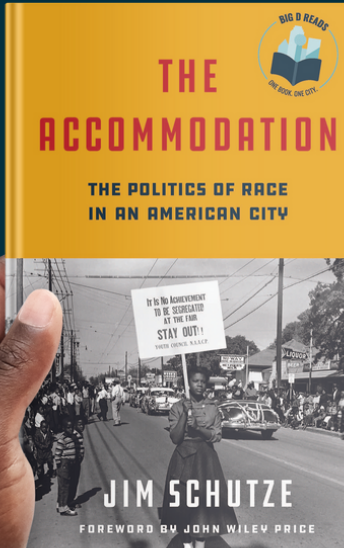


JIM SCHUTZE'S | *THE ACCOMMODATION*

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 inspire readers to seek information about historical events that impact the people and places we live among, to help heal and repair harm that has been done particularly to those oppressed by historical and systemic racism and discrimination, and to be a catalyst for change in our own communities. The questions below offer a point of entry to these difficult but necessary processes.

1. The subtitle of *The Accommodation* is *The Politics of Race in an American City*. Before reading this book, how familiar were you with the details of Dallas's or your own city's racial history? What surprised you most that you didn't know before? How does Dallas's experience compare with that of other cities in Texas and across the United States?
2. In 1986, *The Accommodation* was literally pulled off the presses the day it would be printed, after Dallas business leaders caught wind of what it would say. What do you think would be different today if this book had been published as planned? What are the consequences of not examining your own city's history?
3. What major groups were involved in the events outlined in the book? What were their motives? How did their motives cause them to participate or behave in the way that they did?
4. Is there such a thing as the good of the "whole" city? Who benefits?
5. Who holds power in a city? How do they get power? Who has the power to make change?
6. Whose voices do you think are missing from the book?
7. "The past is never dead. It's not even past," William Faulkner famously wrote. To what degree are the book's contents history? What lives on today? What has and hasn't changed?
8. What actions do you want to take after reading this book?