

This book exemplifies such scholarship and establishes the criterion for future study in this area.

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*Black Chicago: The Making of a Negro Ghetto, 1890-1920.* By Allan H. Spear. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967. Pp. xvii, 254. Price \$7.50.)

By 1915, even before the migration of thousands of Southern Negroes during World War I, Chicago had its black ghetto. Both external and internal forces, Allan H. Spear has written in his insightful *Black Chicago*, had conditioned this development. White hostility and persistent proscription and discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and municipal services had made Negroes "a special group in the social structure of prewar Chicago." And being unable to escape from their social, economic, and physical enclave, Chicago's Negroes "were forced to work out their destiny within the context of an increasingly biracial society."

It is in his accounting of the internal forces that Professor Spear has made a brilliant contribution to Negro history. Before 1900, he has observed, Chicago's Negro elite had comprised the race's leadership. Integration was the "ultimate goal" of this elite, a goal which it pursued through law suits, political pressure, and indignation meetings. It established interracial institutions like Provident Hospital, and "any attempt to organize a separate Negro institution met with stiff opposition from those who regarded it as a form of self-segregation." After 1900, however, other Negro leaders arose—generally less cultured and less well-educated businessmen and professional politicians who disputed the unyielding commitment to equal rights of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Charles E. Bentley, James B. Madden and other members of the elite. Holding to a philosophy of racial solidarity and self-help, Dr. George Cleveland Hall, Theodore W. Jones, Sandy W. Trice, Jesse Binga, Oscar De Priest, and others found the teachings of Booker T. Washington more realistic guides to action. While never totally abandoning the ultimate goal of integration, these new leaders, whose primary economic and political sources of strength were in the Negro ghetto, "contributed to the development of a separate institutional life for Chicago Negroes." They built Negro businesses, a Negro political machine, and Negro civic clubs and social agencies. The great migration of 1915-1920, although itself a potent force which doubled Chicago's Negro population, reinforced and intensified both the external white hostility and

the internal pressures for "a self-sufficient Negro metropolis," but it did not create new patterns of development. The tragic denouement in this story of the thirty-year making of a black ghetto was the Chicago race riot of 1919.

Spear has accomplished a great deal through his imaginative use of the relatively meager sources at hand. No significant Negro leader has left private papers. Few residents of the Negro community during these years are still alive, although Spear has interviewed several of these. Yet he has neglected or focused inadequate attention on some important aspects of his study. He claims, for example, that the race riot had "little to do with labor conditions and there was no violence in the [stock] yard . . . ." Contemporary observers would have disagreed. Robert E. Park feared during the war that all the Negroes' perplexities after the Armistice would be "intimately bound up" with interracial competition in the labor market; and there was violence in the stockyards. Negro workers did not return to the stockyards until after the state militia had been ordered out of the armories, but, even under military and police protection, a Negro was savagely struck with a hammer wielded by a white worker. A mob then chased the dazed Negro through the sheep pens and finally fatally toppled him with shovels and brooms. When police rescued a second Negro after a severe beating, white workers retaliated and a vicious battle against police and soldiers ensued. The absence of violence in the stockyards before this outbreak was, as Negro Alderman Louis B. Anderson explained, simply the result of fear of such attacks; ". . . colored men have refused to go to the stockyards to get paid even though their families were starving . . . ." The bitter recriminations after the riot between labor and the stockyards' management, each accusing the other of igniting the tinderbox, would also seem to indicate the importance of labor conflict as a precipitator of the riot.

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*American Negro Short Stories.* Edited by John Henrik Clarke. (New York: Hill and Wang, 1966. Pp. 355. Price, \$5.95.)

The growing militancy of the Negro American has, in turn, focussed attention upon his literary skill—his ability as a craftsman both to rise above his material in presentation and to remain submerged in it for inspiration.

The spotlight directed to this talent should most appropriately center upon the artist's underrated skill as a delineator of tales of any