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## The War on Poverty in Mississippi: From Massive Resistance to New Conservatism

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Though I was drawn to Frédérique Spill's new book, *The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writings*, I did not know the richness of her observations and analyses would uncover unique clues to Ron Rash the "person". Particularly the Appendix (pp. 191 -200) is a fascinating and delightful look at Ron Rash the "person". From questions such as "what is your favorite color; your favorite flavor; your favorite flower; your favorite hero in fiction; what is the book you re-read most frequently; your chief characteristic; your idea of happiness; your idea of misery." On a serious note, Spill asks, "how do you come up with the titles of your books?; now comes a fishy question: what about the overwhelming presence of trout in Southern Writing; in your work, trout reoccur whatever form of writing you pick up, it seems to me a metaphor of resilience."

I recommend this excellent piece of research and writing for readers of college and university level collections, particularly anyone with a passion for "landscape and fiction" as I describe Ron's writings. 280 pages, with Notes, Bibliography and Index 225-273.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS*

**The War on Poverty in Mississippi: From Massive Resistance to New Conservatism.** Emma J. Folwell Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2020. ISBN 978-1-4968-2739-5 (Hdbk: \$99); 978-1-4968-2744-9 (Pbk.: \$30) 312 p.



**THE WAR ON POVERTY IN  
MISSISSIPPI**

*From Massive Resistance to New Conservatism*

EMMA J. FOLWELL

In long ago school days, I remember spelling bees where I was always happy if one word I was to spell for the teacher was "Mississippi". I loved the sound of the word and enjoyed saying it. I knew little about the State of Mississippi but in those days I had an imagination created by stories I read of grand houses, beautiful ladies, riverboats, and magnolia trees. Such was my world as a 9 or 10 year old girl.

Crashing into reality later in my life and removing my rose colored glasses, I learned of a different Mississippi—one that suffered from abject poverty, citizen abuse and suffering, anger and overt discrimination between the peoples and institutions within the state of Mississippi. In her new book, *The War on Poverty in Mississippi: From*

*Massive Resistance to New Conservatism*, Emma J. Folwell leads us to see how attempts by governmental agencies, churches, and philanthropic organizations to right the "poverty" of Mississippi was at best minimally successful spanning the years of the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Folwell helps us to see that the supposed War on Poverty actually turned out to be the War on the War on Poverty as both reformers and segregationist citizens of Mississippi battled for change or for enforcing the status quo.

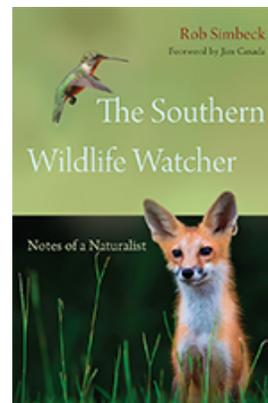
On page one of her Introduction, Folwell excerpts for us: "A paper for pariotic (sic) citizens," was a flyer distributed in the yards of Head Start teachers in Yalobusha County in the late 1960s. Its purpose was to discourage white children from attending the newly formed Head Start schools—a major effort to bring care and education to children in Mississippi. The flyer "declared that 'the worst thing is to mix with the (n---rs) by teaching in (N---) schools, and espailly (sic) those who are teaching in Head Start'". (Page 3)

Folwell challenges us to search for a meaning of "new conservatism" through the evolution and development of powers accrued to white men and black women in Mississippi. These individuals appear to have found comity through sharing leadership positions in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Their goal became to gain or to regain power and over time to subdue poverty in Mississippi.

Of great interest to explore is Folwell's Chapter Three "The Ku Klux Klan and the War on Poverty", page 72-99. Also see Folwell's final chapter, *The Demise on the War on Poverty*, page 196-211. There are a few black and white photos and some helpful map illustrations. You will find a Section Notes, a Bibliography and an Index. Recommended for public, school and academic libraries.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS*

**The Southern Wildlife Watcher: Notes of a Naturalist.** Rob Simbeck. Foreword by Jim Casada. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-164336-092-8. 168 p. \$18.99 (Pbk.)



This work is about animals and plants of the South. The author resides in Nashville, Tennessee. He has written