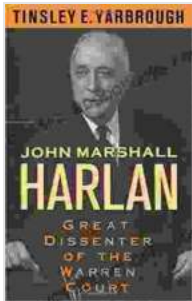


The Great Dissenter of the Warren Court: Hugo Black, Champion of Civil Liberties



John Marshall Harlan: Great Dissenter of the Warren Court by Tinsley E. Yarbrough

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Early Life and Career

Hugo Lafayette Black was born in Harlan, Alabama, on February 27, 1886. He was the son of a small-town lawyer and politician. Black attended the University of Alabama and then Cumberland University School of Law. After graduating from law school, he returned to Alabama and began practicing law.

In 1926, Black was elected to the U.S. Senate. He served in the Senate for ten years, during which time he became a vocal critic of the New Deal. Black was a strong supporter of states' rights and an opponent of federal government intervention in the economy.

Appointment to the Supreme Court

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Black to the Supreme Court. Black was a controversial choice for the Court. He was a political outsider with no judicial experience. However, Roosevelt was impressed by Black's intelligence and his strong commitment to civil liberties.

Judicial Philosophy

Black was a judicial conservative who believed that the Constitution should be interpreted strictly according to its original meaning. He was a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Black also believed that the federal government should have a limited role in the lives of its citizens.

Landmark Dissents

Black was one of the most prolific dissenters in the history of the Supreme Court. He dissented from the majority opinion in over 300 cases. Many of Black's dissents were in cases involving civil liberties.

In 1943, Black dissented from the majority opinion in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*. The Court ruled that public school children could not be compelled to salute the American flag. Black argued that the First Amendment protected the right of individuals to express their beliefs, even if those beliefs were unpopular.

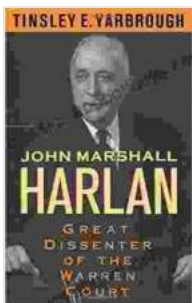
In 1951, Black dissented from the majority opinion in *Dennis v. United States*. The Court ruled that the government could prosecute individuals for advocating the overthrow of the government. Black argued that the First Amendment protected the right of individuals to freely express their political views.

In 1961, Black dissented from the majority opinion in *Engel v. Vitale*. The Court ruled that school-sponsored prayer was unconstitutional. Black argued that the First Amendment did not require the government to be hostile to religion.

Legacy

Hugo Black served on the Supreme Court for 34 years. He was one of the most influential justices of the 20th century. Black's dissents helped to shape the course of American law. He was a staunch defender of civil liberties and an advocate for the rights of individuals.

Black's legacy is still felt today. His dissents continue to be cited by lawyers and judges in cases involving civil liberties. Black's commitment to the First Amendment has helped to protect freedom of speech and religion in the United States.



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