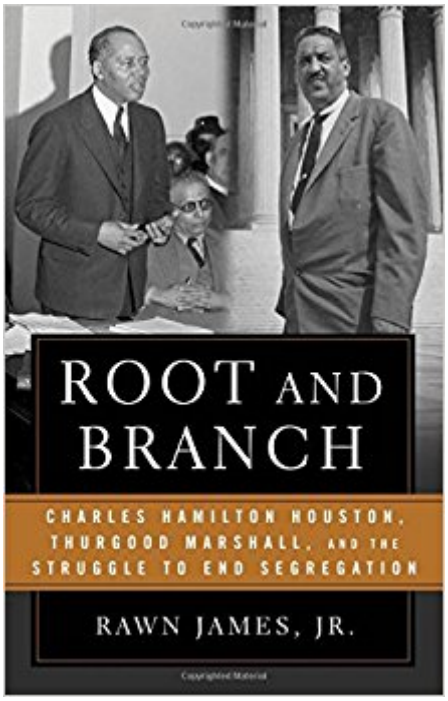
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Root And Branch: Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall, And The Struggle To End Segregation



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Synopsis

The riveting story of the two crusading lawyers who led the legal battle to end segregation, one case and one courtroom at a time. Ã Â The Supreme CourtÃ¢â ¬â„¢s decision in Brown v. Board of Education is widely considered a seminal point in the battle to end segregation, but it was in fact the culmination of a decades-long legal campaign. Root and Branch is the epic story of the two fiercely dedicated lawyers who led the fight from county courthouses to the marble halls of the Supreme Court, and, in the process, laid the legal foundations of the civil rights movement. Ã Â Charles Hamilton Houston was the pioneer: After becoming the first African-American on the Harvard Law Review, he transformed the law school at all-black Howard University into a West Point for civil rights advocacy. Ã Â One of HoustonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s students at Howard was a brash young man named Thurgood Marshall. Soon after MarshallÃ¢â ¬â„¢s graduation, Houston and Marshall opened the NAACPÃ¢â ¬â„¢s legal office. The abstemious, proper Houston and the folksy, easygoing Marshall made an unlikely duo, but together they faced down angry Southern mobs, negotiated with presidents and senators, and convinced even racist judges and juries that the Constitution demanded equal justice under law for all American citizens. Ã Â Houston, tragically, would die before his strategy came to fruition in the Brown suit, but Marshall would argue the case victoriously and go on to become the first African-American Supreme Court justiceÃ¢â ¬â •always crediting his mentor for teaching him everything he knew. Together, the two advocates changed the course of American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James successfully reincarnates the life of Charles Hamilton Houston, who graduated from Amherst College and Harvard Law School (serving as the first black president of the Harvard Law Review) and served in the army during World War I. As dean of the Howard Law School, he modeled the rigor and organization of Harvard Law School and the army to produce top-rated lawyers who committed their careers to overturning Jim Crow laws. One of his students was Thurgood Marshall. The book portrays the partnership of Houston (as legal theorist, strategist, and mentor), Thurgood Marshall (disciple), and Walter White (NAACP chief and financier), and other civil-rights lawyers. They repeatedly went before the U.S. Supreme Court and its affiliates to argue in favor of ending lynching, the poll tax, all-white juries, pay inequality, and unequal educational opportunity for blacks and whites. Younger readers will also learn about the systematic nature of the sacrifices made and the struggle for the U.S. to abide by its luminous promise to ensure safety and provide equal opportunity for all Americans.Very informative, serious, and easy to read. --Mohamed Sherriff

Ã¢â ¬Å“With deft portrayals of Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall and captivating accounts of the cases they were involved in, Rawn James, Jr. brings back to our attention two central figures in the nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s efforts to use constitutional law to confront and overcome our history of segregation and racism.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Mark Tushnet, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, Harvard Law SchoolÃ¢â ¬Å“Rawn James, Jr.Ã¢â ¬â„¢s moving and gracefully written Root and Branch reconstructs one of the most influential collaborations in American history.Ã Â With artful prose and careful scholarship, James documents how Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood MarshallÃ¢â ¬â •first as teacher and student, and later as trusted friends and colleaguesÃ¢â ¬â •spearheaded the NAACP's epochal legal assault on Jim Crow.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Raymond Arsenault, author of Freedom Riders and The Sound of FreedomÃ¢â ¬Å“Very informative, serious, and easy to read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å“A generally informative, readable account of the struggle, in MarshallÃ¢â ¬â„¢s words, Ã¢â ¬Ëœto eliminate root and branch all vestiges of racial discrimination.Ã¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews"In his new book Root and Branch, Rawn James Jr...has done an outstanding job in recounting the tale...makes for compelling reading...James's book makes a valuable contribution to our collective remembrance of two extraordinary lawyers."Ã¢â ¬â •The Washington Lawyer

Root and Branch is meticulously researched and beautifully written. Rawn James, Jr.'s book is a significant contribution to the understanding of the evolution of civil rights and education in America.

The subject, The Struggle to End Segregation, is as relevant and important today as it was in the 1960s. Root and Branch emphasizes the central role education plays in a successful democracy and the future of America by exploring a time when equal education was considered dangerous. Thurgood Marshall and Charles Houston knew the importance of education and therefore their lives were in danger.Because Root and Branch is written in clear, lively prose, and draws in its reader from dramatic events and compelling stories of people involved in the civil rights movement, from legal visionaries Thurgood Marshall and Charles Houston to the young African American school girls who were not interested in a movement but simply craved a decent education, it is both inspiring and entertaining.As a bonus, Root and Branch features some particularly fine writing. Mr. James accomplishes the seemingly impossible task of making two lawyers and the legal system into an entertaining and, dare I say, EXCITING read. Root and Branch is so compelling that the reader wants to stand up and cheer at the end of a number of chapters. It is a fast read, historically enlightening and what I would term a suspense-thriller.I highly recommend it.

Charles Hamilton Houston doesn't get the attention that his student, Thurgood Marshall gets and that is probably because of Mr. Hamilton's passing. He was an extraordinary man who carved the legal path for civil rights in the mid-twentieth century, with outcomes that have been for the betterment of this country ever since.

This book will make you understand the struggle leaders endure to force change for the betterment of society. So proud of these men who earned law degress in the late 1890's -1920's.

This is a well written and informative histroy of two of the giants of the fight for civil rights in the courts. Unfortunately, some details are simply wrong, and that calls into question the balance of what is written. For example, on a number of occasions the author refers to actions taken by President Truman in 1944. We know, of course, that Mr. Truman did not become president until 1945. Even so, this book is well worth reading by those interested in the legal struggles of the pioneers of the movement.

I got this for a great price and with delivery cost - it was still less than purchasing it through a store locally. I also had read this book before and was excited to find it through . For history buffs - this is a very informative book about these two legal giants, in addition to many others that I was unaware of.It is an exciting read that I struggled to put down! Not only would I recommend it - but I bought a

second copy as a gift for someone else!

Having heard for years that there was a foundation to all the civil rights legislation in the 50's and 60's, I unexpectedly came upon this book that explained the process. It is the story of how they laid a legal foundation for over thirty years that made possible the Brown vs the Board of Ed decision. It told of their hard work and never giving up on their goal, even with heartbreaking failures. Although it may sound like a boring history book , it was quite interesting and a very nice read overall.

This was an entertaining book about the legal drive, especially from the works of Howard University lawyers and the NAACP to end segregation in America. Perhaps the most interesting part was the use of Plessy vs. Ferguson, which made segregation lawful at the time, as the wedge to end segregation. The doctrine of separate but equal could not stand if equality was enforced.

Delved deeply into the early legal and social strategies surrounding the civil rights movement. What an uphill climb and how much courage, tenacity, patience, will, intellect, and educational training was required. As a politician, I appreciated all of those characteristics in terms of what can be achieved over time with a strong heart and hard, hard work.

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