



The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country

By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West

Download now

Read Online ➔

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West

One hundred original profiles of the most influential African-Americans of the twentieth century.

Without Louis Armstrong or Miles Davis, we would not have jazz. Without Toni Morrison or Ralph Ellison, we would miss some of our greatest novels. Without Dr. King or Thurgood Marshall, we would be deprived of political breakthroughs that affirm and strengthen our democracy. Here, two of the leading African-American scholars of our day, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Cornel West, show us why the twentieth century was the African-American century, as they offer their personal picks of the African-American figures who did the most to shape our world.

This colorful collection of personalities includes much-loved figures such as scientist George Washington Carver, contemporary favorites such as comedian Richard Pryor and novelist Alice Walker, and even less-well-known people such as aviator Bessie Coleman. Gates and West also recognize the achievements of controversial figures such as Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and rap artist Tupac Shakur. Lively, accessible, and illustrated throughout, *The African-American Century* is a celebration of black achievement and a tribute to the black struggle for freedom in America that will inspire readers for years to come.

 [Download The African-American Century : How Black Americans ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The African-American Century : How Black America ...pdf](#)

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country

By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West

One hundred original profiles of the most influential African-Americans of the twentieth century.

Without Louis Armstrong or Miles Davis, we would not have jazz. Without Toni Morrison or Ralph Ellison, we would miss some of our greatest novels. Without Dr. King or Thurgood Marshall, we would be deprived of political breakthroughs that affirm and strengthen our democracy. Here, two of the leading African-American scholars of our day, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Cornel West, show us why the twentieth century was the African-American century, as they offer their personal picks of the African-American figures who did the most to shape our world.

This colorful collection of personalities includes much-loved figures such as scientist George Washington Carver, contemporary favorites such as comedian Richard Pryor and novelist Alice Walker, and even less-well-known people such as aviator Bessie Coleman. Gates and West also recognize the achievements of controversial figures such as Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and rap artist Tupac Shakur. Lively, accessible, and illustrated throughout, *The African-American Century* is a celebration of black achievement and a tribute to the black struggle for freedom in America that will inspire readers for years to come.

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #338891 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Free Press
- Published on: 2002-02-05
- Released on: 2002-02-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.00" w x 7.37" l, 1.83 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 432 pages

 [Download The African-American Century : How Black Americans ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The African-American Century : How Black America ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The African American century was the one "in which African American life was transformed--and the century in which African Americans changed America." When it began, only 35 years after the end of slavery, few could envision what the 20th century would hold for black Americans. The 100 men and women described in this compendium, written by two of the most prominent black scholars and social commentators in America, represent important moments in the struggle to deepen America's democratic roots against the overwhelming forces of racism and bigotry. By choosing 100 (10 per decade), Gates and West ensured that they would have to omit important black figures. Nevertheless, the profiles achieve their purpose: to demonstrate and celebrate the multifaceted and profound achievements of African Americans in fields as diverse as science, politics, the military, literature, entertainment, and academia.

From W.E.B. Du Bois, probably the greatest African American intellectual of the 20th century, to Tiger Woods, golf's first black superstar, the well-written, fact-filled profiles present those who have lived extraordinary lives and shown tremendous courage. The roster includes the well-known, such as Louis Armstrong, Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, and Oprah Winfrey, as well as the more obscure but no less important. These include Carter G. Woodson, who pioneered the historical study of black America; Charles Richard Drew, who founded two of the world's largest blood banks and in so doing prevented millions of deaths; and Barbara Harris, the first woman bishop. Gates and West also embrace controversial figures such as Louis Farrakhan, Tupac Shakur, and Angela Davis, emphasizing their positive imprints while acknowledging their complexity. With this valuable addition to black history collections, the authors (both controversial in their own rights) continue their quest to fill the aching gaps in public awareness about African Americans and remind us that self-confidence, dignity, and excellence are the essential virtues in the great historical drama of American democracy. --*Lesley Reed*

From Publishers Weekly

"At the dawn of the 21st century... we cannot imagine a truly American culture that has not, in profound ways, been shaped by the contributions of African Americans," write scholars and popular social commentators West and Gates in the introduction to this elegant, fact-filled compendium of nearly 100 short biographies of distinguished thinkers, artists, politicians, entrepreneurs and athletes (one quarter of them women). While many of the figures highlighted here are obvious choices as such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells Barnett, Jackie Robinson, Jessye Norman and Spike Lee there are numerous others who are more obscure, including Bessie Colman, the first black woman aviator; Dorothy Height, who organized black women through the YWCA; and sculptor Martin Puryear. Maintaining an upbeat tone, the authors, Harvard professors both, attempt to address the complexity of their subjects' lives (e.g., Tupac Shakur's indictment on charges of sexual abuse), although they occasionally play down such thorny issues as Louis Farrakhan's anti-Semitic statements or Josephine Baker's support of Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia. The concept behind this book is not new (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's *Profiles in Black Courage*, among others, has covered similar territory), but the authors' strong reputations and clear prose make this not only an ideal gift book for younger readers but a good educational resource. 100 b&w photos. (Nov.)
Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Choosing a set number of significant figures to characterize a century is difficult enough, doing it in the context of also representing black Americans and the attendant controversy of race in America compounds

the task. But Gates and West bring their own able scholarly backgrounds and political sensibilities to the task. Readers might argue about the inclusion or omission of particular profiles, but the result is a captivating look at the last century and the fact that "American life is inconceivable without its black presence." The 100 figures chosen for this book are "part of a grand tradition that deepened democratic roots in an insufficiently democratic America." The list, which includes Father Divine and Oprah Winfrey, represents individuals who have shown courage and commitment in confronting the racial politics of the U.S. Athletes and entertainers are included, although Gates and West acknowledge drawing a line between racist stereotypes that overemphasize these fields and the admitted contributions of black people in those arenas. The authors submit that the figures chosen for their contributions to American culture "embody the core of democratic faith." The book is organized by decade and begins with a profile of W. E. B. DuBois, who prophetically declared at the start of the 1900s that "the problem with the twentieth century is the problem of the color-line." The collection ends with Tiger Woods, who ironically claims biracial status, projecting the issue of the complexity of the definition of race into the current century. Gates and West wisely include a comment by Earl Woods, Tiger's father, that despite his son's remarks, "his race can't be ignored." That points out another criteria for inclusion, looking at the past century with an eye toward the racial challenges that are carried into the current century. This is an important addition to black-history collections. *Vanessa Bush*
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paulette Cantu:

The ability that you get from The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country could be the more deep you searching the information that hide into the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this particular The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country instantly.

Abel Mulholland:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get prior to. The The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country giving you another experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful information for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Tiffany Serna:

This The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country is great e-book for you because the content that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. That book reveal it details accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world inside ten or fifteen second right but this guide already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt this?

Della McDonald:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This specific book The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country has many kinds or type. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading this.

Download and Read Online The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West #32VZS8OU6LY

Read The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West for online ebook

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West books to read online.

Online The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West ebook PDF download

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West Doc

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West Mobipocket

The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West EPub

32VZS8OU6LY: The African-American Century : How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country By Henry Louis Jr. Gates, Cornel West