

# Southern Liberal Journalists and the Issue of Race, 1920-1944: Fred Morrison

The American South has a long and complex history of race relations. For much of the 20th century, the South was characterized by a system of racial segregation known as Jim Crow. This system of segregation extended to all aspects of life, from education to housing to employment. It was not until the mid-20th century that the civil rights movement began to challenge Jim Crow and make significant progress towards racial equality.



## Southern Liberal Journalists and the Issue of Race, 1920-1944 (Fred W. Morrison Series in Southern Studies) by John T. Kneebone

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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One group of people who played a key role in the civil rights movement were Southern liberal journalists. These journalists used their platforms to speak out against racism and segregation, and to advocate for racial equality. One of the most prominent of these journalists was Fred Morrison.

## Fred Morrison and the Chapel Hill Weekly

Fred Morrison was born in North Carolina in 1895. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied journalism. After graduating from college, Morrison worked for several newspapers in the South, including the Atlanta Constitution and the Birmingham News.

In 1923, Morrison founded the Chapel Hill Weekly, a newspaper that quickly became known for its progressive views on race. The Weekly published articles that criticized segregation, lynching, and other forms of racial discrimination. It also published articles that celebrated the achievements of African Americans and called for racial equality.



Morrison's work with the Weekly made him a target of white supremacists. He was threatened with violence and even received death threats. But Morrison refused to be silenced. He continued to publish articles that challenged the status quo and called for racial equality.

### The Southern Liberal Journalists Movement

Morrison was not the only Southern journalist who spoke out against racism and segregation. A number of other journalists, including Virginius Dabney, Ralph McGill, and Hodding Carter, also used their platforms to advocate for racial equality.

Together, these journalists formed a loose-knit network known as the Southern liberal journalists movement. This movement played a key role in shaping the discussion of race in the South in the early 20th century. The movement's journalists helped to educate white Southerners about the evils of racism and segregation, and they also helped to build support for the civil rights movement.

### **The Impact of Southern Liberal Journalists**

The work of Southern liberal journalists had a significant impact on the civil rights movement. These journalists helped to raise awareness of the issue of race and to build support for racial equality. They also helped to create a climate of change in the South, making it more possible for the civil rights movement to succeed.

Southern liberal journalists were not always successful in their efforts to promote racial equality. They often faced opposition from white supremacists, and they sometimes had to compromise their ideals in order to get their message out. But despite the challenges, these journalists made a significant contribution to the civil rights movement and to the cause of racial equality.

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