



A Day Late and a Dollar Short: High Hopes and Deferred Dreams in Obama's "'Post-Racial'" America

Jon Jeter, Robert Pierre

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Could this be the final victory for civil rights, or the first of many to come?

When Henry Louis Gates spoke out about his ridiculous arrest, he stated a truth few Americans—including President Obama—are eager to discuss: there is no such thing as a post-racial America. When it comes to race, the United States has come a long way, but not far enough and not fast enough. Every day, we cope with casual racism, myriad indignities, institutional obstacles, post-racial nonsense, and peers bent on self-destruction. The powers that be, meanwhile, always seem to arrive with their apologies and redress a day late and a dollar short.

This book takes a close look at the lives of African-Americans from diverse backgrounds as Obama's victory comes to play a personal role in each of their lives. Every tale delves into the complex issues we will have to deal with going forward:

- The many challenges young black men face, such as subtle persistent racism
- The stagnation of blacks vis ? vis whites
- Widespread black participation in the military despite widespread anti-war sentiments
- The decline of unions even as organized labor becomes the primary vehicle for black progress
- The challenges of interracial families
- The lack of good schools or healthcare for the poor
- The inability of well-off blacks to lift up others

Barack Obama will deliver his first official State of the Union address in January 2010, and *A Day Late and a Dollar Short* will deliver an altogether different picture of the way things really under the first black president.

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