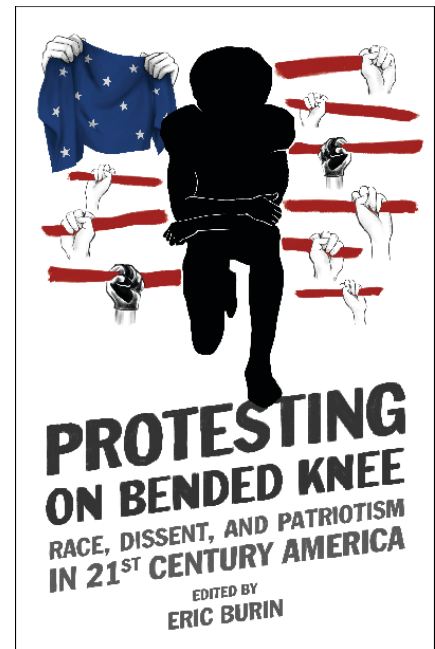


## Reactions to *Protesting on Bended Knee*

*Protesting on Bended Knee* is an important and timely new collection of essays on the current state of protests inspired in part by NFL footballer Colin Kaepernick's decision to take a knee during the national anthem. Kaepernick's campaign to highlight ongoing problems of racial inequality and the military-style policing of communities of color in America have generated wide and diverse reaction, responses that often reveal the disturbing gulf between American communities divided by race, class, and region. With essays from scholars, activists, athletes, and coaches *Protesting on Bended Knee* smartly situates the debates and heated responses to athletes taking a knee within the broader history of protests and the mass mobilization of athletes and people of color for change in America. Eric Burin should be congratulated for bringing together such a diverse range of reactions in a book that will shed much light and generate needed conversations about protest as a needed vehicle for change in America today.

**Henry Kamerling, author of *Capital and Convict: Race, Region, and Punishment in Post-Civil War America* (2017)**



---

“Eric Burin’s *Protesting on Bended Knee* is the collection we all need to understand, and to teach about, the multiple contexts surrounding Colin Kaepernick’s decision to kneel during the playing of the national anthem as a way to draw attention to police violence against African Americans. With dozens of short, accessible essays that both reflect contemporary reactions to events as they unfolded and also explain the historical roots of both the problem and the protests, this volume offers a great deal to anyone who wants to consider the meaning and the legacy of this significant moment in American political, cultural, social, and sporting history.”

**Brad Austin, author of *Democratic Sports: Men’s and Women’s College Athletics during the Great Depression* (2015).**

---

“*Protesting on Bended Knee* is activist scholarship of the highest order. Rooted in not only the deep history but also the very recent history of the multiplicity of issues involved with today’s protests in sports arenas, it provides serious context as well as timely commentary. After a masterful extended introduction by Eric Burin tying much of this history and these issues together, it provides a wide range of short pieces on various aspects of the controversies. It is also truly interdisciplinary, and draws on participants as well as observers. Both their length and their range make the individual chapters ideal for assigning, in parts or as a whole, in classes. The open-access nature of the volume also speaks to Burin’s and other participants’ desire to contribute substantially to an ongoing public and scholarly conversation. What it all adds up to is the ideal volume of scholarship that intersects with teaching and public history.”

**Matthew Mason and Stacey Robertson, Co-directors of Historians Against Slavery**