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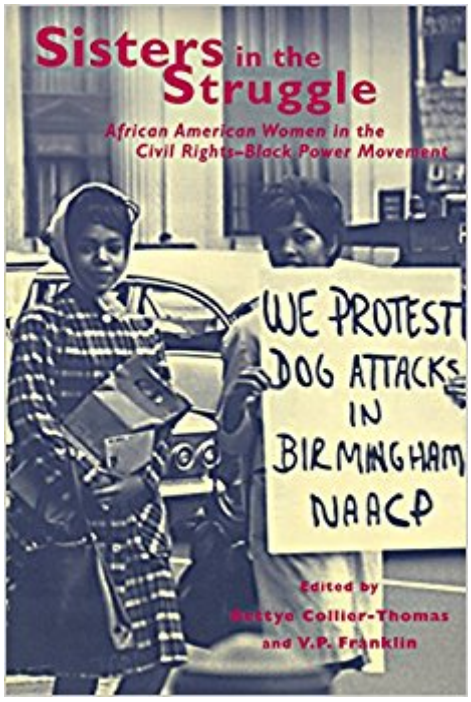
Sisters In The Struggle : African-American Women In The Civil Rights-Black Power Movement



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Synopsis

Women were at the forefront of the civil rights struggle, but their indvidiual stories were rarely heard. Only recently have historians begun to recognize the central role women played in the battle for racial equality. In Sisters in the Struggle, we hear about the unsung heroes of the civil rights movements such as Ella Baker, who helped found the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper who took on segregation in the Democratic party (and won), and Septima Clark, who created a network of "Citizenship Schools" to teach poor Black men and women to read and write and help them to register to vote. We learn of Black women's activism in the Black Panther Party where they fought the police, as well as the entrenched male leadership, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where the behind-the-scenes work of women kept the organization afloat when it was under siege. It also includes first-person testimonials from the women who made headlines with their courageous resistance to segregation—Rosa Parks, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, and Dorothy Height. This collection represents the coming of age of African-American women's history and presents new stories that point the way to future study. Contributors: Bettye Collier-Thomas, Vicki Crawford, Cynthia Griggs Fleming, V. P. Franklin, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Duchess Harris, Sharon Harley, Dorothy I. Height, Chana Kai Lee, Tracye Matthews, Genna Rae McNeil, Rosa Parks, Barbara Ransby, Jacqueline A. Rouse, Elaine Moore Smith, and Linda Faye Williams.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Â•If Bettye Collier-Thomas and V.P. Franklin had only gathered together a distinguished

group of scholars to document the role woman played in the black freedom movement, their contribution would be immense. But Sisters in the Struggle is more than an acknowledgement and celebration of black woman's activism. It is a major revision of history, revealing that black women were the critical thinkers, strategists, fighters, and dreamers of the movement. Black feminists developed a social vision expansive enough to emancipate us all."-Robin D.G. Kelley,author of Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working ClassÃ¢â ¬Â•The quality of each individual essay makes Sisters in the Struggle stand out as an unusual anthology, one whose total sum is actually more than its parts.Ã¢â ¬Â•-Journal of American History"Sisters in the Struggle is a powerful, inspirational and insightful book that takes the reader on a journey into the lives of some of the nation's most gifted and courageous African American women leaders, feminist organizers, and Black Power advocates. It was through the dint of their efforts that they helped shape and define what American society should become. These "sheroes" remind us that the prices they paid for freedom bequeathed a legacy of human dignity and opportunity that must be sustained by generations to follow.Ã¢â ¬Â•-Joyce A. Ladner,author of Tomorrow's Tomorrow: The Black Woman

Bettye Collier-Thomas is Professor of History and Director of the Center for African-American History and Culture at Temple University. She is the author of Daughters of Thunder: Black Women Preachers and Their Sermons and co-author, with V.P. Franklin, of My Soul is a Witness: A Chronology of the Civil Rights Era, 1954-1965. V.P. Franklin is Distinguished Professor of History at Drexel University. He is the author of several books, including Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Biography and Living Our Stories, Telling Our Truths: Autobiography and the Making of the African-American Intellectual Tradition.

This was an assigned text bookf or my history of African American Women class and it was assigned with quite a few others but it held its own and was not lost in the bunch it offers insight and true knowledge into the lives of African American women during the direct oppression of society and the white community in general...it was an amazing honest representation...

good quality

Sisters in the Struggle focuses on the often forgotten women without whom the Civil Rights Movement would not have been possible.

Through the words of scholars and female Civil Rights-Black Power activists, this book provides an excellent overview of the movement. It is a necessary read for anyone who does not understand that black women were essential to the Civil Rights-Black Power movement or who does not understand why black women created their own organizations (i.e., NACW, NCNW, Combahee River Collective, etc.) to insure that their issues were addressed. Each of the essays also provide a wonderful source of general background information to help you understand the historical context without overloading you with info.

SISTERS IN THE STRUGGLE chronicles the contributions of African American women at the height of the social reform movement in the twentieth century. It provided a different perspective than what is customarily shed on this era.The book depicts the selflessness of some important historical figures such as well-known Rosa Parks whose stubborn refusal to give up her bus seat sparked an inferno in the Civil Rights Movement. Mary MacLeod Bethune's achievement of founding Bethune-Cookman College in 1904 to offer higher education opportunities to African American women is chronicled. The life and times of Charlayne Hunter-Gault, who struggled to tear down the racial dividers at the University of Georgia and won the right to enroll in 1961, as well as many other historical accounts.This book was a book club selection. Due to the text-book like offerings, we choose a subsection of the book on which to focus. All in all, the book contributed to a lively discussion as to how women of today are still `in the struggle.' Although dry at times, the book does provide an insightful peek into our history.Reviewed by Nedineof The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers

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