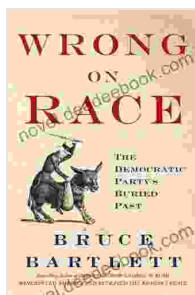


# Unveiling the Hidden History of the Democratic Party

The Democratic Party, one of the two major political parties in the United States, has a long and complex history. Founded in 1828, the party has played a pivotal role in shaping American politics and society. However, behind its facade of progress and inclusivity lies a darker past that has been largely buried and forgotten.



## Wrong on Race: The Democratic Party's Buried Past

by Saru Jayaraman

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 896 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 300 pages
Hardcover	: 208 pages
Item Weight	: 1.74 pounds



## Antebellum Era: Complicity in Slavery

In the decades leading up to the Civil War, the Democratic Party was a staunch defender of slavery. Southern Democrats, in particular, saw slavery as essential to the preservation of their way of life. They argued that slavery was a benevolent institution that provided African Americans with protection and security. Northern Democrats, while not as overtly pro-

slavery, were willing to compromise with Southern Democrats on the issue, fearing that a split in the party would lead to the election of a Republican president who would abolish slavery.

The Democratic Party's complicity in slavery is undeniable. In 1854, the party passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed slavery to be expanded into new territories, overturning the Missouri Compromise of 1820. In 1857, the party endorsed the Dred Scott decision, which ruled that African Americans were not citizens and could not sue in federal court. These actions solidified the Democratic Party's position as the party of slavery.

### **Reconstruction Era: Betrayal of African Americans**

After the Civil War, the Democratic Party continued to oppose the rights of African Americans. Southern Democrats, in particular, resisted the efforts of the Radical Republicans to reconstruct the South and grant African Americans full citizenship. They enacted Black Codes that restricted the rights of African Americans and used violence and intimidation to suppress their political participation.

Northern Democrats were also complicit in the betrayal of African Americans. They supported the Compromise of 1877, which ended Reconstruction and allowed white Southerners to regain control of their states. This compromise effectively disenfranchised African Americans and paved the way for the era of Jim Crow.

### **20th Century: Jim Crow and Segregation**

Throughout the 20th century, the Democratic Party continued to be a bulwark of segregation. Southern Democrats, in particular, supported Jim

Crow laws that enforced racial segregation in all aspects of life, from education to housing to public accommodations. They also resisted the efforts of the NAACP and other civil rights organizations to challenge these laws.

Northern Democrats, while not as openly supportive of segregation, were reluctant to challenge Southern Democrats on the issue. They feared that doing so would cost them votes in the South. As a result, the Democratic Party became increasingly identified as the party of Jim Crow.

### **The Civil Rights Movement and After**

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s finally forced the Democratic Party to confront its racist past. A new generation of progressive Democrats, led by President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson, passed landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed segregation and discrimination. These laws marked a turning point in the Democratic Party's history, but the party's legacy of racism continued to haunt it.

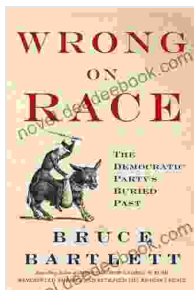
In recent years, the Democratic Party has made significant progress in addressing its racist past. The party has apologized for its role in slavery and segregation, and it has worked to increase diversity and inclusion within its ranks. However, the party's history continues to be a source of contention, with some critics arguing that the party has not done enough to atone for its past actions.

The Democratic Party has a long and complex history, marked by both progress and setbacks. Its complicity in slavery, betrayal of African Americans during Reconstruction, and support for Jim Crow segregation

are dark chapters in the party's past that cannot be erased. However, the party's embrace of the civil rights movement and its efforts to address its racist legacy are evidence of its evolution. The Democratic Party is not perfect, but it is a party that is constantly striving to improve and to become more inclusive and just.

## Further Reading

1. Democratic Party
2. Democratic Party
3. Reconstruction
4. NAACP
5. Civil Rights Movement



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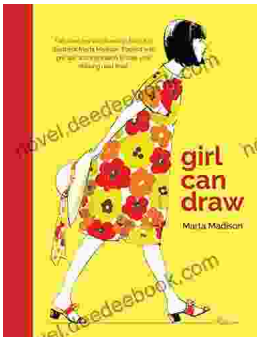
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