



Outside the White House, March 12, 1965. Warren K. Leffler, photographer. Library of Congress.

American voting has historically been restricted on the basis of many things other than race, including gender, class, ethnicity, religion, age, and personal history. But race stands out. Only African Americans have had the right to vote granted and repeatedly taken away. Voting has been one aspect of a larger system of racist laws and customs, and the right to vote has been intertwined with the rights to good education, housing, and jobs. And that system has been backed by violence, terror, and intimidation.

Using nearly sixty images and maps, “A White Historian Explores Black Voting Rights” surveys this history, with emphasis on two moments of possibility – Reconstruction and the early 1960s – and on recent attacks on the right to vote.

In response to recent events, historian Susan Strasser seeks to serve people grappling with contemporary issues of race and racism. This is the third of a series of illustrated talks, “A White Historian Reads Black History.”