ambitious fervor of the SNCC; the legislation acted almost as a safety valve, relieving the pressure that had encouraged the formation of the SNCC. SNCC students were, in their heyday, overcompensating for all the resentment they had from being historically marginalized and held down. SNCC members had discovered their voice and used it passionately, but once people started listening to them, SNCC found itself in the position of not knowing what to say.

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