

*Plain, Honest Men* runs a bit long, so the level of the students would have to be considered: Would students balk at reading a 500-page book? Beeman's presentation is quite readable, but there is only a three-month period generally covered, and so of course the book drags at points for the non-professional reader.

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**Bruce Watson. *Freedom Summer: The Savage Season That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy*. New York: Viking Press, 2010. Pp. 384. Hardcover, \$27.95; ISBN 978-0-6700-2170-3.**

While conservative commentator Glen Beck asserts that he is intent on restoring the Civil Rights Movement, in *Freedom Summer*, Bruce Watson reminds readers that the history and legacy of the movement that transformed America in the 1960s is considerably different from contemporary Tea Party politics. Watson, a journalist who has written fine histories of the labor movement and the Sacco-Vanzetti case, records the courageous efforts of college students in 1964 who risked their lives to assure that all citizens were accorded the promise of American life. With apologies to Tom Brokaw and those who battled fascism during the Second World War, an argument certainly can be made for these 1960s youth as "the greatest generation."

Although the focus of the book is upon young college students, predominantly white, who journeyed to Mississippi in the summer of 1964, Watson acknowledges that they joined an indigenous Southern movement pioneered by little known African-American activists and martyrs such as Herbert Lee. The black leadership of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was divided over the advisability of introducing white volunteers into rural Mississippi, but the arguments of Bob Moses carried the day and Freedom Summer was born. In early June 1964, SNCC veterans began training volunteers who would live with black Mississippians while working on voter registration drives and teaching at freedom schools.

Watson observes that most Mississippi whites perceived the idealistic volunteers to be agitators and leftists reminiscent of Yankee occupation during Reconstruction. The so-called invasion of Mississippi was met with considerable violence that Watson chronicles well. The murders of volunteers Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney in Philadelphia, Mississippi, are a focal point of the narrative. Although Moses agonized over the dangers to which the Northern college students were subjected, there is little doubt that the murders of white volunteers Goodman and Schwerner galvanized the attention of the nation's press on Mississippi. In developing the details of this case, Watson provides an informative rejoinder to the 1988 film *Mississippi Burning* which privileged the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the expense of grass roots black activism.

The hostility of many whites in Mississippi was anticipated, but the betrayal by President Lyndon Johnson and the Democratic establishment of Mississippi Freedom Democrats, who challenged segregationist Mississippi Democrats at the party's 1964 Atlantic convention, was unexpected and disillusioning. Despite the eloquent appeal of Fannie Lou Hamer, the Freedom Democrats, who risked bodily harm in holding their integrated party convention, were not seated. Watson laments the sense of betrayal, exhaustion, and increasing racial polarization between white and black SNCC members that characterized the movement as most white volunteers returned to college campuses in the fall of 1964, leaving black Mississippians to confront continuing racial violence. Watson, nevertheless, credits the volunteers of Freedom Summer with fighting for the realization of principles contained in Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.

Relying upon interviews and memoirs of volunteers, Watson emphasizes the stories of Chris Williams, Muriel Tillinghast, Fran O'Brien, and Fred Bright Winn. Watson notes that the Freedom Summer experience altered the lives of these volunteers, who sometimes suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome. Living in segregated Mississippi radicalized many of the young people who increasingly questioned the nation's commitment to democracy. Many volunteers have remained somewhat rootless, drifting through many jobs and relationships while retaining their commitment to get to a more integrated and egalitarian society.

Watson's account is well written, more engaging as journalism than analytical history. It is a text that might be employed in both university and more advanced high school curriculums. The achievement of the Mississippi Freedom Summer volunteers should be an inspiration to young people. In celebrating the triumph of a more democratic political process in Mississippi, however, readers must be reminded of the racial economic inequality that continues to characterize Mississippi and much of the United States. Watson might also expand his analysis of the impoverished conditions confronting poor Southern whites, making black progress threatening to many poor white Mississippians. Nevertheless, *Freedom Summer* is an inspirational story, well told by Watson, who reminds us that the history and legacy of the Civil Rights Movement extends well beyond the contemporary rhetoric of Glenn Beck. Today's Tea Party activists have hardly suffered from the indignities that the state of Mississippi visited upon its black citizens during the Jim Crow era.

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**G. John Ikenberry, ed. *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011. Pp. 640. Paper, \$102.49; ISBN 0-547-19828-0.**

In *American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays*, G. John Ikenberry, the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University,