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Making Gullah: A History of Sapelo Islanders, Race, and the American Imagination

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instances of communities carrying out vigilante actions against “spies” and “slackers.”

In the later part of his study, David J. Bettez discusses how Kentucky targeted and recruited individual groups to meet specific labor needs as well as to deepen patriotic support for the war. Bettez notes that the state strategically leveraged prewar women’s social networks to promote a call for service and sacrifice. For example, Sallie Bruce, a leader of several women’s groups and a proponent of women’s suffrage, was selected to chair the Kentucky Division of the Women’s Committee. Committee members themselves mobilized their personal and professional networks to promote food conservation, war work, and the Liberty Loan campaign. Bettez also found that the Kentucky Division forcefully expanded its charge to include child labor laws, compulsory education, and children’s health and well-being issues. In the case of African Americans, Jim Crow laws and white supremacist violence complicated calls for unity. Despite segregation laws and police surveillance, Bettez found that African-Americans in Kentucky did not hesitate to hold patriotic assemblies, raise monies for war relief, work in war industries, and serve in the military with distinction. Mobilization efforts in Kentucky also included enlisting churches and institutions of higher education in maintaining public morale. In the case of colleges and universities, they also were asked to provide curriculum for the training of officers and other specialized war work.

The shift to a wartime economy in Kentucky required state and federal officials to adopt a more interventionist stance in the planning and production of food and industrial goods. Faced with a severe agricultural labor shortage, the state of Kentucky promoted the recruitment of young boys, women, students, and non-essential workers. Additionally, they encouraged the hiring of recent immigrants and African-Americans to work in its coal fields. With a rapid growth in coal production, workers demanded higher wages and safer working conditions. To minimize the disruption of wartime coal production, the state and federal government intervened to quell labor strife with the use of labor mediators or in some cases the deployment of National Guard troops.

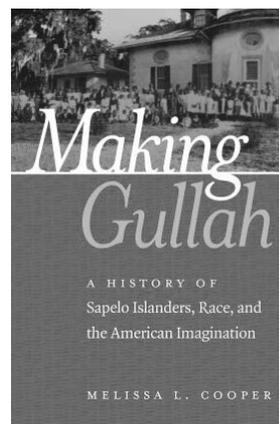
The author finds that implicit within the state’s wartime appeal to service was a promise to honor and remember those who heroically fought and died. Long before the November 1918 Armistice was announced, civic and government leaders in Kentucky were considering how to best remember the sacrifices of the fallen. Like other American states, Kentucky sought to construct war monuments as well as document the mobilization and the actual conflict. Each county in the state was asked to create a history of its contributions in support of the war.

David J. Bettez’s *Kentucky and the Great War* provides the reader with a detailed study of home front mobilization. I believe that it is a significant contribution to the historiography of World War One. Bettez effectively shows how the effort to equip and sustain the American military expeditionary force required extraordinary efforts

and sacrifices of its civilian home front population. Furthermore, he convincingly demonstrates how a modern industrial war requires a significant change in the relationship between the state and its citizens.

Keith Phelan Gorman
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Making Gullah A History of Sapelo Islanders, Race, and the American Imagination. Melissa L. Cooper. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2017. ISBN 978-4696-3268-1 (pbk., \$29.95); ISBN 978-1-4696-3267-4 (hardcover, \$85); ISBN 978-1-4696-3269-8 (ebook, \$19.99). 304 p.



Growing up in the South and having opportunities to visit and vacation on the South Carolina and Georgia Coasts, I developed a fascination with the “Gullah people, Gullah language, Gullah arts and Gullah music”. Melissa L. Cooper presents an historical and current snapshot of Sapelo Island’s Gullah evolution. She extolls today’s Sapelo Island native peoples as dedicated to their island home. Through a series of determined passion for the land, passion for their families, and a passionate refusal to be considered as slaves and less than citizens of their coastal land.

While facing the invasion of wealthy entrepreneurs, real estate tycoons, and plantation owners who saw them as slaves akin to Africans to be bought and sold, Gullah peoples endeavored to continue to buy and form parcels of land on Sapelo for their families and friends. Always the Gullah continued their traditions of arts and a separate language.

Today, as Cooper points out, each year in October, thousands of visitors flock to Sapelo Island to see the festivities of an annual Cultural Day. Here Gullah people present music, dancing, artistry, dialectic readings in the Gullah tradition. This is a fund raising event sponsored by the Sapelo Cultural and Revitalization Society. It is estimated that the sweet grass baskets and rag dolls are great treats sought by visitors. Local cuisine is offered on the grounds of the Farmers’ Alliance Hall.

This book is a fascinating read and one that has very helpful reference resources. For anyone interested in the Gullah and their cultural development on Sapelo Island, I recommend this book.

There is a number of black and white illustrations helpful to one wanting to see the early Gullah peoples' lifestyles and family homes and schools. Acknowledgement begin on page 215 and the Index continues to page 279. This is a good selection for an academic library or a Southern history collection.

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Florida Soul: From Ray Charles to KC and the Sunshine Band. John Capouya. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2017. ISBN 13: 978-0-8130-5452-0. \$24.95 408 p.



I admit to a fascination with soul music, and John Capouya's new book "Florida Soul: From Ray Charles to KC and the Sunshine Band" grabbed my attention. I quickly learned Florida claims many talented musicians in "the world of R&B, soul, funk, and disco".

As I began to scan and enjoy the chapters of Capouya's book, I was captivated by the personal stories of the lives of musicians like Ray Charles, Noble "Thin Man" Watts, Sam Moore, James Purify, Linda Lydell, and Jackie Moore. Each life sketch is written to amaze and delight us. As readers we gain insights into the deep and unique talents of these famous Florida men and women. Along with revealed personality characteristics that are humorous and engaging, Capouya spotlights life stories with the personal photographs and shots of "hang outs", performance places, and recording sessions.

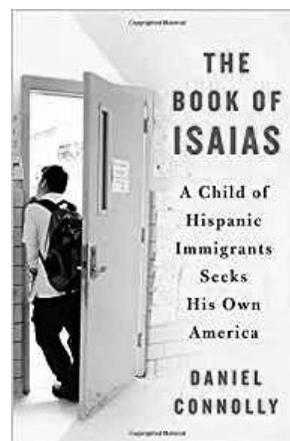
Capouya's story telling style introduces us to 20 Florida musicians and their fellow artists. You will learn the poignant life story of Ray Charles spread over Greenville, Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa. Another story to enjoy is of Harry Wayne Casey of KC and the Sunshine Band who credits his love of music and the beginnings of his life journey to his mother, a Miami housewife. "She "loved to dance and was such a presence in Overtown clubs that

famous musicians came to their home to talk and visit with her. His father, the owner of a furniture store, had no interest in music of any kind."(p.320).

I recommend this book for academic, public and music libraries. A total of 396 pages contain an Epilogue, Acknowledgments, Notes, a Bibliography and an Index. Very good fact filled and strong references tool for researchers.

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The Book of Isaias: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants Seeks His Own America. Daniel Connolly. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2016. ISBN: 9781250083067 (hardback). \$26.99. 258 p.



Isaias Ramos is a dreamer. Eighteen, a senior in high school, he dreams of his future and what lies ahead. A smart student with good grades, determination, and an insatiable curiosity, he's the perfect candidate for college. But Isaias is also a DREAMER, his standing recognized by the failed Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010. As a child of undocumented Mexican immigrants who came to the United States when he was seven, he has no way to obtain citizenship in the only country he has ever really known.

Daniel Connolly, author of *The Book of Isaias: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants*, gives these children a voice, tracking the life of one undocumented Latino high school senior in Memphis, Tennessee. Connolly begins in the summer of 2012, nine months before graduation, and narrates Isaias' story through the summer of 2015. A journalist by profession and Memphis native, Connolly presents a compelling case for these undocumented youths and is unsparing in describing the harsh choices these students face when confronting their future.

Isaias is a talented teen. Captain of the school trivia team, member of a rock band and gifted student, Isaias' teachers urge him to apply to top tier universities, believing his grades and scholastic scores are high enough to win