



Up from Slavery (Dover Thrift Editions)

By Booker T. Washington

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Born in a Virginia slave hut, Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) rose to become the most influential spokesman for African Americans of his day. In this eloquently written book, he describes events in a remarkable life that began in bondage and culminated in worldwide recognition for his many accomplishments. In simply written yet stirring passages, he tells of his impoverished childhood and youth, the unrelenting struggle for an education, early teaching assignments, his selection in 1881 to head Tuskegee Institute, and more.

A firm believer in the value of education as the best route to advancement, Washington disapproved of civil-rights agitation and in so doing earned the opposition of many black intellectuals. Yet, he is today regarded as a major figure in the struggle for equal rights, one who founded a number of organizations to further the cause and who worked tirelessly to educate and unite African Americans.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Nineteenth-century African American businessman, activist, and educator Booker Taliaferro Washington's *Up from Slavery* is one of the greatest American autobiographies ever written. Its mantras of black economic empowerment, land ownership, and self-help inspired generations of black leaders, including Marcus Garvey, Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm X, and Louis Farrakhan. In rags-to-riches fashion, Washington recounts his ascendance from early life as a mulatto slave in Virginia to a 34-year term as president of the influential, agriculturally based Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. From that position, Washington reigned as the most important leader of his people, with slogans like "cast down your buckets," which emphasized vocational merit rather than the academic and political excellence championed by his contemporary rival W.E.B. Du Bois. Though many considered him too accommodating to segregationists, Washington, as he said in his historic "Atlanta Compromise" speech of 1895, believed that "political agitation alone would not save [the Negro]," and that "property, industry, skill, intelligence, and character" would prove necessary to black Americans' success. The potency of his philosophies are alive today in the nationalist and conservative camps that compose the complex quilt of black American society.

Review

"Nineteenth-century African American businessman, activist, and educator Booker Taliaferro Washington's *Up from Slavery* is one of the greatest American autobiographies ever written. Its mantras of black economic empowerment, land ownership, and self-help inspired generations of black leaders, including Marcus Garvey, Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm X, and Louis Farrakhan . . . The potency of his philosophies are alive today in the nationalist and conservative camps that compose the complex quilt of black American society." -Amazon.com editorial review

"Remains one of the most important works on such an influential African American leader." --Professor Delia Crutchfield Cook, University of Maryland

"This book is a must-read." --Professor Warren C. Swindell, Indiana State University

"This book is definitely a classic, and I have used it every year in my African American history course." --Professor W. Marvin Dulaney, College of Charleston

"Reading *Up from Slavery* has provided my students with an opportunity to encounter a key figure in African American history on his own terms. It has provided them with greater insight into the mind of this man and his times." --C. Matthew Hawkins, Carlow College

"One of the most important primary sources in African American history." --Roy E. Finkenbine, Hampton University

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"This is a very useful edition of one of the most important primary sources in African American history. Andrews sets it in context in a first-rate introduction."--Roy E. Finkenbine, *Hampton University*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Drew:

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Florence Davis:

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Dennis Rodriguez:

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