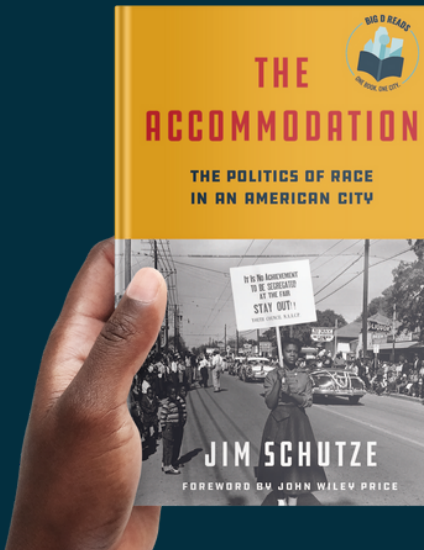




DALLAS READER'S GUIDE



The book you hold in your hand is a conversation starter. A conversation that should include diverse voices and perspectives and space for vulnerability, courage, and reflection. This is an opportunity to learn from one another and encourage others to tell their stories. We encourage you to read this book in community with others.

The purpose of this guide is to encourage residents of Dallas to understand and acknowledge the history of race and politics in Dallas. This guide will assist in educating newcomers about the racial history of Dallas to inform their understanding of their new home and spark a conversation between native and new residents to create a more equitable and inclusive community.

1. Discuss the book in relation to the experiences of those who are from Dallas and those who are transplants. Was the information in the book surprising to both those from here and those not? How have your experiences been similar or different? Can you reflect on how reading this book has reshaped (if at all) your understanding of the Dallas you know today?
2. In a 2015 article regarding its resurgence, *D Magazine* called *The Accommodation* “The Most Dangerous Book in Dallas.”¹ After reading it, do you agree? What about the book’s contents made it so controversial?
3. What is your understanding of the oft-used phrase “The Dallas Way”? Is there a version of the Dallas Way that could be more inclusive?
4. What do you think Schutze meant by “the civil rights movement largely passed over Dallas?” (v)
 - What examples have you observed or heard?
 - Do you agree with this? Was it just different?
5. In what ways has gentrification in the last 30 years reflected the past of the “White Settlement” in Dallas?
6. Is there a building or neighborhood in Dallas that you remember but it is no longer there? What can you do to promote the living memory of Dallas?
7. In what ways is the Freedman’s Cemetery a visible artifact reminder of the histories covered in *The Accommodation*? How has the City of Dallas benefited from this sordid past? How has it honored those most impacted?
8. Discuss some of the historical legal decisions and judgments covered in the book and how they continue to affect the Dallas community today—and the nation.
9. What are potential consequences of not discussing historical and current racism?

¹ <https://www.dmagazine.com/publications/d-magazine/2015/may/the-accommodation-jim-schutze-dangerous-dallas-book/>