

Southern Historical Association
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**Southern Historical Association announces
C. Vann Woodward Award Winner for 2020**

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association (SHA) is pleased to announce the winner of the 2020 C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize: Justin Mark Randolph, author of "Civil Rights Arrested: Black Freedom Movements and Mass Incarceration in Rural Mississippi, 1938 to 1980," written at Yale University (2019) under the direction of Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore and Beverly Gage.

Established in 2000, the Woodward Award is given annually to recognize the best dissertation in Southern history defended in the previous calendar year. The prize consists of a \$3,000 stipend provided by the Woodward Fund, a generous bequest left to the SHA by C. Vann Woodward.

In making their decision the committee notes that "Justin Randolph combines agriculture, civil rights, and law enforcement to disclose the political uses of region in northeastern Mississippi as a national story. With remarkable research he eloquently delineates the maintenance of white supremacy through means that ranged from imprisonment to cattle auctions, with a clear focus on the police state. By linking the numerous methods of white oppression with how rural people experienced the freedom struggle, Randolph's study will change the way historians interpret the 1930s through the 1970s."

About the SHA: The Southern Historical Association was organized on November 2, 1934 and charged with promoting an "investigative rather than a memorial approach" to southern history. Its objectives are the promotion of interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South's historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South. As a secondary purpose the Association fosters the teaching and study of all areas of history in the South. The Association holds an annual meeting, usually in the first or second week of November, and publishes *The Journal of Southern History*.

About C. Vann Woodward: Comer Vann Woodward is widely regarded as one of the most influential historians of his generation. Martin Luther King Jr. called his *Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955) "the historical bible of the Civil Rights Movement." Woodward won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1982 for *Mary Chesnut's Civil War*.

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