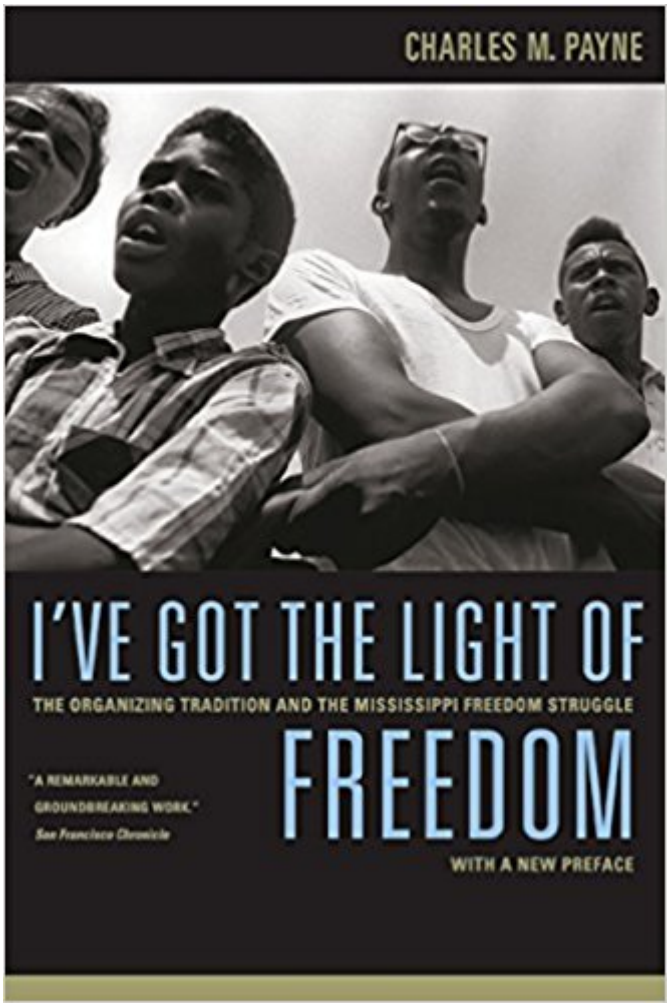
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I've Got The Light Of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition And The Mississippi Freedom Struggle



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Synopsis

This momentous work offers a groundbreaking history of the early civil rights movement in the South with new material that situates the book in the context of subsequent movement literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not a comprehensive history of the civil rights movement in Mississippi, this thoughtful study instead analyzes the legacy of community organizing there. Payne, who teaches African American studies, sociology and urban affairs at Northwestern University, notes that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), though grounded in youthful energy, gained much from the "congealed experience" of older leaders, such as Ella Baker and Septima Clark. Concentrating on the delta city of Greenwood, he offers useful profiles of local activists, showing that many came from families with traditions of social involvement or defiance. He also explores the disproportionate number of female volunteers, the older black generation’s complex interactions with whites and the decline of organizing as the 1960s proceeded. And he notes that, despite an ideology of unity, black activists lost the capacity to work together. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Payne (African American studies, Northwestern Univ.) presents an illuminating examination of the Civil Rights movement at the local level, in this case Greenwood, Mississippi, in the 1960s. As Payne deftly grafts Greenwood’s struggle onto the larger movement, he challenges several widely

accepted conclusions, such as overemphasizing a core cadre of male leaders while overlooking the important contributions of women and youth and the belief that the black church was an early leader in the movement. Much of Payne's information is culled from oral interviews with actual movement participants. The result is an important history of the Civil Rights movement at the grass-roots level that is reminiscent of Robert Norrell's Reaping the Whirlwind: The Civil Rights Movement in Tuskegee (Knopf, 1985). The excellent bibliographic essay is essential reading. Recommended for any library that collects Civil Rights materials.Jonathan Jeffrey, Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling GreenCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

In Charles PayneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve got the Light of Freedom, the Organizing tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle, Payne moves far away from the top-down narrative and focuses on the grassroots organizing tradition specific to Mississippi. Locally based, cite specific struggles of every day people. For these people, fighting back was not a choice but a necessary way of life. Payne works hard to dispel the myth that your every day person isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t powerful, and shows how people who come together can make change under the most hoary of circumstances. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve Got the Light of Freedom opens with in depth depictions of the systematic racial terrorism that blacks endured. Chapter One, duly titled ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Setting the stageÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• goes into extreme detail of the lynchings that occurred in Mississippi between 1930 and 1950. Including names, dates, methods, and circumstances, this serves to humanize the masses and brings light to men like Dave Harris, Pig Lockett and Holly Hite, whoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s deaths shall not be in vain. This serves to set the understanding that the movement was built on the sacrifices of every day people in a way that the top-down narrative could not. The Civil Rights movement was not the work and success of a few respectively charismatic and militant leaders, but a movement created, fueled, and pushed forward by your every day person

This book captures so many critical things in the history of the black community's struggle for equality and civil rights. Most importantly, it describes in a clear manner the real heroes of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the effects that their work had on the overall community. It tells of key leaders such as Fannie Lou Hammer, and Septima Clark, and how their work was way ahead of the organizational leadership, as it undergirded the community awareness and set the pace for many of the struggles and victories that subsequently came. Its nuggets include critical insights into how to actually do the work of both standing up for social justice, with

integrity and hope..

This is another book that I purchased for a class requirement. I can't exactly say that I enjoyed reading about the turmoil my people went through but I can say that it gave me a new appreciation for the freedoms we take for granted today. I would recommend this book. It is an eye opener.

I had to read the book for a civil rights history class..... But it actually was a great read!!!! Very informative, gave me a true look into the blood shed and hard work it took to mold the civil rights movement.

Very interesting and well written book.

Brilliant book about the grass roots approach to the civil rights movement, if you can get past the first 30 pages.

This is a must have for anyone who teaches Civil Rights -- even to elementary age kids. The seller got it here quickly and the book was in perfect condition,

A Good Read

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