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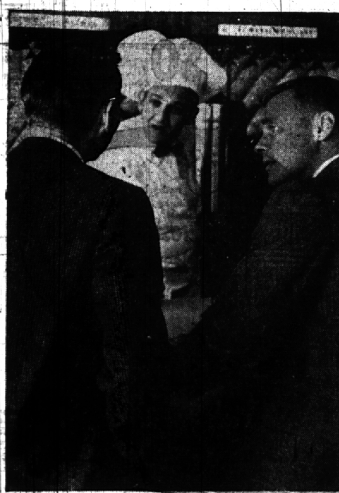
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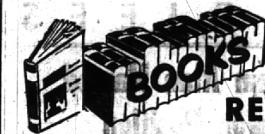
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## and REVIEWS

### The Southern Heritage

By James McBride Dabbs.  
270pp. New York. Alfred A. Knopf. \$4.00.

Reviewed by  
**SALLY PARSONS**

"If the economic and political order of the South had changed slowly, its social customs would have changed easily with it. But because that order disappeared in a stormy night, the South still clutches to its heart the things it said and did in that lost yesterday."

This mild, analytical, somewhat poetic statement is typical of the philosophy to be found in James McBride Dabbs' first book. It is a truly significant work because Dabbs—a dyed-in-the-wool Southerner deeply proud of his heritage—is nevertheless able to be acutely critical of the often unreasoning way in which the South has acted. The book consists of a thorough study of the relative values of slavery, segregation and de-segregation. After establishing some historical perspective by going back to the importation of the Negroes from Africa, Dabbs concludes that "we built our society upon slavery... slavery was established by violence and maintained by the threat of it."

HOWEVER, on the credit side, the author finds that slavery played a large part in creating values that the South has long cherished—hospitality, leisure, an interest in personal relations, manners and com-

pany. Dabbs discovers little to commend the philosophy of segregation under which the South has lived for the past 83 years. He notes that the segregationists rationalize their stand on the basis of the following "fears": fear of cultural deterioration through unrestricted contact of whites and negroes, fear that de-segregation of the schools would lower the intellectual and moral standards of the white pupils, fear of racial amalgamation or interbreeding, and fear that given a chance the negro will retaliate for the wrongs done to him.

In an area so opposed to change, however, as the conservative South, Dabbs feels that the underlying opposition to de-segregation may more likely stem from a desire to continue what has simply become a customary action. De-segregation would undoubtedly take away some of the economic and status benefits possessed by the whites and, perhaps even more important, would shatter the symbol of white supremacy and control—the only part of her glorious past the South was able to salvage from the devastation of the Civil War.

Dabbs believes the real crux of the problem is "our unfortunate tendency to see segregation as a symbol of a great and lost past. (This is) the chief example of the kind of error we make as we stand, today, between the past and the future: we are driving blindly into the future with minds blurred by images of the past."

What of the future? asks Dabbs. As the South changes from agrarianism to industrialism he feels it is fighting a losing battle in attempting to keep "a changeless social order in a changing world." Segregation is rapidly crumbling under the influence of five powerful forces: 1) the law, 2) the democratic spirit, 3) the pioneering spirit, 4) industrialization and 5) the Christian spirit.

Dabbs' ability to see all sides of the issue has produced a very powerful and informative book. Only an enlightened Southerner could truly understand the deep-rooted feelings of both negroes and whites, North and South.

One hopes "The Southern Heritage" reaches a wide enough audience in both North and South to produce a more tolerant attitude on both sides.

### Eisenhower: Captive Hero

By Marquis J. Childs. 300pp.  
New York. Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$4.75.

Reviewed by  
**Robin Bahr**

In his "Introduction Marquis Childs states, "While it is too early for any summary estimation of Eisenhower... surely it is possible to make a tentative examination of Eisenhower, the hero and the captive. It is time to ask what Eisenhower has meant to us, what we have come with him, and where we may be going."

The author concentrates his examination on Eisenhower, the "hero and captive," first establishing

and defining what he calls the Eisenhower "myth," tracing its growth, and finally analyzing its effect on Eisenhower and on the country.

According to Childs, to be a hero has been in this case, a double-edged sword. During his first term, it allowed the people to blind an eye when Eisenhower acted less than heroic, venturing their disappointment on Nixon and the Republican party, as evidenced by the 1960 defeat of the Republicans in Congress in the face of Eisenhower's overwhelming victory.

HOWEVER, as the second term wore on, the halo inevitably tarnished. It became clear that Eisenhower was a fallible human being and thus his fall from the pedestal he and will continue to be proportionately greater.

There was nothing in Eisenhower's background or early military career that either indicated or prepared him for the magnitude of his future role. He was always popular, but was little better than an average student. Promotions were slow in coming; his duties consisted mostly of paper work.

In 1941, as an obscure Lt. Colonel, Eisenhower was sent to Washington to aid General Marshall in drafting defense plans. After several months, Marshall, then chief of staff, selected Eisenhower as a soldier without any combat experience—to be allied commander for the European theater. Marshall has never publicly explained his choice, but to some degree it must have been motivated by Eisenhower's outstanding ability to generate and inspire confidence and com-

mand. In view of the antagonistic fears and doubts among the allies, this was as necessary for allied success as arms and men. This point marks the inception of the Eisenhower myth. The Action under which the South has lived for the past 83 years. He notes that the segregationists rationalize their stand on the basis of the following "fears": fear of cultural deterioration through unrestricted contact of whites and negroes, fear that de-segregation of the schools would lower the intellectual and moral standards of the white pupils, fear of racial amalgamation or interbreeding, and fear that given a chance the negro will retaliate for the wrongs done to him.

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TO A MUCH lesser extent, the author analyzes Eisenhower as president. Few could disagree with

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Child's conclusion—that Eisenhower has been a weak president, partly because of his utter lack of preparation and largely because of his own interpretation of the office. Nor could I personally disagree with the author's analysis of Eisenhower's conspicuous failure in Indo China, in the Middle East, in Little Rock (where he was forced to action because of earlier inaction). But as a lasting and meaningful

appraisal of Eisenhower as president, Childs' appraisal falls short because it is not thorough. Such an appraisal requires an examination of the entire record in great detail against the background of the fantastically complicated times. However Mr. Childs, a veteran Washington columnist, has realized his hope of "putting into somewhat clearer perspective the relationship between Eisenhower the man and his exalted reputation."

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