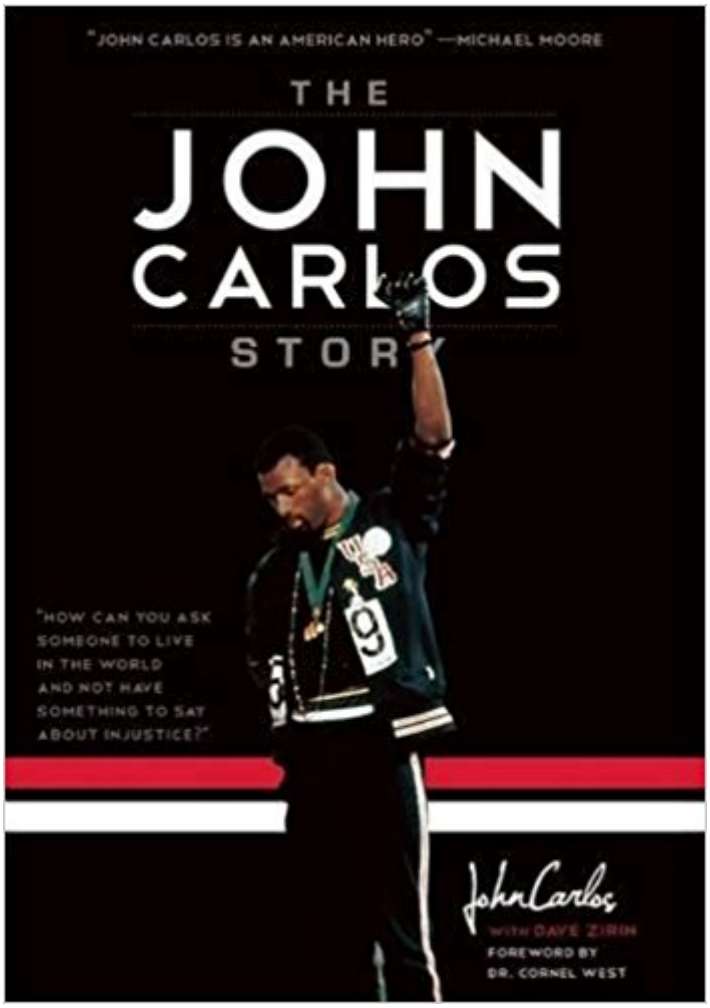
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The John Carlos Story: The Sports Moment That Changed The World



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Synopsis

2012 NAACP Image Award Nominee for Outstanding Literary Work—Biography/Autobiography"A powerful and poignant memoir."—Cornel West, from the foreword"John Carlos is an American hero. And finally he has written a memoir to tell us his story—and a powerful story it is. I couldn’t put this book down."—Michael MooreSeen around the world, John Carlos and Tommie Smith’s Black Power salute on the 1968 Olympic podium sparked controversy and career fallout. Yet their show of defiance remains one of the most iconic images of Olympic history and the Black Power movement. Here is the remarkable story of one of the men behind the salute, lifelong activist John Carlos.John Carlos is a former track and field athlete and professional football player, and a founding member of the Olympic Project for Human Rights. He won the bronze medal in the 200-meter race at the 1968 Olympics, where his Black Power salute on the podium with Tommie Smith caused much political controversy.Dave Zirin is the author of four books, including Bad Sports: How Owners are Ruining the Games We Love, A Peoples’ History of Sports in the United States, and What’s My Name, Fool?

Book Information

Paperback: 220 pages

Publisher: Haymarket Books; Reprint edition (February 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9781608462247

ISBN-13: 978-1608462247

ASIN: 1608462242

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #239,753 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 inÃ Â Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Olympic Games #120 inÃ Â Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Sociology of Sports #180 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Football

Customer Reviews

"John Carlos is an American hero. And finally he has written a memoir to tell us his storyÃ¢â ¬â ¢and a powerful story it is. I couldn’t put this book down."--Michael Moore"Biblically, athletes with superior attributes were seen as gifts from God. Whether it was Samson staring down

the Philistines or David slaying Goliath, they and latter-day heroes such as Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali, selflessly used their gifts and magnificently magnified platforms to transform society. It is in that tradition that John Carlos, and his teammate Tommie Smith, raised their fists in solidarity with the American civil rights struggle, as well as the struggles of those who exist on the downside of advantage. It was a statement for the ages. This act of righteous defiance lifted us all to a new level of dignity and shared responsibility to improve the conditions of the poor the world over...But the price of heroism is high. John Carlos paid and this is his story."--Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr."The John Carlos story is the remarkable chronicle of an epic life sketched against the defining crisis of race in America. Carlos' athletic genius on the field is matched by his heroic will to overcome trials and tribulations in his personal life, and to find resurrection in his professional life. This is an inspiring and eloquent story about a great American whose commitment to truth, justice and democracy were tested and found true."--Michael Eric Dyson"John Carlos' life story is an insightful and gripping look at the times he lived and the Olympics he helped make so memorable. He shows us that the one day that made him famous was only the most outward and visible sign of a touching and thoughtful life."--Frank Deford"The John Carlos Story is a blow by blow detail of triumph vs tragedy from the jump. Again Dave Zirin uncovers, and yet illuminates the mere footnotes of this sports history hero with his impeccable balance of truth. This story drills a hole into the myth of black athlete success and worship."--Chuck D, Public Enemy"In this breathlessly readable tale, John Carlos finally steps out of that iconic photograph to become the vibrant, fascinating hero we never really knew."--Robert Lipsyte, author of An Accidental Sportswriter, a memoir"John Carlos's story of bravery and sacrifice will warm your heart. But beyond his individual heroism, it speaks to the power of athletes who bodaciously refuse to just "shut up and play." Carlos and Zirin capture the way that through sports, the actions of a few athletes resonate across the globe."--William Hunter, Executive Director, National Basketball Players Association"An intelligent and insightful look into the journey of one of our most underrated heroes. Mr. Carlos' passion for justice and fairness has changed our world. You can feel his passion (and his anger) in every word."--Jemele Hill, ESPN columnist and television analyst"John Carlos tells a compelling story of courage and the consequences of action. He, Tommie Smith and many other Black athletes took a stand against racial injustice in the U.S. and racial injustice in sports. They were ridiculed by many mainstream commentators at the time, but their actions helped to transform both the sports world and this country. This book was by and about someone who has been and remains one of my heroes."--Bill Fletcher, Jr., editorial board member, BlackCommentator.com"History tells us iconic moments in sport are always enveloped in personal stories of sacrifice, courage, and angst. The

lasting images that we see occur in a flash contain enriching back stories that are typically even more significant and tragic than the moment itself. John Carlos and Dave Zirin have combined to tell such a story. The moment that two men stood on the world platform to take a stand after they had become the best in the world is rich, complicated but most importantly as relevant today as it was in Mexico City. Dave brings a beautiful and passionate voice of truth to his listeners and achieves the same in this book about a man who became a legend. I am proud to call him my friend."--DeMaurice Smith, Director NFL Players Assiciation"The Nation's sports columnist Dave Zirin combines the passion of the most rabid sports nut with the intellectual rigor of the most learned Hegelian."--Katrina vanden Heuvel, Editor, The Nation"Not since Hunter S. Thompson has a sports writer shown the right snarl for the job."-- Naomi Klein"John Carlos is an American hero. And finally he has written a memoir to tell us his story—and a powerful story it is. I couldn't put this book down."--Michael Moore"Biblically, athletes with superior attributes were seen as gifts from God. Whether it was Samson staring down the Philistines or David slaying Goliath, they and latter-day heroes such as Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali, selflessly used their gifts and magnificently magnified platforms to transform society. It is in that tradition that John Carlos, and his teammate Tommie Smith, raised their fists in solidarity with the American civil rights struggle, as well as the struggles of those who exist on the downside of advantage. It was a statement for the ages. This act of righteous defiance lifted us all to a new level of dignity and shared responsibility to improve the conditions of the poor the world over...But the price of heroism is high. John Carlos paid and this is his story."--Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr."The John Carlos story is the remarkable chronicle of an epic life sketched against the defining crisis of race in America. Carlos' athletic genius on the field is matched by his heroic will to overcome trials and tribulations in his personal life, and to find resurrection in his professional life. This is an inspiring and eloquent story about a great American whose commitment to truth, justice and democracy were tested and found true."--Michael Eric Dyson"John Carlos' life story is an insightful and gripping look at the times he lived and the Olympics he helped make so memorable. He shows us that the one day that made him famous was only the most outward and visible sign of a touching and thoughtful life."--Frank Deford"The John Carlos Story is a blow by blow detail of triumph vs tragedy from the jump. Again Dave Zirin uncovers, and yet illuminates the mere footnotes of this sports history hero with his impeccable balance of truth. This story drills a hole into the myth of black athlete success and worship."--Chuck D, Public Enemy"In this breathlessly readable tale, John Carlos finally steps out of that iconic photograph to become the vibrant, fascinating hero we never really knew."--Robert Lipsyte, author of An Accidental Sportswriter, a memoir"John Carlos's story of bravery and sacrifice will warm your

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John Wesley Carlos: John Carlos is an African American former track and field athlete and professional football player. He was a founding member of the Olympic Project for Human Rights and won the bronze-medal in the 200 meters race at the 1968 Summer Olympics. His black power salute on the podium with Tommie Smith caused much political controversy. He went on to equal the world record in the 100 yard dash and beat the 200 meters world record. After his track career, he enjoyed brief stints in the National Football League and Canadian Football League but retired due to injury. He became involved with the United States Olympic Committee and helped to organize the 1984 Summer Olympics. He later became a track coach at a high school in Palm Springs, where he now resides. He was inducted into the USA Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2003.

"John Carlos Memoir" is his first book.Dave Zirin is the author of four books, including Bad Sports, A Peoples' History of Sports in the United States, What's My Name Fool! and Welcome to the Terrordome. He writes the popular weekly column "The Edge of Sports" (edgeofsports.com) and is a regular contributor to SI.com, SLAM, The Los Angeles Times, and The Nation where he is the publications first Sports Editor. He lives in Washington, D.C..

I have seen this iconic picture many times over the years but did not know the whole story. Mr. Carlos tells his story in such a way that is so simple yet conveys the complex issue of race in the USA. Just like Jack Johnson, Paul Robeson, Muhammad Ali and other Black men that defied the status quo during their peak years as respective giants in their fields he was persecuted for taking his stand. He endured all the ridicule, lost wages and has a very telling story on what the US did not want to share on the international stage in 1968. Well worth everyone's reading time.

This story is important and is still relevant. I remember when this happened at the Olympics and the uproar it caused. I believed the negative slant that was being printed about John Carlos and his cause - but after reading this I see John Carlos in a completely different light. Dave Zirin is such a talented writer that the combination of a compelling and important story, being told so well makes this a must read for anyone interested in the ongoing struggle for genuine equality on this planet of ours.

The most fascinating part of John Carlos' life isn't really the suffering that his demonstration of courage caused him, (and our shame that his act caused him so much suffering) but that now most Americans think of the Black Power salute in Mexico City with approval. His courage made for a significant event in American history, not just American sports history, on the level of Cassius Clay throwing his medals into the river after 1960 and Muhammed Ali lighting the Olympic Flame at the Atlantic Olympics 36 years later. His story of growing up in Harlem, his difficult college athletic career in east Texas, the Mexico City event and the debates that proceeded it, and the memory of the passions of the 1960s make this book a good read for anyone interested in sports history or American racial and Civil Rights history. I'm glad to live in the same world as men like John Carlos.

I enjoyed the book minus the few typos that I discovered while reading it. I was 7 years old and remember the gesture all 3 men made on the stand for oppressed African Americans. I was too young to really grasp the whole situation, reading this book clears it all up. It's sad how people have

fought for our rights throughout the years and we as a race still treat each other like trash. Anyway I digress, the book was great I didn't want to put it down. The only real problem that I have and had with the book is that no one should compare anything to cancer unless you've actually had it. I've had 3 family members pass of cancer and I have a sister who is breast cancer survivor I get real peeved when I read something like that, I don't care who the writer may be!

I ran track as a kid...and my cousins and I would pretend we were standing at the podium with our fists raised.We didn't really know much of what it really ..really..meant....and what was really going on during that time.I saw John Carlos on CSPAN discussing this book....so I decided to learn more about him. It's a wonderfully written book. Mr. Carlos does a nice job painting a picture of his life and things that happened to him to make him the man he is....and that lead up to that historic moment.Well done Mr. Carlos.

A good read about a courageous individual who risked it all to state his truth. In addition, Carlos provides an interesting look back to a period of change, although not enough change, and the turmoil that always accompanies meaningful change. You don't have to be a sports fan to enjoy the book and appreciate the story.

The John Carols Story not only provides insight to one of the greatest moments in sports history but it is told with John Carols' gentle humor, which is enchanting. A magnificent storyteller I felt like I was there every step of the way. I could not put this book down. It was a joy to read.

Good book. Fair price. Delivery was slower than expected.

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