

# A WHITE HISTORIAN EXPLORES BLACK VOTING RIGHTS



Outside the White House, March 12, 1965. Photographer: Warren K. Leffler. 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.

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*.

*“The lecture so evocatively described our shared history and its ongoing legacies and struggles. Further, Susan Strasser models how a white person / scholar can struggle into owned history. She simultaneously ‘performs’ history and solidarity. I was struck that the audience was eager to say, ‘yes, and we need to look at even more history.’ What an affirmation of the rich vein she has tapped. We are sobered, delighted with and inspired by her work.”— Mark Greiner, former pastor, Takoma Park Presbyterian Church*

# A WHITE HISTORIAN READS BLACK HISTORY

Susan Strasser is an award-winning historian and a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. She has been praised by the *New Yorker* for “retrieving what history discards: the taken-for-granted minutiae of everyday life.” Her books include *Never Done: A History of American Housework*, *Satisfaction Guaranteed: The Making of the American Mass Market*, and *Waste and Want: A Social History of Trash*. Strasser is Richards Professor Emerita of American History at the University of Delaware.

She is available to lecture about two current projects: ***A White Historian Reads Black History***, a series of talks for community and religious groups; and ***Snake Oil Revisited***, an investigation of the history of medicinal plants in American culture.



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