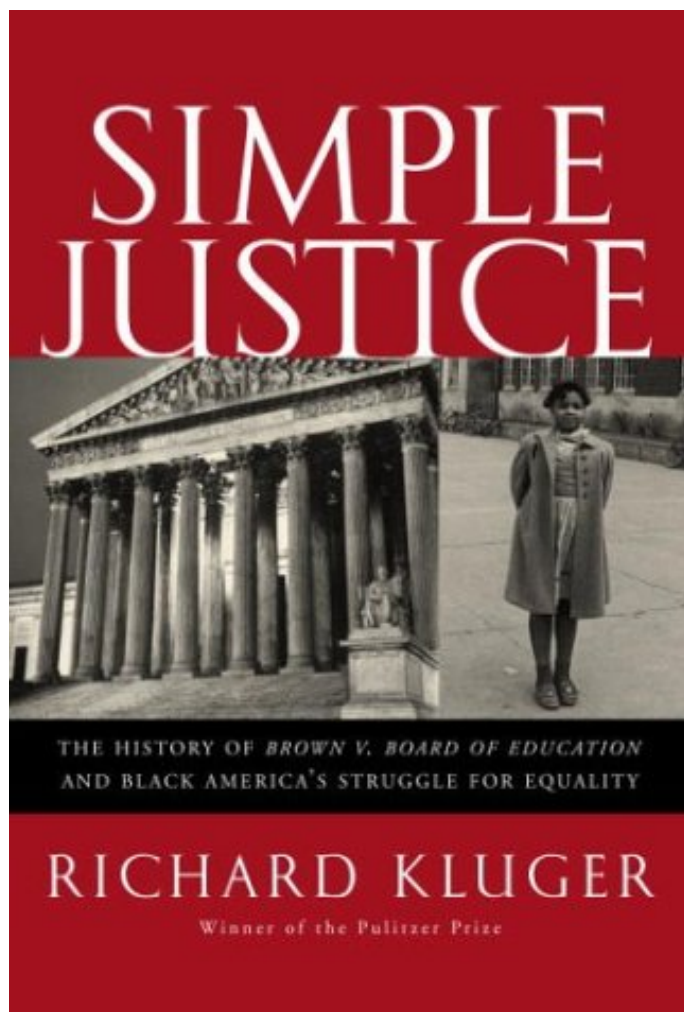


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**Richard Kluger**

**Simple Justice: the History of Brown V. Board of Education and  
Black America's Struggle for Equality**



Title: Simple Justice: the History of Brown V. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle for Equality

Author: Richard Kluger

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## Description

No decision by the Supreme Court of the United States has had a more profound effect on the conscience of the American people than its ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, on May 17, 1954. Stunning in its unanimity and moral clarity, the ruling transformed race relations in the United States by holding that the legally enforced separation of its black and white children in schools—and, by extension, of the races in all other public settings—was no longer tolerable. The Court's opinion climaxed a twenty-year struggle by a band of courageous African American plaintiffs and their resolute attorneys who labeled segregation for what it was, a caste system that betrayed U.S. ideals of human equality. Within months of the Justices' verdict, the civil-rights movement was under way.

*Simple Justice*, rich in personal drama and deft in connecting the complex social issues at stake, is the definitive account of the legal battle that after three centuries at last awarded black Americans equal protection under the law by finding the old "separate but equal" doctrine to be a contradiction. The forced separation of black schoolchildren solely because of their race, the nation's highest court declared, "generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone."

Pulitzer Prize—winner Richard Kluger explores the epochal *Brown* ruling from its legal and cultural roots, dwelling as well on the lives of those who led the long, bitter, and often disillusioning fight. Here is a sweeping narrative that treats the law not as some lofty abstraction but as an imperfect, and at times vexing, daily presence in a racially divided nation. We meet the men, women, and youngsters who overcame their fears and disadvantages to defy the mean spirit of Jim Crow. They were inspired by a remarkable group of black lawyers who practically invented civil-rights law by patiently assembling, in the courtroom and in the face of constant intimidation, a case so compelling that in the end it could not be denied.

Kluger brilliantly searches out and reveals how the *Brown* decision was shaped—behind closed doors—by the clash of principles and personalities within the Supreme Court over the three years the Justices considered the monumental case. The outcome reflected, above all, the unflinching will of Chief Justice Earl Warren, new to the Court but old in the ways of politics, who unified his robed brethren behind a simple but immensely powerful message to the nation.

For this revised edition of *Simple Justice*, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Court's ruling, the author has added a final chapter that weighs the far-reaching impact of the case on American society over the past half century and finds that while true racial harmony and equality continue to elude the United States, there is more reason for hopeful celebration than dark despair. This is a vitally important work of American history.

## Insightful reviews

Chris: Kluger could have paid better tribute to the men and women who devoted their lives to ending school segregation by structuring the book around the players, strategies, or legal issues involved. Instead this story gets churned through the author's politics and language/diatribes to

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that effect. The story of the NAACP is very detailed, and the legal defense fund lawyers come across as brilliant and devoted, so I would recommend it to anyone looking for an inspiring account of this (or any) legal crusade. Just expect to want to muzzle the author when you finish this 800 page book.

Kent Hayden: A very well written account of a famous civil rights court decision. The author uses half the book to review the path that led to *Brown vs the Board* and puts it in context with pre-Civil War, Reconstruction, 14 and 15 amendments, and the Jim Crow laws that watered down those amendments to unenforceable constitutional law hiding behind state vs federal jurisdiction

Greg Diamond: I was literally going to say that *Simple Justice* is the definitive history of the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* and the epic struggle for racial equality in this country -- but that's exactly what the book's description says, so there's no need to reiterate it. Instead I'll say this: if you want to see what *Brown* and the people and institutions behind it and opposing it and considering it and the social milieu that made it necessary were all about, you are in for a wonderful take, and here it is wonderfully told.

Isaac: Insightful and eye-catching examine the heritage of 1 of an important judgements ever reached by means of this nation's maximum court.

jeanette: This ebook is dense, however it is actually interesting. The textual content chronicles the historical past of *Brown v. The Board of Education*, yet starts off now not lengthy after the Civil War. Kluger is superb at weaving legalese with narration and the booklet is extremely interesting.

Tom: nice paintings at the many years lengthy fight to overturn criminal segregation in public schools. learn it in university and had a profound impact upon me - many do not comprehend or savour the tireless devotion of Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP felony safety Fund, or the clever management of Earl Warren.

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