

Name

Professor

Subject

Date

Book Review: Fire in A Canebrake Instruction

Fire in a Canebrake by Laura Wexler is an important book about one of the worst mass lynchings in American history. The book is based on events in 1947 in Georgia and is a powerful and harrowing read. The book is based on actual events and tells the story of Greenwood and its residents. The book is a powerful and moving account of the town's history, the people who lived there, and the events that led up to the fire. Wexler does an excellent job of bringing the reader into the world of lynching, and she does not shy away from the brutal details. This is an important book that sheds light on a dark moment in American history, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in civil rights or American history.

In "Fire in a Canebrake," *lynching is discussed* as a way to control African Americans and keep them in fear. The book describes how white mobs would terrorize black communities, often burning down their homes and churches. Lynchings were often public events, with crowds of white people cheering as a black person was killed. The book argues that lynching was used as a tool of white supremacy and a significant factor in the oppression of African Americans. The author, Laura Wexler, goes into great depth about the history of lynching and how it has affected the lives of African Americans. She also discusses how lynching is still a problem today, even though it is not as prevalent as it once was. Wexler does an excellent job of explaining the complex issue of lynching and its impact on the black community.

Lynching was a practice that was often used to intimidate and control African Americans, and it was challenging to prosecute because the perpetrators were often not known. Additionally,

many people were afraid to come forward and testify against the lynchers for fear of retaliation. There *were several reasons why it was so difficult to prosecute lynching*, as discussed in "Fire in a Canebrake." First, there was a general lack of will by law enforcement and prosecutors to go after the perpetrators of these crimes. Second, the victims of lynching were often poor and black, and their testimony was not always believed. Third, the perpetrators of lynching were often well-connected and had the community's support. Finally, there was a general feeling that lynching was a "necessary evil" to keep the peace and maintain order.

Reconstruction was when blacks were freed from slavery but faced discrimination and violence, and Jim Crow was when blacks were again subjected to brutal treatment and violence. *Several historical factors* made lynching possible in the first place, as discussed in the book "Fire in a Canebrake." One was the legacy of slavery, which created a deep divide between blacks and whites in the United States. Another was the lack of law enforcement in many parts of the country, which made it difficult to prosecute those who committed lynchings. Finally, a general climate of fear and violence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries made such attacks more likely.

The *role of the NAACP* in this story is to investigate the case and help bring the perpetrators to justice. They are also working to raise awareness about the case and to ensure that the victim's family receives the support they need. While they may not have all the answers, the NAACP is doing everything it can to help solve this case. The FBI's role in this story is to investigate the murders and to try to find the killer. They interview witnesses and suspects, and they collect evidence. They did miss something that might help to solve the case. One of the witnesses, Mrs Saunders, saw the killer's face but could not describe it to the FBI. The FBI was also tasked with investigating this case, and during it, the people of Walton were not much help

since every time they went to interview someone, they would get the same response: "I was inside the night of the murders." They would also say that they do not know anything. However, most people knew a little something. People did not talk only because of fear for their lives. Some people were too scared even to attend the funeral of their loved ones.

The FBI's method for interrogating people was insufficient because they were not allowed to question kids. At the time, Clinton Adams was only ten years old when he witnessed the murders, so he was never questioned. If he had been questioned in 1946, he might have been able to help the investigation, but more than likely, he would be like everyone else in Walton County. He would have said nothing out of fear of what they would do to him and his family if word got out that he helped. The *federal government's* role in this story was to investigate the fire and to determine its cause. However, they could not solve the case, and it remains unsolved. It is possible that the federal government missed something that could help solve the case, but it is unknown what that might be the case.

There are many theories about *what happened in the book* "Fire in A Canebrake," but the most popular one is that the fire was started deliberately. Some people believe that the fire was started by the enslaved people working in the cane fields, while others believe that the plantation owners started it to destroy evidence of their crimes. There is also much speculation about who was responsible for the fire. Many people believe that the characters in the book were not telling the whole truth about what happened and that there may be more to the story than what was written. However, the truth may never be known for sure.

There is no clear answer as to *whether Loy Harrison was guilty* in "Fire in A Canebrake." On the one hand, he provided the match used to start the fire. However, he did not seem malicious intent in doing so and was trying to help the situation. Additionally, he was not the one

who set the fire. Therefore, it is difficult to say definitively whether he was guilty. On the day that Loy Harrison drove up to the jail, people saw him driving over Moore's Ford Bridge, and one person stated that he was travelling with a group of four or five cars, the same cars that would be described as the cars of the assailants in the mob. Those same cars were waiting at the bridge for his return with Roger Malcolm. In Clinton Adams's statement, he said he saw Loy Harrison at the bridge, but he said Loy was a part of the mob, not a victim like he claimed to be. Loy Harrison was the ringleader of the attacks on those poor black couples. It seemed too unlikely for a man like Mr Harrison to have no idea that these events would take place, but what seemed more far-fetched was how all of the community was so close-knit, and yet he did not know anyone in the mob. Counties knew each other. Then, when Mr. Harrison was interviewed, he had minor discrepancies in his story each time he was asked to tell it. This, along with the eyewitness account from Mr. Adams, led me to believe that he had a more significant role in the lynching than he would ever tell.

In conclusion, In the book, Wexler does an excellent job of looking at these incidents from different perspectives and talking about these events in an unbiased way. The problem with lynching is that it is tough to prosecute due to the lack of laws about it. On the other hand, the laws in place were ineffective since there was never a significant conviction in lynching cases. What happened that night will remain a mystery as to who organized the mob and who started the "Fire in Canebrake." That night in Walton County will never be forgotten because of how heinous the crimes were and how they left a lasting remark.

Works Cited

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