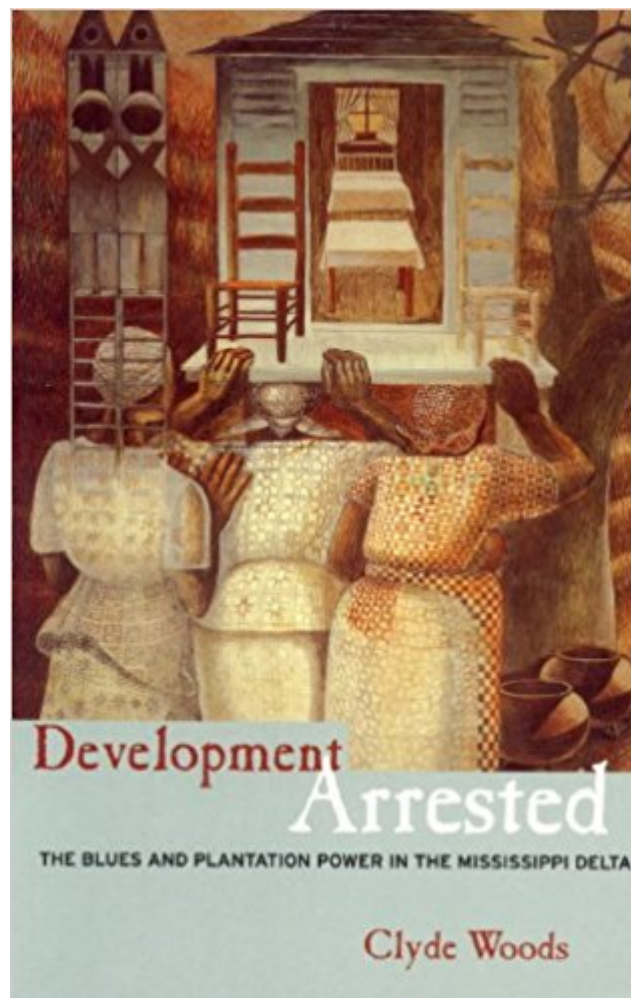




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# Development Arrested: Race, Power And The Blues In The Mississippi Delta



## Synopsis

Development Arrested is a major reinterpretation of the two-centuries-old conflict between the African Americans and planters in the Mississippi Delta. Woods traces the decline and resurrection of plantation ideology in national public policy debates, showing the ways in which African Americans in the Delta have continued to push forward their agenda for social and economic justice despite having suffered countless defeats under the planter regime. Woods interweaves the role of music in sustaining their efforts, surveying a musical tradition that embraced a radical vision of social change.

## Book Information

Series: Haymarket

Hardcover: 342 pages

Publisher: Verso (November 17, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1859848117

ISBN-13: 978-1859848111

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.5 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

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## Customer Reviews

Part of Verso's "Haymarket" series, examining aspects of American history, politics, and culture from various perspectives on the political Left, this book covers the history of the conflict between the planter elite and African Americans in the Mississippi Delta. Woods (African and African American studies, Pennsylvania State Univ.) also discusses the part that blues and spiritual music have played in developing the "vision, spirit, philosophy and will" of African Americans in this struggle. While academics will find some of what Woods has to say about the Delta insightful, the value of this work is reduced by misleading statements (usually minor), the author's reliance on assertions when analysis is needed, and a writing style that resorts far too frequently to long lists and the overuse of "et cetera." An optional purchase for the history collections of academic

“[A] stunning and fresh analysis of the political economy of white supremacy and the redemptive power of the blues. All Americans, especially students, scholars, general readers and policy makers, who care about the extension of democracy and the future of black freedom, should read and discuss Clyde Wood’s intriguing book.” —Darlene Clark Hine, co-author of *A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America* “Development Arrested has no peer, for Clyde Woods is a rare scholar who takes the blues seriously as theory and social critique. Arguing that this folk discourse emerged in response to economic and political restructuring in the Delta during the 20th century, he goes on to show how it constitutes a critique of the plantation South, New South modernization, and the transformation of capitalist agriculture during the so-called Green Revolution. To paraphrase something Marx said a long time ago, Development Arrested reveals the connection between the arm of criticism (i.e. the blues/social science) and the criticism of arms: struggle for power in the Delta.” —Robin D.G. Kelley, author of *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class* “Woods should be applauded for pointing out the absurdity of a situation in which, for instance, whole families made obsolete my machinery, genetic research, and high yield fertilizers are allowed to starve within eyeshot of fields that government pay affluent farmers to leave fallow.” —Oxford American

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