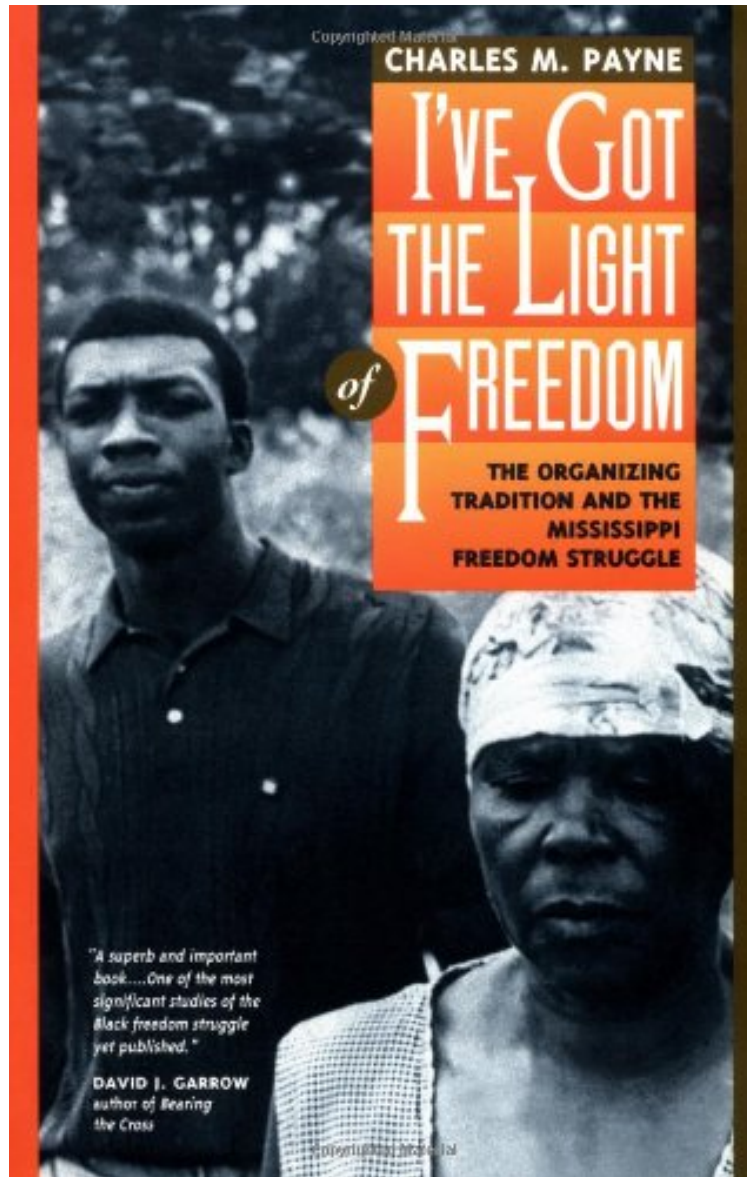


[Mobile ebook] I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle

I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle

Charles M. Payne

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Charles M. Payne : I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. this serves to humanize the masses and brings light to men like Dave Harris

By CynIn Charles Payne's *I'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 isn't powerful, and shows how people who come together can make change under the most hoary of circumstances. *I've Got the Light of Freedom* opens with in depth depictions of the systematic racial terrorism that blacks endured. Chapter One, duly titled "Setting the stage" 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, who'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

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lead, Inspire and Organize!

By Lorenzo L. GarciaThis 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.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Can't be put in words

By CustomerThis 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.

This momentous work offers a groundbreaking history of the early civil rights movement in the South. Using wide-ranging archival work and extensive interviews with movement participants, Charles Payne uncovers a chapter of American social history forged locally, in places like Greenwood, Mississippi, where countless unsung African Americans risked their lives for the freedom struggle. The leaders were ordinary women and men—sharecroppers, domestics, high school students, beauticians, independent farmers—committed to organizing the civil rights struggle house by house, block by block, relationship by relationship. Payne brilliantly brings to life the tradition of grassroots African American activism, long practiced yet poorly understood. Payne overturns familiar ideas about community activism in the 1960s. The young organizers who were the engines of change in the state were not following any charismatic national leader. Far from being a complete break with the past, their work was based directly on the work of an older generation of activists, people like Ella Baker, Septima Clark, Amzie Moore, Medgar Evers, Aaron Henry. These leaders set the standards of courage against which young organizers judged themselves; they served as models of activism that balanced humanism with militance. While historians have commonly portrayed the movement leadership as male, ministerial, and well-educated, Payne finds that organizers in Mississippi and elsewhere in the most dangerous parts of the South looked for leadership to working-class rural Blacks, and especially to women. Payne also finds that Black churches, typically portrayed as frontrunners in the civil rights struggle, were in fact late supporters of the movement.

From Publishers WeeklyNot 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.

From Library JournalPayne (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 Green Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "An important history of the Civil Rights movement at the grass-roots level. . . . The excellent bibliographic essay is essential reading."--"Library Journal