

Minchin, Timothy J. *Hiring the black worker: the racial integration of the Southern textile industry, 1960-1980*. Chapel Hill, NC.: University of North Carolina Press. 1999. 342 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8078-2470-2

This volume describes a previously neglected aspect of the civil rights movement: its economic effect on southern workers and the southern labor movement. While political and civil rights leaders at that time recognized the importance of economic equality, they realized that ending discrimination in employment was far more complex than achieving political or legal equality. Minchin's work highlights the breakthroughs African American workers made in employment in the southern textile industry through the efforts of civil rights organizations, labor unions, and the workers themselves. He notes that between 1960 and 1969, the number of black textile workers grew four times faster than the national average for all manufacturing. He also notes that the type of discrimination experienced differed by gender; black males had difficulty getting promoted, while African American women had difficulty getting hired in the first place. Minchin's detailed study draws from a vast number of legal records: documentation from class action and racial discrimination suits, depositions and trial testimony, company records, interviews, and letters workers wrote to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that were responsible for initiating the lawsuits.