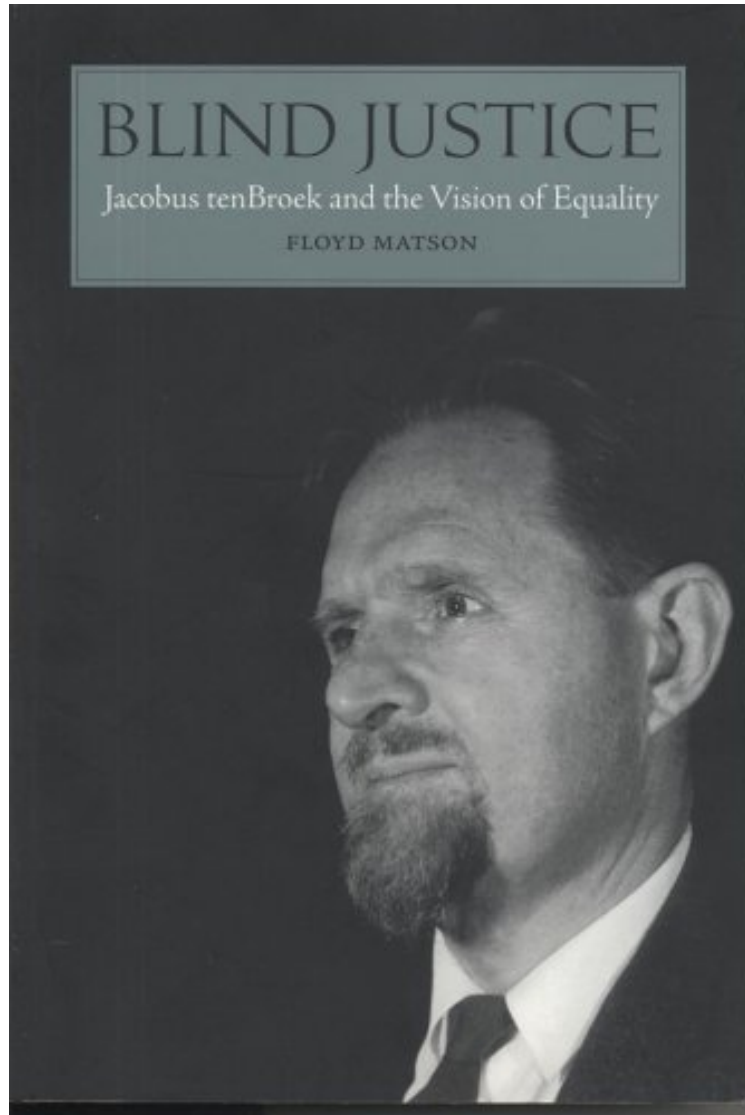


(Pdf free) Blind Justice: Jacobus tenBroek and the Vision of Equality

Blind Justice: Jacobus tenBroek and the Vision of Equality

Floyd Matson

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Floyd Matson : Blind Justice: Jacobus tenBroek and the Vision of Equality before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blind Justice: Jacobus tenBroek and the Vision of Equality:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Choosing to Light a Candle Rather than Curse the DarknessBy William Cooke"Blind Justice" is Floyd Matson's biography of Dr. Jacobus tenBroek (1916-1968). It is an excellent introduction to a man who was an author, educator, civil rights activist, constitutional scholar, founder of a global movement, and by the way, totally blind.Jacobus was born to a poor family and, at the age of seven, suffered the loss of one eye while playing a game with a friend. His left eye was pierced with an arrow. Inadequate medical care soon

brought infection and loss of vision to the other eye and, by the age of fourteen, Jacobus was totally blind. The world young Jacobus was to face became instantly darker. Any formerly sighted person will tell you that there is no comparable blackness; you cannot simply close your eyes and imagine what it is like. Yet this was now his life and living it would be his challenge, and joy. He accepted the fact of his disability but often found it difficult to accept others' perception of it, and their perception of him. A colleague of Dr. tenBroek, Matson takes care to describe Jacobus' early years in such a way that the reader grasps his innately remarkable mind and penchant for debate. His dogged persistence and determination to embrace his studies would impress his teachers and mentors. He would face a preoccupied world of indifference and command its attention. TenBroek came of age during the Great Depression, a time all too unimaginable (and easily dismissed) today. From his own experience, tenBroek understood the importance of employment, economic security, personal opportunity, and, certainly, healthcare. His creed was that everyone is equal on the simple basis of one's humanity. As such, he preceded contemporary thinking about diversity by over a half-century. In 1949, with Joseph Tussman, tenBroek would write a ground-breaking article, "The Equal Protection of the Laws." This article would become one of the most influential pieces of scholarship concerning the Fourteenth Amendment. In 1951, tenBroek wrote "Antislavery Origins of the Fourteenth Amendment." It caught the eye of Thurgood Marshall, then counsel to the NAACP. The article played a role in developing the logical argument of the NAACP's winning brief in *Brown v Board of Education* (1954). TenBroek's book, *Prejudice, War and the Constitution* won the 1955 Woodrow Wilson Award as the best book on government and democracy. Dr. tenBroek's work on behalf of the blind and poor survives in the work of the National Federation of the Blind, which he founded. But moreover, his work lives on in our everyday experience; in the Braille on the buttons of our elevators, the curb cuts on our sidewalks, accessible buildings, the legal imperatives of equal opportunity for those with disabilities. The achievements of other movements, including the Civil Rights and Disability Rights movements, owe a debt to the work of Dr. Jacobus tenBroek. I keep a quote from Dr. tenBroek at my desk. It reads, "The most fundamental right of people with disabilities is the 'right to live in the world,' to live and be a part of the community, to not be ignored or confined." In his vision of equality for all, Jacobus tenBroek was anything but blind.

Biography of the founder of the National Federation of the Blind, written by friend and collaborator Matson. Tells how tenBroek (1911-1968), blinded at age seven, obtained a law degree and became an advocate not only for blind people but for people with disabilities, poor people, and other minority groups.

About the Author Matson, Floyd