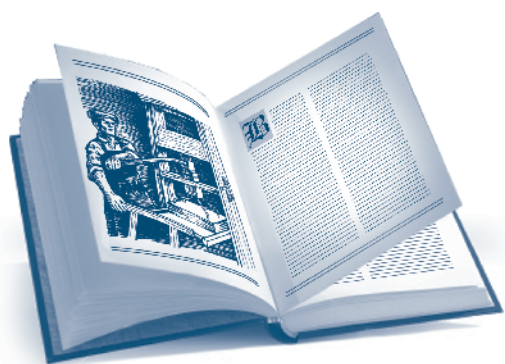


# BOOK REVIEWS



## Race and Renaissance: African Americans in Pittsburgh Since World War II

By Joe W. Trotter and Jared N. Day  
(Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010)  
pp. xxi + 328, \$29.95 cloth

*Race and Renaissance* is a well-written synthesis and an excellent introduction to African Americans' experiences in post-war Pittsburgh. Trotter (Giant Eagle Professor of History and Social Justice at Carnegie Mellon University) and Day (research fellow at the Center for the Study and Improvement of Regulation at Carnegie Mellon) have done an impressive job summarizing the secondary literature and generating an eminently readable one-volume history.

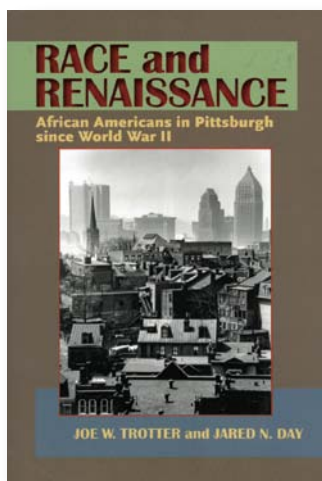
Along the way, they arrive at some interesting conclusions, such as, "The Pittsburgh experience suggests the emergence of grassroots civil rights struggles in the urban North at the same time and even earlier than some of the more dramatic encounters in the postwar urban South." By drawing (and

elegantly supporting) such a conclusion, Trotter and Day have placed themselves among a rising chorus of historians who, over the last two decades, have "discovered" that the Civil Rights movement had a distinct northern component as well.

For those interested in the story of black Pittsburgh, *Race and Renaissance* is an excellent starting point. The authors clearly have scoured the secondary literature and have done an excellent job weaving a coherent narrative from those disparate monographic strands. However, this is also one of the book's weaknesses; because it is a synthetic work, *Race and Renaissance* is constrained by the available secondary literature. In practice, this means that the authors painstakingly detail the African American labor market and black political and social activism but give less attention to black Pittsburgh's cultural and intellectual life. These quibbles are minor, however, and should not detract from an otherwise excellent volume. *Race and Renaissance* belongs on the bookshelf of anyone even

casually interested in Western Pennsylvania's history and is highly recommended for local libraries and historical societies.

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