

Hayter: *The Dream Is Lost*—Chapter 1, “Strictly Political”

Abstract:

Chapter One reimagines the origins of the civil rights movement by examining the suffrage crusades that predated the Voting Rights Act. The women and men of the Richmond’s Crusade for Voters were the legatees of a drawn-out struggle against racist civility and white paternalism in Virginia. Moderate racial reforms, led by men such as Gordon Blaine Hancock, characterized race relations Richmond before the 1950s. *Brown v. Board of Education* brought an end to racist civility in Virginia. The Crusade and the National Organization for the Advancement of Colored People, more immediately, emerged in opposition to massive resistance to public school integration and racist urban renewal policies. This organization eventually out-mobilized Harry Byrd’s political machine by paying poll taxes. With the help of the NAACP and their “Miracle of 1960” campaign, the Crusade elected an African American, B.A. “Sonny” Cephas to City Council in 1964.