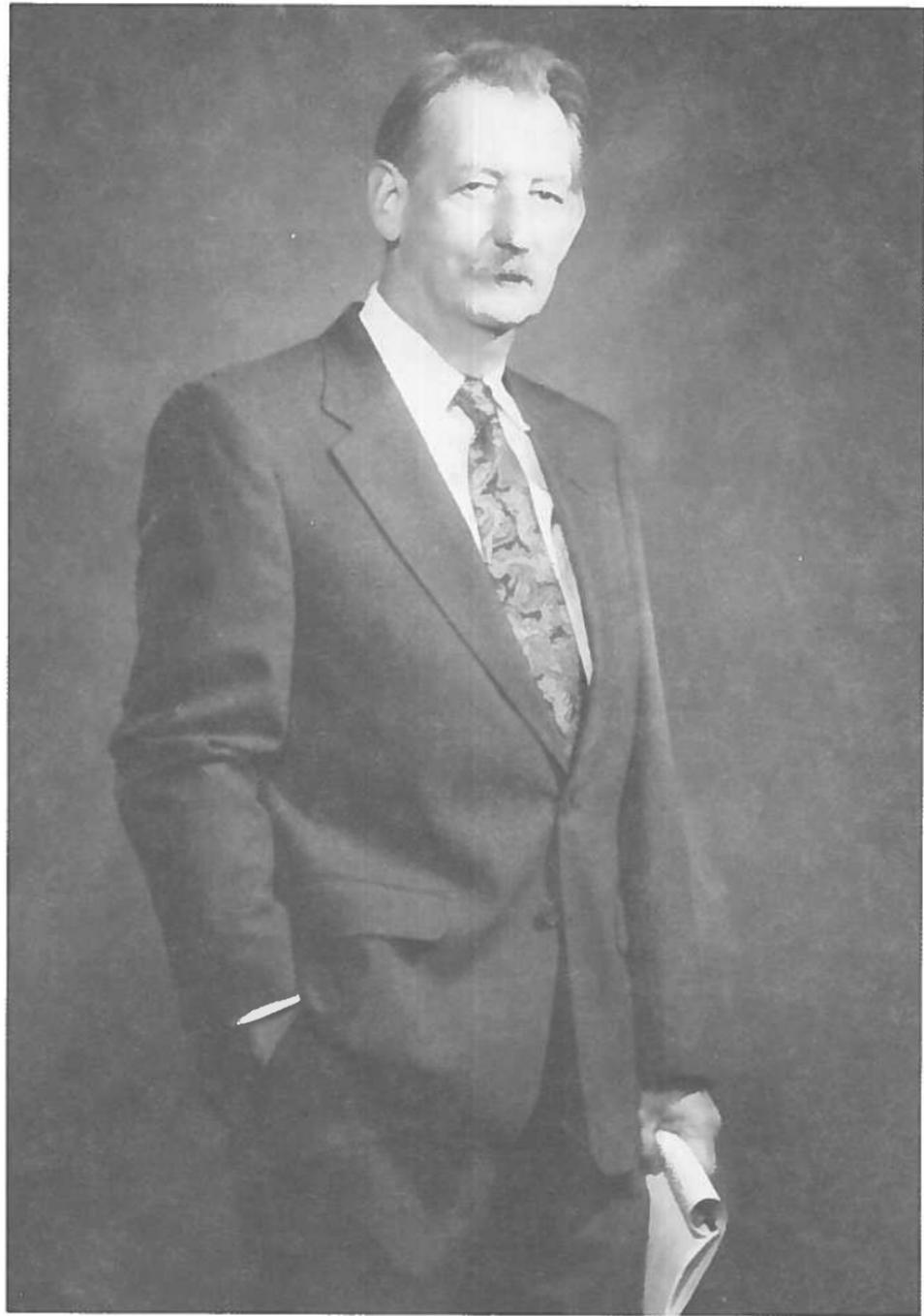


Louis R. Harlan
President
American Historical
Association
1989



Louis R. Harlan

Louis R. Harlan, president of the American Historical Association, has the distinct honor of serving as president or president-elect of the three major historical associations in the United States, the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the Southern Historical Association. Professor Harlan becomes the fifth president of the American Historical Association to achieve this special honor. The others were John Hope Franklin, C. Vann Woodward, Carl N. Degler, and Arthur S. Link. He is, however, the only individual to hold all three positions at the same time.

Harlan was born in West Point, Mississippi, in 1922 and grew up in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942, but was able to complete his B.A. degree at Emory University before entering midshipman's school in 1943. He took part in the invasions of Normandy and southern France, as an officer on an infantry landing craft. When the war in Europe ended Harlan was at Eniwetok poised for the invasion of Japan.

After the war he attended graduate school at Vanderbilt University, earning a Master's degree in 1948. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in 1955 at The Johns Hopkins University, where he studied under a brilliant young scholar, C. Vann Woodward, who at the time had one book to his credit, his biography of Tom Watson. At one of Woodward's seminars the

guest lecturer was a young scholar from Howard University, John Hope Franklin, who influenced Harlan's decision to devote his career to race relations and southern history. During his years at Hopkins, Louis Harlan discovered Booker T. Washington. While researching his doctoral dissertation *Separate and Unequal: Public School Campaigns and Racism in the Southern Seaboard States, 1901-1915*, he was among the first to use the vast collection of Washington's papers at the Library of Congress. But it would be a decade before he returned to the Washington manuscripts. From 1950 to 1959 he taught at East Texas State College then moved to the University of Cincinnati, where he taught from 1959 to 1965.

In 1966 he accepted a full professorship at the University of Maryland and began systematically researching and writing about the career of Booker T. Washington. His prodigious scholarship as a historian, documentary editor, and biographer resulted in numerous articles on aspects of Washington's career in the major historical journals, a fourteen-volume documentary series, coedited with Raymond W. Smock, *The Booker T. Washington Papers* (1972-88), and a two-volume biography *Booker T. Washington: The Making of a Black Leader, 1856-1901* (1972) and *Booker T. Washington: The Wizard of Tuskegee, 1901-1915* (1983). The first volume of the biography won the prestigious Bancroft Award. The second volume won another Bancroft Award, the Albert J. Beveridge Award in American History of the American

Historical Association, and the Pulitzer Prize for Biography in 1984. Harlan's essays on Washington, spanning twenty-five years of research, have been published as *Booker T. Washington in Perspective: The Essays of Louis R. Harlan* (1989).

During his career Louis Harlan has been the recipient of many honors and awards including an ACLS fellowship (1964) and a Guggenheim Fellowship (1975). He was a Fellow in Residence at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California, in 1980-81. His public service includes board membership on chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union in Cincinnati and Montgomery County, Maryland. He was a member of the Maryland State Commission on Afro-American History and Culture from 1968 to 1985. He was one of the Organization of American Historians' appointees to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission from 1984 to 1988.

Since 1985 Louis Harlan has held the title of Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Maryland, College Park. The distinguished professor designation at Maryland is held by five faculty members in all departments. He is currently writing a memoir of his experiences aboard ship during World War II.

Presidents of the American Historical Association

1884-85	Andrew Dickson White	1915	H. Morse Stephens
1885-86	George Bancroft	1916	George Lincoln Burr
1886-87	Justin Winsor	1917	Worthington C. Ford
1887-88	William F. Poole	1918-19	William R. Thayer
1889	Charles K. Adams	1920	Edward Channing
1890	John Jay	1921	Jean Jules Jusserand
1891	William Wirt Henry	1922	Charles H. Haskins
1892-93	James Burrill Angell	1923	Edward P. Cheyney
1893-94	Henry Adams	1924	Woodrow Wilson
1895	George Frisbie Hoar	1924-25	Charles M. Andrews
1896	Richard Salter Storrs	1926	Dana C. Munro
1897	James Schouler	1927	Henry Osborn Taylor
1898	George Park Fisher	1928	James H. Breasted
1899	James Ford Rhodes	1929	James Harvey Robinson
1900	Edward Eggleston	1930	Evarts Boutell Greene
1901	Charles F. Adams	1931	Carl Lotus Becker
1902	Alfred Thayer Mahan	1932	Herbert Eugene Bolton
1903	Henry Charles Lea	1933	Charles A. Beard
1904	Goldwin Smith	1934	William E. Dodd
1905	John Bach McMaster	1935	Michael I. Rostovtzeff
1906	Simeon E. Baldwin	1936	Charles McIlwain
1907	J. Franklin Jameson	1937	Guy Stanton Ford
1908	George Burton Adams	1938	Laurence M. Larson
1909	Albert Bushnell Hart		Frederic L. Paxson
1910	Frederick J. Turner	1939	William Scott Ferguson
1911	William M. Sloane	1940	Max Farrand
1912	Theodore Roosevelt	1941	James Westfall Thompson
1913	William A. Dunning	1942	Arthur M. Schlesinger
1914	Andrew C. McLaughlin	1943	Nellie Neilson

1944	William L. Westermann	1968	John K. Fairbank
1945	Carlton J. H. Hayes	1969	C. Vann Woodward
1946	Sidney B. Fay	1970	R. R. Palmer
1947	Thomas J. Wertenbaker	1971	David M. Potter
1948	Kenneth Scott Latourette		Joseph R. Strayer
1949	Conyers Read	1972	Thomas C. Cochran
1950	Samuel E. Morison	1973	Lynn White, jr.
1951	Robert L. Schuyler	1974	Lewis Hanke
1952	James G. Randall	1975	Gordon Wright
1953	Louis Gottschalk	1976	Richard B. Morris
1954	Merle Curti	1977	Charles Gibson
1955	Lynn Thorndike	1978	William J. Bouwsma
1956	Dexter Perkins	1979	John Hope Franklin
1957	William Langer	1980	David H. Pinkney
1958	Walter Prescott Webb	1981	Bernard Bailyn
1959	Allan Nevins	1982	Gordon A. Craig
1960	Bernadotte E. Schmitt	1983	Philip D. Curtin
1961	Samuel Flagg Bemis	1984	Arthur S. Link
1962	Carl Bridenbaugh	1985	William H. McNeill
1963	Crane Brinton	1986	Carl N. Degler
1964	Julian P. Boyd	1987	Natalie Z. Davis
1965	Frederic C. Lane	1988	Akira Iriye
1966	Roy F. Nichols	1989	Louis R. Harlan
1967	Hajo Holborn		