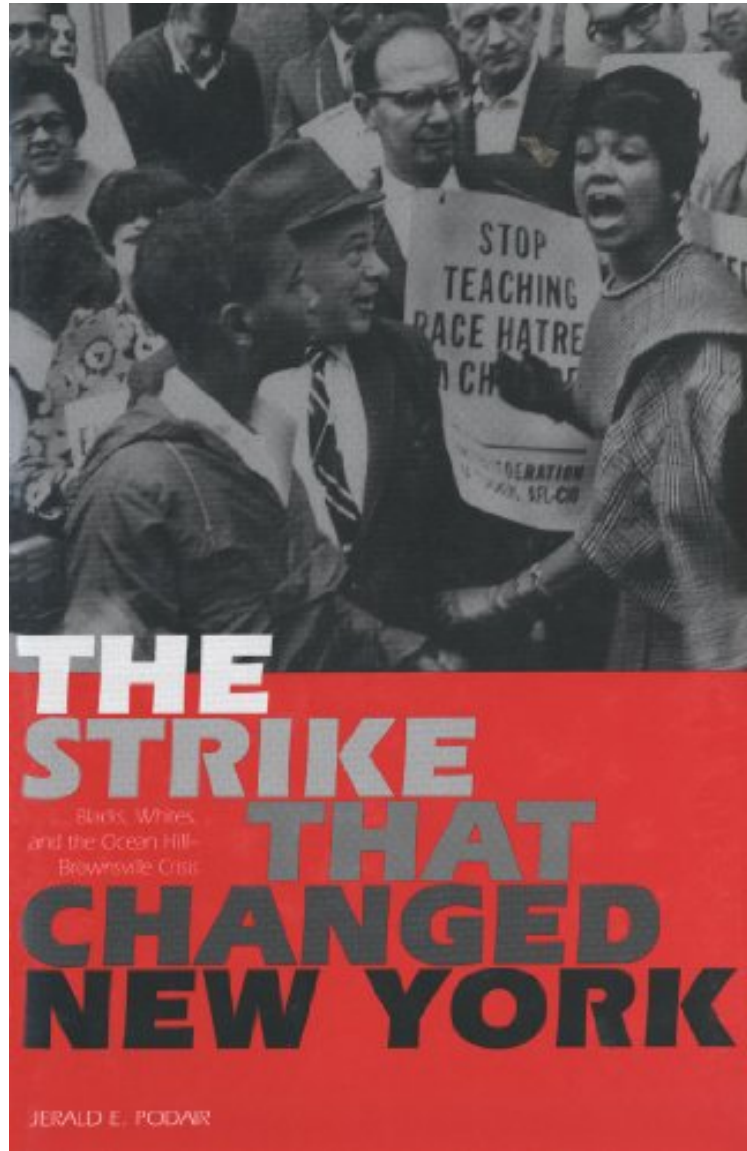


The Strike That Changed New York: Blacks, Whites, and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Crisis

Professor Jerald E. Podair

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Professor Jerald E. Podair : The Strike That Changed New York: Blacks, Whites, and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Crisis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Strike That Changed New York: Blacks, Whites, and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Crisis:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The New York Schools;Before and After the StrikeBy Lorraine FoxAs a former teacher, now retired and a parent of small children who could not attend school during that time, I was

on the picket line with the UFT (United Federation of Teachers) during the strike. Having disclosed that I can say that the author did an outstanding job of researching and reporting what led up to the strike and how things changed. The teachers were wholeheartedly against the strike in Ocean Hill Brownsville and against Community Control. Teachers and principals were thrown out if they weren't black. There was a lot of prejudice. The author carefully explained who the players were; the mayor, community control advocates, school superintendents and supervisors. I recognized and remembered all those names. Those teachers and parents and supervisors who lived during that time will appreciate this book. Those who are too young to have experienced it or didn't live in New York City can learn a lot of history from it. Lorraine Fox 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bob Excellent - well researched .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A history major. By Customer A good book that focuses on an important period in New York's history.

On 9th May 1968, junior high school teacher Fred Nauman received a letter that would change the history of New York City. It informed him that he had been fired from his job. Eighteen other educators in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville area of Brooklyn received similar letters that day. The dismissed educators were white. The local school board that fired them was predominantly African-American. The crisis that the firings provoked became the most racially divisive moment in the city in more than a century, sparking three teachers' strikes and increasingly angry confrontations between black and white New Yorkers at bargaining tables, on picket lines, and in the streets. This study revisits the Ocean Hill-Brownsville crisis - a watershed in modern New York City race relations. Jerald Podair connects the conflict with the sociocultural history of the city and explores its legacy. The work presents a sobering tale of racial misunderstanding and fear, a New York story with national implications.

In this fascinating volume, Podair . . . brilliantly chronicles the events and far-reaching impact of the infamous, racially charged 1968 teacher strike that shut down the New York City public schools. . . . Podair's vivid account of this debilitating breakdown of trust reads more like tragedy than history. It offers great insight into the racial separatism that school systems nationwide struggle with to this day. David Ruenzel, *Teacher Magazine* Jerald Podair's new book does an admirable job of telling all sides of the story itself in a clear and compelling fashion. Richard D. Kahlenberg, *Washington Monthly* Podair does a fine job of untangling the various threads of this complex story, which illuminates the nuances of racial politics in the post civil rights era within the context of the pluralistic concerns and conflicts arising in a key northern city. John A. Kirk, *American Studies* Podair deftly weaves a complicated story about class and race, labor and civil rights. . . . There are no faultless heroes or thoroughly evil villains here only human beings struggling to make sense of their world and achieve justice as they understand it. This quality distinguishes Podair's book from many other civil rights and labor histories. Highly recommended." Choice "[This] well-written and admirably balanced book will most likely stand as the definitive account of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville crisis for some time. . . . Future scholars of New York history, as well as those who want to understand 1960s American, will find Podair's engrossing and judicious book indispensable. Vincent J. Cannato, *New York History* An engrossing, astute, and scrupulously fair book on the bitter, school-based racial conflicts that shocked and transformed New York City in the 1960s and 1970s. Jerald Podair has finally given those conflicts and the city in which they occurred the history that they deserve. Gary Gerstle, author of *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century* Podair's telling of the racially polarizing Ocean Hill Brownsville crisis is outstanding: clearly written, deeply researched, and admirably balanced. James T. Patterson, *Brown University* The eruption over the Ocean Hill-Brownsville school district in 1968 was a gut-wrenching affair that forever changed the politics of race and liberalism in New York City. Only with the passage of three decades, and with the arrival of a greatly talented and fair-minded historian, is it possible to begin making sense of what happened. No one will agree with everything in Jerald Podair's excellent book. But everyone interested in comprehending the furies of the American 1960s will need to read and reflect on it. Sean Wilentz, *Dayton-Stockton* Professor of History and Director of the Program in American Studies, Princeton University This well-conceived and deeply researched book raises serious, difficult questions. Jerald Podair advances our knowledge of the emergence of two New Yorks one white, one black and opens the door to potentially illuminating and undoubtedly painful, discussions. Arnold R. Hirsch, *University of New Orleans* "From the Back Cover" Podair's telling of the racially polarizing Ocean Hill-Brownsville crisis is outstanding: clearly written, deeply researched, and admirably balanced." -- James T. Patterson, *Brown University* About the Author Jerald E. Podair is assistant professor of history at Lawrence University. He received the Allan Nevins Prize from the Society of American Historians in 1998.