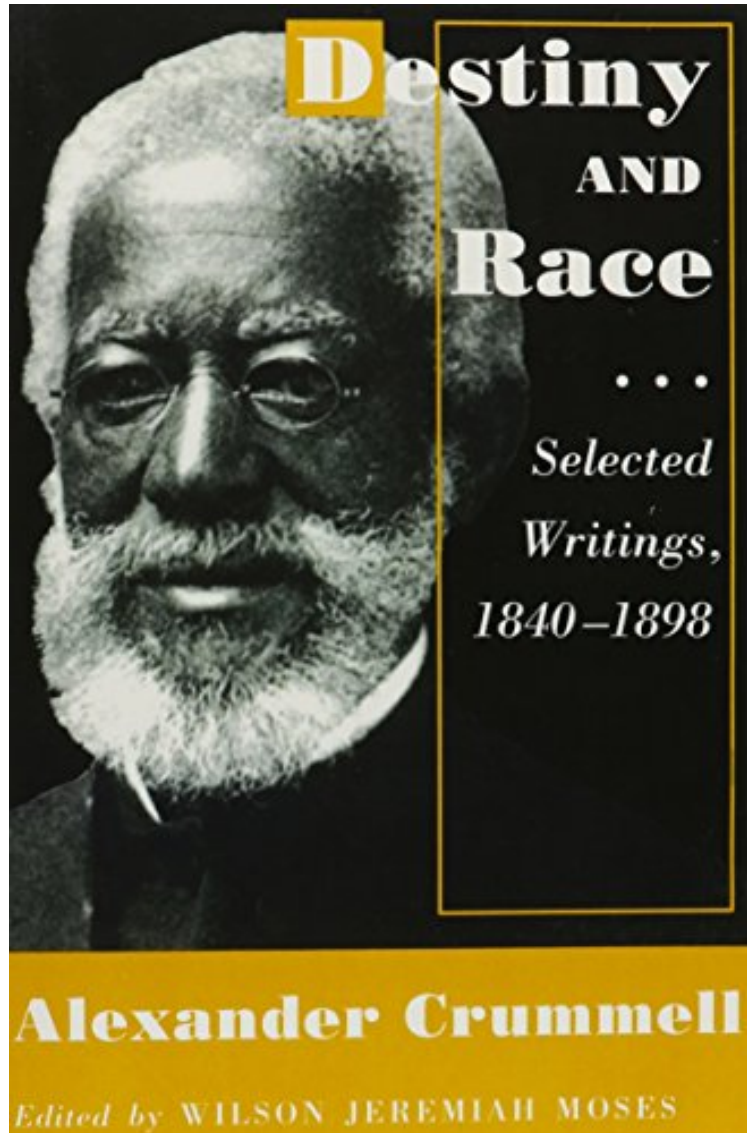


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Destiny and Race: Selected Writings, 1840-1898

Alexander Crummell

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Alexander Crummell : Destiny and Race: Selected Writings, 1840-1898 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Destiny and Race: Selected Writings, 1840-1898*:

A major 19th-century reformer and intellectual, Alexander Crummell (1819-1898) was the first black American to receive a degree from Cambridge University. Upon graduation, he sailed to Liberia, where from 1853 to 1872 he

worked as a farmer, educator, small business operator, and Episcopal missionary. Returning to America in 1873, he established St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., serving as its pastor until 1894. Crummell remained active in the black community throughout his later years and in 1897 founded the American Negro Academy, which he intended as a challenge to the power of Booker T. Washington's accommodationist philosophy. Throughout his long life, Crummell was a prolific, sometimes controversial, and often acerbic writer. His pioneering work on black nationalism, black self-determination, and Pan-Americanism influenced many African-American leaders of his day, including W.E.B. Du Bois, who devoted a chapter to Crummell in "The Souls of Black Folk". Crummell's surviving papers include over 400 sermons and political essays and a voluminous correspondence. Despite his importance to American and African-American history, Crummell is little known today. With the exception of the facsimile reprints of two of his books in the 1960s, there have been no modern printings of his work. This volume is intended to restore Crummell's voice and to prompt a reevaluation of his writings.

From Library Journal This well-edited work reestablishes the importance of a leading African American thinker. A 19th-century Episcopal minister, reformer, and pan-Africanist, Crummell had a major influence on subsequent black activists, particularly W.E.B. Dubois. This collection, which includes sermons, letters, and unpublished lecture notes, displays his passion for racial justice and disdain for emotional religiosity, also tracing his deep fascination with Africa and Africa's relevance for black Americans. Moses (director, Afro-American Studies, Boston Univ.) succeeds in restoring Crummell to his rightful place as a major influence. Although some of the selections are dated and a bit dull, this book belongs in all libraries with solid African American holdings.- Anthony O. Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, Ind. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.