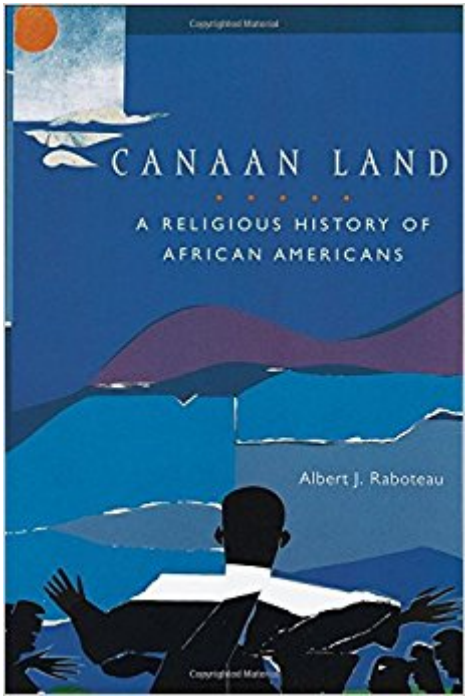
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Canaan Land: A Religious History Of African Americans (Religion In American Life)



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Synopsis

Throughout African-American history, religion has been indelibly intertwined with the fight against intolerance and racial prejudice. Martin Luther King, Jr.-America's best-known champion of civil liberties-was a Baptist minister. Father Divine, a fiery preacher who established a large following in the 1920s and 1930s, convinced his disciples that he could cure not only disease and infirmity, but also poverty and racism.An in-depth examination of African-American history and religion, this comprehensive and lively book provides panoramic coverage of the black religious and social experience in America. Renowned historian Albert J. Raboteau traces the subtle blending of African tribal customs with the powerful Christian establishment, the migration to cities, the growth of Islam, and the 200-year fight for freedom and identity which was so often centered around African-American churches. From the African Methodist Episcopal Church to the Nation of Islam and from the first African slaves to Louis Farrakhan, this far-reaching book chronicles the evolution of an important and influential component of our religious and historical heritage. African American Religion combines meticulously researched historical facts with a fast-paced, engaging narrative that will appeal to readers of any age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Working from the premise that "the story of African-American religion has often been neglected in books and courses on [both] African-American history and American religious history," Princeton

religion professor Raboteau (Slave Religion and A Fire in the Bones) offers this wonderfully informative and brief introduction to African-American religious traditions. The book opens memorably with a glimpse of a 15th-century slave raid off the western coast of Africa, with Raboteau powerfully demonstrating the devastation slavery wrought upon individuals and families. He then paints with broad strokes the sensibilities of many African religions, their syncretic blending with Christianity into new traditions such as SanterÃ Â¡a and Candomblˆ, and the conversion of many American slaves to Christianity (particularly the Methodist and Baptist sects). He sweeps through the independent black church movement of the 19th century, chronicling how the joy of emancipation dissipated into bleak despair as African-Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries struggled to achieve economic and social parity. Closing chapters discuss the Great Migration and the rise of new religious movements in the North, such as Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement and the Nation of Islam. Raboteau does not neglect the conversion of many African-Americans to age-old religious traditions (there are now two million black Catholics in the United States). This well-written, concise primer, sprinkled with primary sources, covers all of the highlights and deserves to become a staple of college syllabi. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

"[A] wonderfully informative and brief introduction to African-American religious traditions....This well-written, concise primer, sprinkled with primary sources, covers all of the highlights and deserves to become a staple of college syllabi."--Publishers Weekly"Read it, then tell the stories to your children. Add [this book] to your bookshelf because it documents in pictures and words the journey of blacks in America and the integral role of the church....A good read, particularly now."--New Jersey Star Ledger"An excellent introductory text for high school through graduate school courses in Ameircan religion, African-American religion, and black theology."--National Catholic Reporter

A great look at African American theology. The book is well organized and easy to read. The author does a great job supporting his assertions. I will be reading more from this author. Highly recommend.

I have to admit that this book was kind of forced upon me because of a paper that had to be written for school. What a surprise as I read through this short but very informative text!Dr. Raboteau does a wonderful job of explaining the religious history of African American religious customs in America.

One of the nice things about the book is the personal letters that are in between each chapter.This is a book that everyone should consider reading. You will walk away from it with a clearer understanding of the issues that were so prevalent not so very long ago. This also may pique your interest as far as studying this subject in greater depth.A great read that is quite informative for its small size. Dr. Raboteau is clearly a very learned man and does not waste words or space with his writing. You could read a book twice the size and only come away with slightly more information.

Good intro -- I assigned in my university Religions in America class (undergrads, mostly frosh). Personally I prefer his earlier, longer, more footnoted work Slave Religion: The Invisible Institution in the Antebellum South so used that for my lectures.

Excellent book, I was able to blast through it in a day and learned much about African-American Religion in America. This was required reading for a Religious Studies course I had taken.

Albert J. Raboteau has done a wonderful service to those who are looking for a "not-to-large" volume of the African-American religious journey. It highlights major events/characters of the last 600 years and writes in way that makes you want to research more.

Albert J. Raboteau is the foremost researcher on African American religious history. "Canaan Land" is the foremost book to start with when seeking to gain an understanding of the flow and focus of African American religious history. Raboteau, as in all his books, combines the scholarship of an academic with the passion of a great writer. The combination produces a book that is wonderfully readable both for the student and the lay reader."Canaan Land" is rightly considered a modern-day classic in the genre of African American religious history. Raboteau splendidly weaves together his own insightful commentary with copious first-hand accounts and quotations. Readers are left with an epic telling of the faith of African Americans.Reviewer: Bob Kellemen, Ph.D., is the author of Beyond the Suffering: Embracing the Legacy of African American Soul Care and Spiritual Direction , Soul Physicians, and Spiritual Friends.

Perfect Edition!

Really good :) very interesting history and background. Highly recommended for good topics that cover Black History and none sugar coating

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