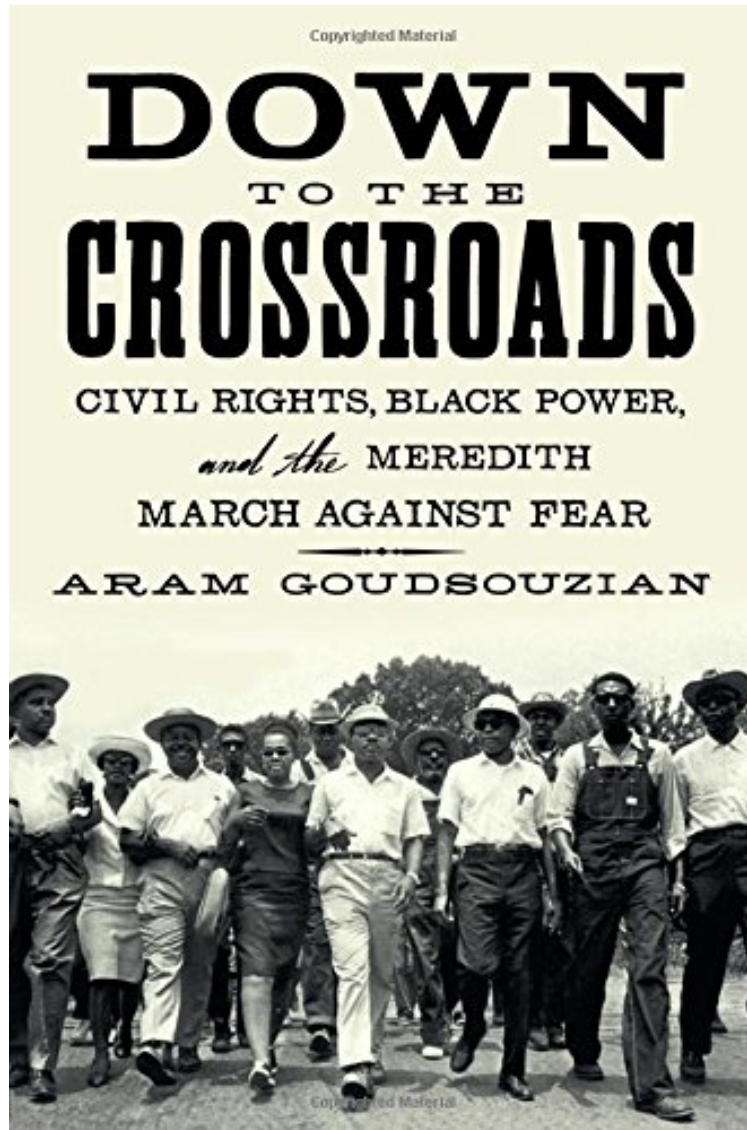


(Read free) Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear

Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear

Aram Goudsouzian

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2227476 in Books Aram Goudsouzian 2015-02-10 2015-02-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 228.60 x .83 x 6.00l, 1.00 #File Name: 0374535523368 pages Down to the Crossroads | File size: 21.Mb

Aram Goudsouzian : Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Aram Goudsouzian reveals the story behind the Meredith March By Paul T. Murray The Meredith March in 1966 is usually remembered as the birthplace of the Black Power slogan. Down

to the Crossroads by Aram Goudsouzian reveals that this march was much more than that. Begun as a solo hike from Memphis to Jackson by James Meredith, the first African American to attend Ole Miss, it became a national event when he was shot from ambush. Martin Luther King, Stokely Carmichael, the new chairman of SNCC, and Floyd McKissick, the head of CORE, took up Meredith's cause. Compared with the unparalleled success of the Selma to Montgomery march just sixteen months earlier, the Meredith march was a disappointment. Moderate leaders hoped the march would build support for the Civil Rights bill then before Congress. Radical spokesmen, most notably Carmichael, wanted to turn the Civil Rights Movement towards Black Nationalism and away from nonviolence. Reporters covering the march focused on disagreements among the leaders and anti-white implications of the new slogan. Largely overlooked was the march's announced goal of promoting black voter registration. Goudsouzian has done extensive research on the events and personalities involved in the Meredith march. He has interviewed a wide variety of participants and observers. He scrupulously avoids taking sides among the various factions and points out benefits of the march as well as its less positive consequences. Students of the Civil Rights Movement will learn much they previously did not know from reading *Down to the Crossroads*.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
An End and a Beginning
By Jemar
I'm so glad I picked up "Down to the Crossroads" by Aram Goudsouzian! First, by examining the March Against Fear, this work adds an essential voice to the narrative of the Civil Rights movement. Also, very few historians combine thorough research with compelling prose that makes the reader feel, taste, see, and hear the history. Finally, Goudsouzian links the regional history of Mississippi to the larger national story of civil rights. The author makes a strong case supporting this powerful statement, "It was an end and a beginning: the last great march of the civil rights movement, and the birth of black power." So true! "Down to the Crossroads" helped tell a story that the PBS special on the Black Panthers largely overlooked. The film billed the Black Panther movement as mostly northern and urban, which it was. But as part of the black power movement, it had its roots in the south and clear connections to the March Against Fear, in my opinion. You will be grateful you read this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Less Known but Pivotal Event in the Civil Rights Movement
By Purple Dragon
Meredith March of 1966
James Meredith integrator of Ole Miss returns to the spotlight with his planned March Against Fear from Memphis to Jackson. He had two main goals—challenge blacks to fight their daily fears of whites in the south, especially Mississippi, and the second goal register 450,000 voters. The book looks at this march initiated by Meredith and continued by "Others" after he was nearly killed in an assassination attempt. The March occurs mainly during the month of June 1966. Dissolution of Civil Rights Coalition
The "Others" included leaders and representatives of each of the major civil rights organizations—SCLC, SNCC, CORE, NAACP and many local organizations participating in the march and vying to re-make (co-opt?) the Meredith March in ways that would advance their own agendas. Each differed on strategy, tactics and objectives. The organizations' agendas conflicted. The march surfaced major organizational differences that lead to permanent rifts which prevented these organizations from working collaboratively in the future in any major way. National Introduction of the Slogan—Black Power
The second point of the March was the wide promulgation of the term "Black Power". This term's promotion was done primarily by 24 year old SNCC president Stokely Carmichael elevating him to national prominence. The usefulness of this slogan was hotly debated by those involved in the March. The slogan meant many things to many people and took on different meanings at different times. For blacks, the slogan was a call to black pride, self-definition and self-determination. For many whites, aided by slanted press coverage, this slogan conjured anti-white visions of racial retaliation, retribution, and violence. This slogan created an atmosphere where whites felt threatened and uncomfortable. This caused many to decrease support and participation in the movement. Beginning of the White Backlash
It was felt that this may have been the time when the Civil Rights movement lost the moral high ground. Some mark this as the beginning of the "white backlash" which ultimately led to the Reagan revolution and beyond. This is a lesser known, but key chapter in the history of civil rights movement.

In 1962, James Meredith became a civil rights hero when he enrolled as the first African American student at the University of Mississippi. Four years later, he would make the news again when he reentered Mississippi, on foot. His plan was to walk from Memphis to Jackson, leading a "March Against Fear" that would promote black voter registration and defy the entrenched racism of the region. But on the march's second day, he was shot by a mysterious gunman, a moment captured in a harrowing and now iconic photograph. What followed was one of the central dramas of the civil rights era. With Meredith in the hospital, the leading figures of the civil rights movement flew to Mississippi to carry on his effort. They quickly found themselves confronting southern law enforcement officials, local activists, and one another. In the span of only three weeks, Martin Luther King, Jr., narrowly escaped a vicious mob attack; protesters were teargassed by state police; Lyndon Johnson refused to intervene; and the charismatic young activist Stokely Carmichael first led the chant that would define a new kind of civil rights movement: Black Power. Aram Goudsouzian's *Down to the Crossroads* is the story of the last great march of the King era, and the first great showdown of the turbulent years that followed. Depicting rural demonstrators' courage and the impassioned debates among movement leaders, Goudsouzian reveals the legacy of an event that would both integrate African Americans into the political system and inspire even bolder protests against it. Full of drama and contemporary resonances, this

book is civil rights history at its best.

From Booklist Though he was viewed as a civil rights champion for his 1962 campaign to integrate Ole Miss, when James Meredith undertook his long walk across Mississippi to encourage voter registration by black citizens in 1966, he was not regarded as a civil rights leader. His loner status kept him out of the inner circle of recognized leaders, yet when he was nearly assassinated one day into the walk, luminaries from Martin Luther King Jr. to Stokely Carmichael stepped in to take up the march, ultimately making it a turning point in the civil rights movement. Goudsouzian examines the tensions that were brewing between King, Carmichael, and others as the movement sorted itself into different philosophical camps—primarily integrationists versus separatists—with corresponding debates about the most effective strategies, setting the stage for the next phase of the era and the rise of the black power movement. He highlights the contentious debates among movement leaders, the courage they inspired among rural demonstrators, and the fierce resistance they faced from segregationists. --Vanessa Bush “An estimably well-researched and pitch-perfect work of history . . . Goudsouzian's well-written book is a model of authoritative and jargon-free scholarship.” ?The Washington Post “Down to the Crossroads provides a nuanced and engaging look at what was one of the last major marches of the civil-rights movement.” ?Wall Street Journal “Aram Goudsouzian has written the single best book on a critical period of the civil rights struggle. He helps us to understand fully what really happened to the movement and in America after passage of the historic 1964-65 civil rights laws. With a scholar's meticulous research, an investigative reporter's comprehensive interviewing, and a novelist's lyrical prose, Goudsouzian brings alive an important chapter in American history.” ?Nick Kotz, author of Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws That Changed America “Down to the Crossroads stands every chance of being career-defining. It is meticulously researched, and it is thoroughly readable. It is also a story that remained relatively under-reported -- until now.” ?Leonard Gill, Memphis Flyer “In Down to the Crossroads, Aram Goudsouzian re-creates the last great march of the civil rights movement in vibrant and intimate detail. Through compelling prose and exciting storytelling, Goudsouzian introduces contemporary readers to the central characters of a great American drama: a historic political movement in transition, precisely at the end of the era of nonviolent civil disobedience and the beginning of the revolutionary politics of Black Power, militancy, and armed resistance. This book is a must-read for anyone curious about the sixties and about the roots of the political movement that elected Barack Obama president.” ?Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Studies
Author Aram Goudsouzian is chair of the history department at the University of Memphis. He earned his B.A. from Colby College and his Ph.D. from Purdue University. He is the author of King of the Court: Bill Russell and the Basketball Revolution, The Hurricane of 1938, and Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon. He lives in Memphis, Tennessee.