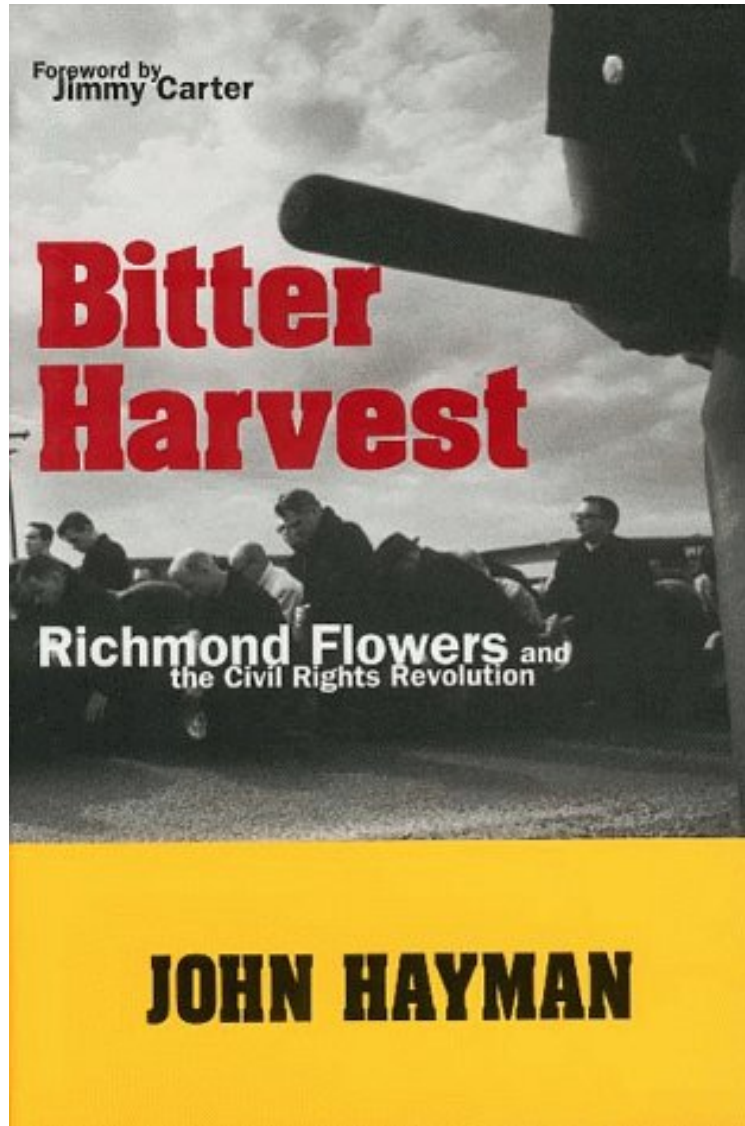


(Free download) Bitter Harvest: Richmond Flowers and the Civil Rights Revolution

## Bitter Harvest: Richmond Flowers and the Civil Rights Revolution

*John Hayman*

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**John Hayman : Bitter Harvest: Richmond Flowers and the Civil Rights Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bitter Harvest: Richmond Flowers and the Civil Rights Revolution:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Show Me a Hero and I Will Write You a Tragedy - F. Scott Fitzgerald By stoic Bitter Harvest recounts the interesting story of Richmond Flowers, who served as Alabama's Attorney General during the Civil Rights movement (1963-1967). In sharp contrast to almost all of Alabama's other leaders, Flowers tried to uphold the law. Flowers attempted, without success, to prosecute white Alabamans for killing

Civil Rights workers. Flowers' story is fascinating and keeps the pages turning. Flowers grew up in a wealthy Alabama family, had a very promising start to his political career, and had no plans to become a martyr for Civil Rights. For his efforts as Attorney General, Flowers received the enmity of many whites and his political prospects withered. Flowers ran for governor in 1966 and lost in a landslide. In 1969, he was convicted of corruption and he subsequently spent 18 months in federal prison. (Jimmy Carter later pardoned Flowers). (Interestingly, Flowers' son - Richmond Jr. - was a star athlete who played football for the Dallas Cowboys and the New York Giants). While Flowers' story is interesting, *Bitter Harvest* has some shortcomings. Author John Hayman spends too many pages recounting national events that had little to do with Flowers; at times, it seems as though Flowers has disappeared from his own biography. An unsatisfying aspect of *Bitter Harvest* is that no one can state with certainty whether Flowers' prison sentence was deserved or politically motivated. Flowers certainly does everything he can to blame his conviction on others; but the unanswered questions will nag *Bitter Harvest's* readers. In the end, *Bitter Harvest* is an interesting character study of one man's response to the challenges of the Civil Rights movement. It is well worth reading. (Another interesting book along these lines is *The Cost of Courage* about former Alabama congressman Carl Elliot).

Authorized biography of the moderate Alabama attorney general during the first George Wallace administration. Flowers prosecuted the killers of Viola Liuzzo and other civil rights martyrs but was vilified for his efforts. Winner of the C. J. Coley Prize for historical writing.

From *Library Journal* Writing for a general audience, Hayman, a retired college teacher and author, focuses on Richard Flowers's political career, especially as Alabama attorney general (1962-66), in relation to the Civil Rights movement. Hayman concentrates on three major themes. First, the Civil Rights movement is central to post-World War II Southern history. Second, the movement morally challenged Flowers and other politically moderate white Southerners to overcome racial segregation. And third, despite the support of Flowers and others for racial justice, a failure in civic leadership occurred when many Alabama politicians encouraged racial violence. From his extensive interviews with Flowers, along with accounts from newspapers and other sources, including the works of highly acclaimed historians like C. Vann Woodward, Hayman presents an interesting biography that critically assesses one white Southerner who took a stand against white supremacy. Recommended for public and academic libraries. Charles L. Lumpkins, Bloomsburg Univ. Lib., Pa. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.