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For Immediate Release

Latest INET-Cambridge University Press Book Examines the Deepening of Racial Inequality in America

“Never Together is utterly necessary right now – Temin sees race, and the differences race makes, without being blinded by race or heedless of discrimination’s consequences over the course of two centuries. This is the economic history needed in our new gilded age.”

–Nell Irvin Painter, Princeton, author of [The History of White People](#)

“Never Together is a true innovation in historical writing. Peter Temin retells the story of American economic history, with African Americans fully integrated into the tale. Highlighting the race issue accentuates the striking parallels between the Gilded Age and our own times. The book is a tour de force.”

–Gavin Wright, Stanford University

NEW YORK—In a new book released today by the [Institute for New Economic Thinking](#) and Cambridge University Press, MIT economist Peter Temin takes a detailed look at the economic history of racial segregation in America, from slavery to Jim Crow to the present, countering the usual narrative of economic progress for Blacks in the US.

As INET’s Lynn Parramore writes in her review: “[Top Economist: America’s Racist Economy Getting Worse, Not Better](#),” “Here is no reading for the fainthearted. Temin’s analysis bristles with shameful, stomach-turning details of reprehensible and deliberate acts of racial oppression that have thwarted America’s struggle to live up to its billing as land of opportunity. He explores the troubled trajectory of an economy built on the rotten foundation of a deliberately created pariah class, and shows not only how that system lives on, but the myriad ways it is getting worse, not better.”

In [Never Together: The History of a Segregated America](#), Temin (the Gray Professor Emeritus of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) provides a pioneering account of America’s economic history that centers, rather than ignores, race and racial separation. Diving deep into the roots of Black American economic

marginalization in the wake of Reconstruction, *Never Together* shows how mass incarceration, labor market deregulation, and deindustrialization have all worked together to maintain vast racial disparities in economic outcomes into the present day.

“America built a middle class,” Temin writes, “but systematic discrimination kept most African American families from being part of it.” A strong point of this work by one of America’s most distinguished economic historians is its careful assessment of how postwar federal programs affected both Black and white Americans and how court decisions and political campaigning worked strongly against racial equality.

The INET-CUP books series, “Studies in New Economic Thinking,” is edited by INET Research Director Thomas Ferguson.

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