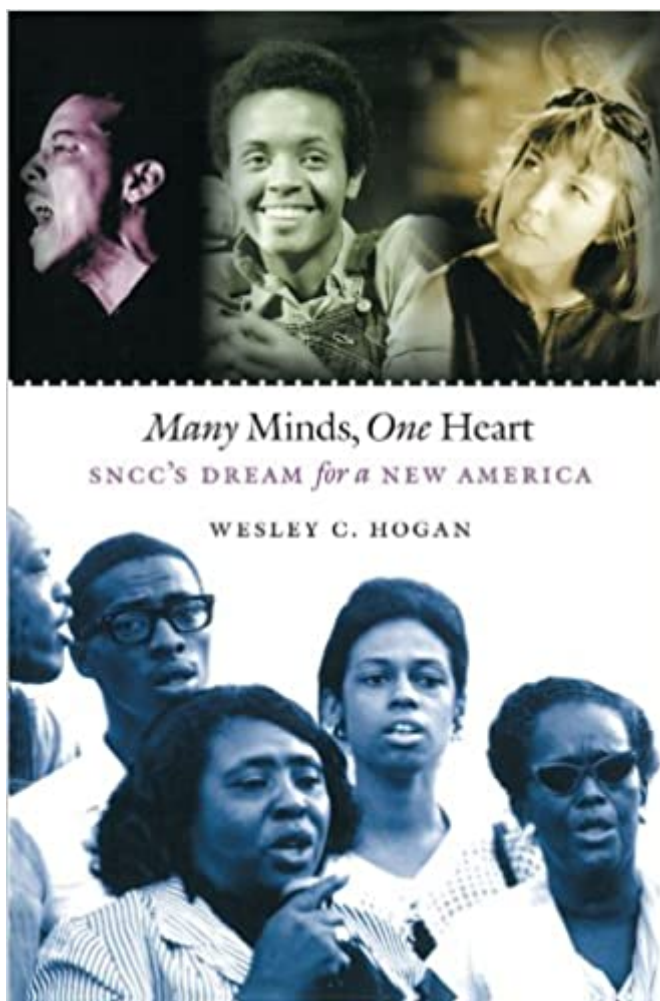


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# Many Minds, One Heart: SNCC's Dream For A New America



## Synopsis

How did the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee break open the caste system in the American South between 1960 and 1965? In this innovative study, Wesley Hogan explores what SNCC accomplished and, more important, how it fostered significant social change in such a short time. She offers new insights into the internal dynamics of SNCC as well as the workings of the larger civil rights and Black Power movement of which it was a part. As Hogan chronicles, the members of SNCC created some of the civil rights movement's boldest experiments in freedom, including the sit-ins of 1960, the rejuvenated Freedom Rides of 1961, and grassroots democracy projects in Georgia and Mississippi. She highlights several key players--including Charles Sherrod, Bob Moses, and Fannie Lou Hamer--as innovators of grassroots activism and democratic practice. Breaking new ground, Hogan shows how SNCC laid the foundation for the emergence of the New Left and created new definitions of political leadership during the civil rights and Vietnam eras. She traces the ways other social movements--such as Black Power, women's liberation, and the antiwar movement--adapted practices developed within SNCC to apply to their particular causes. *Many Minds, One Heart* ultimately reframes the movement and asks us to look anew at where America stands on justice and equality today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A finely researched, brilliant appraisal of the legendary civil rights organization's philosophical underpinnings, tactics and strategies, organizational structure, influences on the emergence of the

New Left, struggles aimed at dismantling white supremacy across the South and its challenges to remain effective during the latter years of the turbulent sixties.--Georgia Historical Quarterly

A valuable complement to other institutional biographies.--American Historical Review Hogan provides insights into activism, political organization, and personal transformation that not only deepen our understanding of the civil rights movement but offer lessons for all who seek to advance the grand vision SNCC embodied.--The Journal of American History It is not an exaggeration to say that SNCC was the heart and soul of the southern movement against racial segregation. Wesley Hogan, in this carefully researched examination of the SNCC experience, draws from it both wisdom and inspiration.--An engaging and engrossing narrative style . . . historians will . . . be satiated by the rich details, strong analysis, and wide array of sources in the notes. . . . Provides us with another needed perspective on SNCC, helping to illuminate the inner workings and true legacies of this important organization.--Register of the Kentucky Historical Society Hogan's great storytelling ability makes this book well worth reading. . . . Hogan captures the essence and underlying spirit that propelled a movement and led many to risk their lives in the fight for freedom.--Journal of African American History This important book reminds us of the power that ordinary people have to change themselves and the world.--Ernesto Cortes Jr., southwest regional director, Industrial Areas Foundation [A] Brilliant and carefully researched work. . . . Magnificent. . . . Essential.--CHOICE A very good book. . . . May be profitably read by anyone dreaming of a better America.--Arkansas Historical Quarterly Breaking new ground, Hogan focuses the reader's attention to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and its role in the modern civil rights movement. . . . Drawing on existing research, original interviews, and previously untapped archives, [Hogan's] work looks at what happened inside the movement itself.--The Courier Hogan's impressive *Many Minds, One Heart*. . . . does a fine job of analyzing how SNCC combated racism in some of the worst parts of the nation and, for a brief moment at least, allowed sharecroppers, students, and other ordinary folk--both black and white--to believe that a deeper, richer, more democratic culture was possible in America. . . . *Many Minds, One Heart* offers a poignant, detailed examination of how SNCC's efforts in the South gave Americans a chance to see ordinary citizens transforming their communities on an unprecedented scale.--Washington Post *Many Minds, One Heart* is a sincerely rendered narrative history reminder: realizing democracy is often a glorious, necessary mess, but somebody has to do it. In the end, we are all the better for the process and its outcome, even when we calculate the costs. In her detailed chronicle of SNCC, Hogan illustrates this 'big truth' with considerable clarity and focus.--Chana Kai Lee, author of *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer* Many

Minds, One Heart is itself a work of many minds--a complex, bold, stereotype-breaking analysis--and one heart--a full-throated call for a more deeply democratic public life. This is a timely and crucial act of scholarship and citizenship.--Timothy B. Tyson, Duke University Wesley Hogan has written a deep and comprehensive history of SNCC that will hopefully spark the conversation of how we learn from our elders and continue to evolve the lessons learned then for those who fight for freedom today.--Adrienne Maree Brown, executive director, The Ruckus Society

This book really speaks of the power of grassroots movements and the human spirit. For those who appreciate history and want to get more than the highlights of the Civil Rights Movement, this book talks about the rise and eventual fall of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). As a reader the story of SNCC took me through every range of emotion from happiness to sadness and from anger to elation. I highly recommend this book to understand how the struggle of civil rights changed the lives of those from all races and backgrounds being unified under common cause. It truly took many minds, one heart to change a nation.

I bought this book for a class and absolutely love it! It's fascinating and inspiring! I want to read it again!

great book !!!

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) meant many things to many people and remains so today. Wesley Hogan brings SNCC to us in all its strengths and weaknesses for better and for worse. She reveals a driven group of individuals who reached out to local people in the Black Belt South, listening to what they wanted and linking up with the local leaders who were there and who had fought the fight of the oppressed, down-trodden, and poverty-stricken. The study reveals how SNCC staffers went into rural Mississippi, Southwest Georgia, and Alabama and reached out to the local people whether they were literate or not, helping them voice their problems and overcome them by joining together no matter what the danger to them or the SNCC workers who came and stayed among the people and fought the fight with them. While doing this SNCC staffers listened to local elders as well as the young people and heard their stories and paid attention to their recommendations in discovering new leaders and training them to do what needed to be done in creating local movements. Hogan does not shy away from SNCC's difficulties in the Deep South in fighting its violent and brutal enemy and in the process reveals to the nation through

its fight that white America needed to be pushed into helping the African Americans of the South by losing some of its best and its brightest in that battle. The course chosen by SNCC is revealed as one of a democratic group operating by consensus decisions rather than leadership from the top like other civil rights organizations. This choice is discussed and documented and examined for where this led and how it finally left the Black Belt South without the SNCC presence that drove the movement there from 1960 to 1966. Hogan documents this study with interviews, archival materials, bibliographic citations, and insightful use of extensive resources.

I first met Wesley Hogan when she interviewed me about my experiences in the movement against the Vietnam War, and I was--and remain struck by her incredible, unmatched ability to sense the whole of what one is saying. This depth and amazing comprehension is present in the richness of Hogan's account of the SNCC participants'/organizers' experiences, here gathered from her extensive, brilliant interviews and enormous reading in the history of SNCC and the Civil Rights Movement as a whole. This is a must-read book for anyone interested in SNCC, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, how people organize for justice, self-determination and change.

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