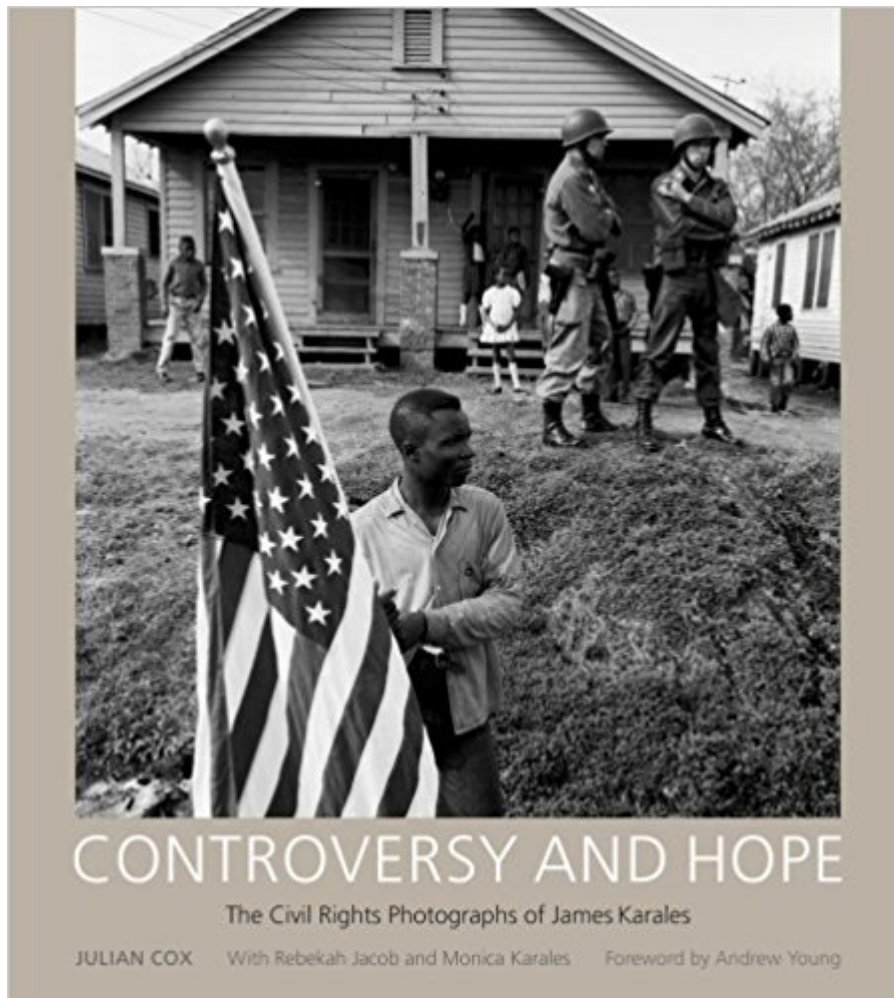




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# Controversy And Hope: The Civil Rights Photographs Of James Karales



## Synopsis

Controversy and Hope commemorates the civil rights legacy of James Karales (1930-2002), a professional photojournalist who documented the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights with a dedication and vision that led the New York Times to deem his work "a pictorial anthem of the civil rights movement." Equipped with ambition and a B.F.A. in photography from Ohio University in 1955, Karales headed to New York and found work as a darkroom assistant to master photographer W. Eugene Smith. Karales's earliest photo-essays had already come to the attention of Edward Steichen, curator of photography at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, which acquired two of Karales's photographs from his series on the Greek American community of Canton, Ohio. Another early photo-essay, on the integrated mining community of Rendville, Ohio, was featured in Karales's first solo exhibition, held in 1958 at Helen Gee's Limelight gallery in Greenwich Village. From 1960 to 1971, Karales worked as a staff photographer for Look magazine, traveling the world during a time of dynamic social change and recording the harsh realities he witnessed at home and abroad. By the time Karales documented the fifty-four-mile voting-rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965 he had already developed a strong relationship with its most prominent leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and had been granted unprecedented access to the King family. That connection translated into a powerful empathy in the photographs that still resonates for viewers today. The Village Voice described Karales's civil rights work as bearing "the weight of history and the grace of art." Controversy and Hope presents many of Karales's images from the era, including some photographs published here for the first time. Julian Cox, with the assistance of Rebekah Jacob and Monica Karales, has selected a bold representation of Karales's photographs, augmenting his visual legacy with biographical information and personal recollections. Civil rights leader Andrew Young, who appears in some of Karales's photographs, has provided a foreword to the volume.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Ultimately, *Controversy and Hope* invites current and future scholars to further investigate Karales and the movement, to help answer lingering questions about why Karales's photographs were seldom exhibited."-- Kera Lovell, *H-Net Reviews*"The photographs in this book tell a story of life in the impoverished south and the behind the scenes of the civil rights movement more than it talks about the actual civil rights protests and marches."- Cathy Ikeda, *NetGalley*"What makes Karales's photos stand out is his ability to find the emotional core and humanity in the images, whether they are of seemingly ordinary activities, of tense moments fraught with danger, or of famous figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his family, to whom Karales had unparalleled access as a photographer. Cox provides a thorough chronicle of Karales's personal life, education, career, and involvement in the civil rights movement. The text is followed by 92 of his photographs, most from the march to Montgomery, that record a crucial period in the civil rights movement. Recommended for anyone interested in photojournalism and modern American history."--*Library Journal*"His most famous shots retain their potency: a line of marchers below a gathering storm cloud; a man partially shaded by the U.S. flag that drapes him; a white amputee crutching the route with determination. There is a remarkable intimacy and spontaneity to Karales's photographs."--*Publishers Weekly*, April 2013"The visually powerful images in *Controversy and Hope* reveal a formerly unseen glimpse into the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights events like no other book I have read. Although our paths never crossed, James Karales' insider access and composition--much like my own--captures many crucial moments of social change with artistic flair and sensitivity."--Cecil Williams, author of *Orangeburg 1968: A Place and Time Remembered*, *Out-of-the-Box in Dixie: Cecil William's Photography of the South Carolina Events that Changed America*, and *Unforgettable: All the Memories We Left Behind*"These photographs by James Karales evoke the power of Walker Evans. Here are rare discoveries mixed with iconic images of U.S. history. Karales was a master. No artist captured more drama, character, and inspiration from the civil rights era."--Taylor Branch, author of *Parting the Waters* and *The King Years*

The dynamic photography and story of an unsung Civil Rights documentarian

During the time of institutionalized racism in America, the heart of James Karales saw the righteousness of the civil rights movement and like a mirror, he reflected it back on to the nation. This righteousness, in all its glory, could not be denied.

A finely honed set of civil rights and 1965 Selma March images by an adroit photographer with a prescient eye for the visually compelling image.

Excellent.

Great photos

Photography and the media played important roles in the civil rights movement of the 1960s as ways of dramatizing the issues to many Americans who might otherwise have remained indifferent. The works of some photographers deserve to be remembered both for their contributions to the civil rights struggle and in their own right. Among these photographers is James Karales (1930 -- 2002) whose life and photographs are captured in this new book, "Controversy and Hope" the Civil Rights Photographs of James Karales"(2013). The book includes a Foreward by Andrew Young, essays by curators of photography Rebekah Jacob and Julian Cox, and an Afterward by Karales' widow, Monica Karales. The heart of the book is a series of 93 of Karales' photographs of the civil rights movement. Born to blue collar Greek immigrants in Canton, Ohio, Karales was a poor student and seemed destined for a vocational career. As a young man, he discovered his calling for photography and earned his degree at Ohio University. He did several early series of photographs capturing the integrated mining community of Rendville, Ohio and the immigrant Greek community of his native Canton. In 1960, Karales became a photographer for "Look" magazine where he worked until "Look" folded in 1971. Karales did two series of photographs on the War in Vietnam, but it is for his civil rights photographs that Karales will likely be remembered. Many of the photos in this book were published in "Look" while others appear for the first time in this collection. Karales' most famous photo dates from March, 1965 and is titled "Selma to Montgomery March". Taken on the third day of the five day March from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights, the photograph shows Martin Luther King, Jr. leading a long line of marchers on a steamy, cloudy day along a

desolate Alabama country road. This photograph (plate 65 in the book) has become an iconic symbol of the March and of the civil rights movement as a whole. The photos are all set in the South and begin in 1960 with a series showing the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) conducting training in passive resistance for volunteers in Atlanta. This is followed by a rare series of photographs documenting Martin Luther King's home life with his wife and children in Atlanta. In 1962-63, King led a series of boycotts and demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama, widely regarded as the most segregated city in the United States at the time. The Birmingham demonstrations would become famous for the public "Letter" King wrote while in prison briefly in the Birmingham Jail. Karales' photographs offer an inside view of the Birmingham demonstrations, focusing on the 1962 Southern Christian Leadership Convention and 1963 meetings at the 16th Street Church. In 1962, a young racist man assaulted King. King declined to press charges but instead tried to have a discussion with his assailant. Karales' took a photograph (plate 16) of King's meeting with his attacker. The longest series of photographs are of the Selma to Montgomery March of March, 1965. Karales stayed with the March for its entirety, slept outside in the tents with the participants, and produced an invaluable photographic history of this event. In addition to the photo of Dr. King leading the marchers, the photographs concentrate on religious leaders who made the march, including Sister Mary Leoline Hand and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. There are several photos of Jim Letherer, a young man who walked the entire distance on crutches. Idealistic young marchers receive a good deal of attention as do marchers bearing American flags. Karales documents spectators to the March, some sharing its goals and some overtly hostile. An excellent photograph shows the stream of marchers crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they leave Selma (plate 54). This is an excellent book to stimulate thought and reflection about the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The book also commemorates a photographer of the movement whose name and work might otherwise remain obscure. Robin Friedman

**\*\*I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review\*\***Controversy and Hope: The Civil Rights Photographs of James Karales is more than just a book of photographs. The first half of the book describes a man from Canton, Ohio who grew up in some of the most turbulent times in American history. He was able to take a camera and capture such huge pieces of history and give life to them by telling their stories. His stories include a town in Ohio that didn't go through the painful experience of segregation, personal photos of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and up through the Vietnam War. The pictures he took aren't the glossy ones used just to sell newspapers, but to capture the real moments in time. This book was really moving and would move anyone that wants a real view of

what this era was.

This is an outstanding visual history assistant. I am so glad that Julian Cox worked tirelessly to find the negatives, photos, and many other things to make this book happen. I was born in 1965. However, I was fortunate to have people around me talk about the Civil Rights movement. Most young people today aren't aware just how very important that time was; nor what it means for us as a nation today. This book captures a piece of our nation's past for generations to come. I am so proud to have the opportunity to give my daughter the gift to actually look at the outpouring of dedicated people who all came together for a moral and ethical common goal of "freedom for all". This is a priceless book.

Copy courtesy of Netgalley Amazing pictures of the history of the civil rights struggle. What treasure. Loved the photos of Dr King and his family. Definitely a keeper

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