



# Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Laws That Changed America

*Nick Kotz*

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## **Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Laws That Changed America** Nick Kotz

“A finely honed portrait of the civil rights partnership President Johnson and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. forged . . . a fresh and vivid account.” — Washington Post Book World

The Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Nick Kotz offers the first thorough account of the complex working relationship between Lyndon Baines Johnson and Martin Luther King Jr. Tracing both leaders’ paths, from Johnson’s ascension to the presidency in 1963 to King’s assassination in 1968, Kotz describes how they formed a wary alliance that would become instrumental in producing some of the most substantial civil rights legislation in American history: the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Drawing on a wealth of newly available sources—Johnson’s taped telephone conversations, voluminous FBI wiretap logs, and secret communications between FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and the president—Kotz examines the forces that drew the charismatic men together and those that eventually drove them apart. Kotz’s focused and incisive examination significantly enriches our understanding of both men.

This book will appeal to people interested in: Lyndon B. Johnson, Martin Luther King, Civil Rights, Race Relations, Voting Rights, 20th Century History, Politics, Political Investigations, Segregation, and American History.

"A powerful reminder that the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts transformed the lives not just of black citizens, but of every American." — Christian Science Monitor

“A hard-headed, no-nonsense look at these two towering figures of the 1960s . . . [Judgment Days] vividly re-creates the behind-the-scenes dynamics informing civil rights politics.” — Boston Globe

“An important examination of a critical moment in American history—a battle for our nation’s soul.” — Jimmy Carter

Nick Kotz is the author of five previous books on politics, social justice, and the civil rights movement. A renowned journalist, he has received a Pulitzer Prize and a National Magazine Award. He lives in Broad Run, Virginia.

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