Bookfile

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Recommended Citation
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BOOKFILE


This 438-page volume is among the latest in contemporary critical studies on Ralph Ellison, author of the 1962 classic, *Invisible Man*, and other notable works. It contains essays on his works, poems about him, interviews with him and a full bibliography of works by and about him.

"Ellison is both the most traditional of modern American writers (insomuch as he demands our constant attention to the details and wisdom of Afro-American culture) and the most revisionist critic of tradition (in that he constantly focuses our attention on the ambiguities inherent in any embrace of the past). In both fiction and criticism, Ellison has (insofar as he demands our constant attention) sought to assimilate these experiences in an effort to understand the complex strategy with which the leadership has approached the task of obtaining favorable results for Black participation in presidential politics," writes Walters in the Preface.

"Speaking for You" is divided into five major sections of scholarly criticism and interviews. A sixth part contains a bibliography, a list of contributors and an index.


This timely book, which is available both in paper and hardcover, is the author's contribution to American politics in a presidential election year. In 256 pages, Walters presents a point of view that calls for an aggressive political posture on the part of Black Americans, particularly in "presidential-level politics."

Among the topics he tackles are, Black politics and the electoral process in general, Blacks and the Democratic Party establishment and effective political strategy on a national level.

"This work represents the culmination of fourteen years of serious study and active involvement in presidential-level politics. Nevertheless, the necessity I have felt to write a political history of that period is only partially resolved in this brief account of such a phenomena as the 1972 Gary convention, the National Black Political Assembly and its subsequent Black Independent Party formation, the Black Democratic Caucus and its various conventions, and the 1984 presidential campaign of Rev. Jesse Jackson. Rather, I have attempted to distill these experiences in an effort to understand the complex strategy with which the Black leadership has approached the task of obtaining favorable results for Black participation in presidential politics," writes Walters in the Preface.


This volume, 234 page long, contains a collection of scholarly essays on the title subject. These essays were generated from papers at a 1985 conference on "Women in the African Diaspora: An Interdisciplinary Perspective," which was convened on the campus of Howard University under the auspices of the Association of Black Women Historians.


"Until recently," notes Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, "there has been little effort to organize African diaspora scholarship and cultural activity which focuses primarily upon the experiences of women. Just as black women's studies has grown out of the experiences of black studies and women's studies programs, women as a focus in the diaspora is emerging as a distinct area of inquiry as well.""}


This is a 201-page study of the role played by settlers of two communities established on the eastern coast of Kenya during the nineteenth century in shaping modern day Kenya.

The two communities—Frederick Town and Raba—had been founded by Africans liberated from the Indian Ocean slave trade and by other Africans who returned from the diaspora and became repatriates.

These settlers, Harris writes in the Introduction, "had an indelible impact not only on the future leaders of Kenya but on the course of history for East Africa in a more general sense. It is that impact on people, ideas, and institutions that established the repatriates and converts on the coast as pioneers in Kenya's uhuru (independence) and nation building."