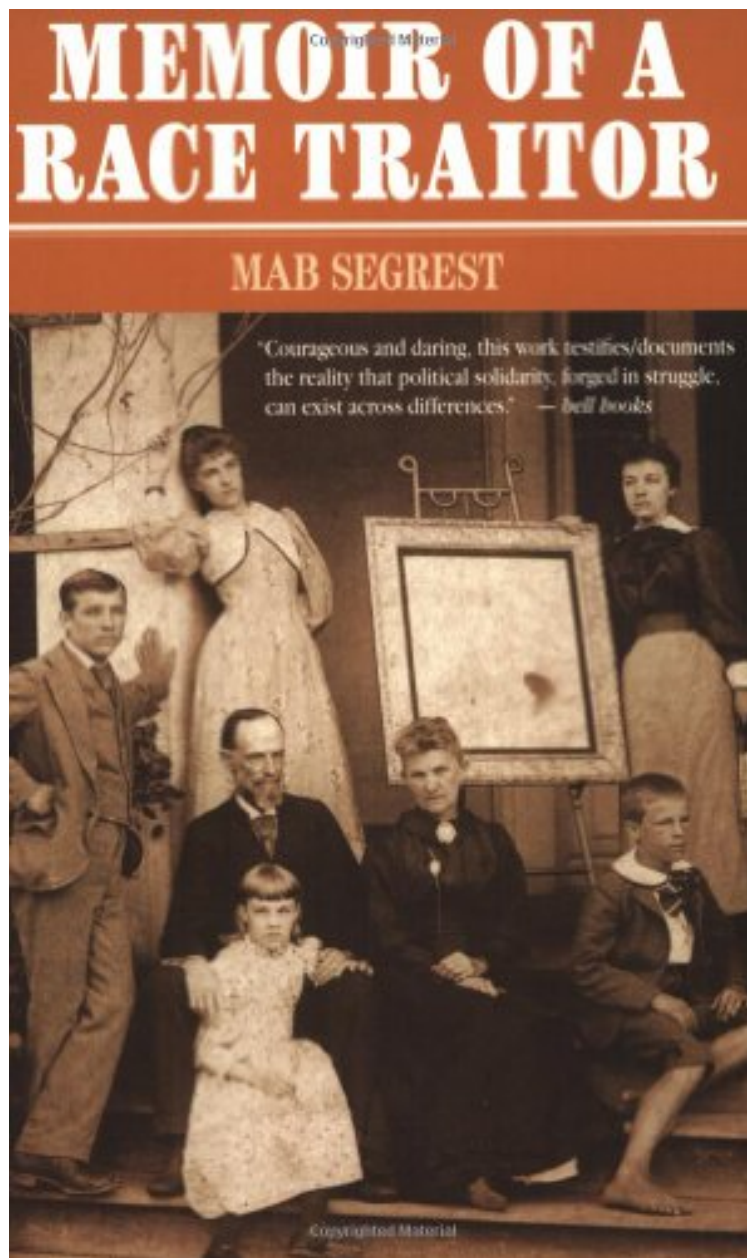


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Memoir of a Race Traitor

Mab Segrest

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Mab Segrest : Memoir of a Race Traitor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Memoir of a Race Traitor:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent History and HerstoryBy ChillyDr. Segrest's commitment

to fighting racial injustice is the compelling subject of *Memoir of a Race Traitor*. Her representation of the legacy of racism and the struggle for civil rights in America is as relevant in the Age of Obama as at any time during the past. Segrest's expert weaving of personal and social history is engaging, easy to follow, and often poetic, and her presentation of factual information is well researched and documented. The author's dedication to achieving justice and civil rights for all provides an inspirational model for white Americans seeking to understand why a more perfect union remains elusive and how we might move closer to it. Part Two: "On Being White and Other Lies: A History of Racism in the United States" is especially valuable, if less purely enjoyable than Part One. In fact, this forty-six page section would serve well as a concise, readable supplement in our secondary and post-secondary history classes as it provides an honest, cogent overview of the history and impact of race in America. It would well replace the dishonest histories (recall Texas legislators excising the word slavery from high school textbooks in 2010) assigned many contemporary American youth. Let me add that I came across Segrest's book while (with some ambivalence) conducting internet research to satisfy my eighty-five-year-old mother's desire to learn more about her white 'family'. Like countless others of earlier generations, she was born of an illicit relationship between a white man and a black woman (my mixed-race grandmother) and raised on County Rd 30 in Shorter, Macon County, Alabama, half a mile from the Segrest homestead. Her father was the brother of Marvin Segrest, who killed Sammy Younge in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1966. Though I had been long convinced of our Segrest kinship by empirical evidence, having met several Segrests who remain in Macon County--including my mother's look-alike half sister--DNA tests have confirmed it. One might imagine my surprise upon discovering *Race Traitor*, its content and purpose. Perhaps my subjective response to Dr. Segrest's life and work will serve to remind those who see America as two nations--one black and one white--that we are indeed one nation, connected by an unlikely and incredible history; by democratic ideals and Christian values; and more often than we know, by genetics. Would that we all had Mab Segrest's brave heart, that we all could be so honest and so determined to perfect this American world.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent walk through the times here in NC against hate groups
By Ley Dent Mab Segrest is a personal friend and her account here truly brings back the feel of all of that intense and nerve shredding work we did back in the late 1980s through the mid 1990s with NCARRV.
19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Lively social justice history
By Robin Orłowski Growing up in the so-called 'post civil' rights era with intergrated schooling, myself and other 'white' liberals do not conciously realize what risks our own involvement with this social change entailed for all demographics. Sure we muse about how we also would have participated in sit-ins...etc if we had been born generations earlier, but would we have actually followed through on those same pronouncements? Because her own family was involved in segregation activities, Segrest had an involuntary front-seat to the politics of hatred. This same enviroment unintentionally provided the reinforcement that the white Segrest needed to battle racism begining in the 1960's. Thus, unlike some people who would write this book today only to appear 'politically correct', Segrest has genuine empowerment intentions: She knows that although it is a part of her family's (and the community's past) racism was not (and is not) right for anybody. It is also possible to love your own family while strongly opposing their politics---and judgements upon yourself. Segrest's innate ability to interconnect various social justice struggles with each other is another strength of this work. Racism, sexism, and homophobia are all different facets of the same bigotry. Preventing full community potential from being realized, all forms of discrimination must be abolished without exception. There is no such thing as 'acceptable' bigotry. Segrest can get too self-righteous at times for some readers (she is hardly the only person in the world who has worked against her own family's politics!), but this book stil expertly explores a VERY personal and political issue not fully addressed in our supposedly more enlightened times.

Against a backdrop of nine generations of her family's history, Mab Segrest explores her experience as a white lesbian organizing against a virulent Far Right movement in North Carolina.