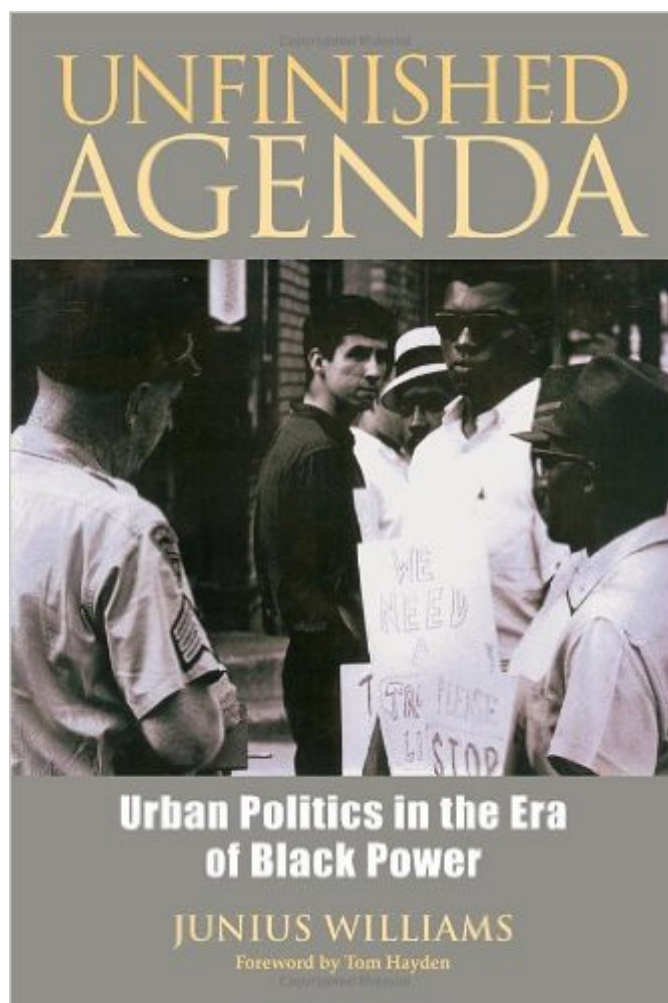


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Unfinished Agenda: Urban Politics In The Era Of Black Power



Synopsis

Unfinished Agenda offers an inside look at the Black Power Movement that emerged during the Civil Rights Movement of the sixties. A political memoir that teaches grass-roots politics and inspires organizing for real change in the Age of Obama, this book will appeal to readers of black history, Occupy Wall Street organizers, and armchair political advocates. Based on notes, interviews, and articles from the 1950s to present day, Junius Williams's inspiring memoir describes his journey from young black boy facing prejudice in the 1950s segregated South to his climb to community and political power as a black lawyer in the 1970s and 80s in Newark, New Jersey. Accompanied by twenty-two compelling photographs highlighting key life events, Unfinished Agenda chronicles the turbulent times during the Civil Rights Movement and Williams's participation every step of the way including his experiences on the front lines of racial riots in Newark and the historic riot in Montgomery, Alabama with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Williams speaks of his many opportunities and experiences--beginning with his education at Amherst College and Yale Law School, his travel to Uganda and Kenya, and working in Harlem. His passion for fighting racism ultimately led him to many years of service in politics in Newark, New Jersey as a community organizer and leader. Williams advocates for renewed community organizing and voting for a progressive party to carry out the "Unfinished Agenda" the Black Power Movement outlined in America during the 60s and early 70s for empowerment of the people.

Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: North Atlantic Books (January 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1583947221

ISBN-13: 978-1583947227

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I gave this book 5 stars because it chronicles the events of the Civil Right era. It is very good for those wanting to know what happened in Newark, NJ during that time. I would recommend this book to those who are interested in African-American history.

Unfinished Agenda by Junius Williams is the powerful and inspiring story of a task-oriented man with a civil rights commitment and a positive vision for his community. Junius Williams grew up with and into the Civil Rights Movement. He was raised in Richmond, Virginia where he graduated from Armstrong High School in 1961. After graduating he left home and went off to find his place and make his mark in the world. The timing was perfect. His journey took him first to Amherst College and then to Yale Law School. Junius and his brother Johnny went to the March on Washington. Later, when the Civil Rights Movement focused on the Selma March, Junius was a foot soldier on the front line in Montgomery. After Montgomery his journey took him to Newark, New Jersey and the rebellion there. Again, the timing was perfect because Junius needed Newark and Newark needed Junius. This is where Junius, the young man, comes into his own as a community organizer/builder, civil rights activist and revolutionary. Newark is also where Unfinished Agenda really takes off as Junius encounters a kind of urban political gauntlet. It is the traversing of this gauntlet that makes Unfinished Agenda a fascinating and captivating memoir of his journey which spans more than sixty years as he attempts to honor his commitment to civil rights and his vision for his people and his community. #Unfinished Agenda is a wonderful read and I seriously recommend it. Theron Whitaker â “ very proud life- long friend and high school classmate of THE AUTHORâ™S

This book is a well written candid and honest lens into the life of the author and his experience and perception of various civil rights organizations throughout history. I found Mr. Williams accounts and use of the songs from the specific eras, is ingenious. Psychologically, it immediately puts the reader back in time to authentically receive the struggle and challenge of that period. It seems to me that this is a book that can be enjoyed by your self, but it should best be consumed with others. A book club or group is best because you will feel robbed if you can not meet up and share personal experiences or sheer epiphanies afforded by the authors ability to drill down from top to bottom, of how neighborhood bosses and big city mayors got their titles, sold out the movement and we're not worthy of trust no matter how many times the proverbial cheek was turned. I salute this author. I understand so much more about local politics. I can't wait for my son and nephews to read, learn and act. MIKE CHECK!!!!

I purchased this book after hearing the author speak on a panel at the famed Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture last week. Mr. Williams was by far the most interesting of the panel, and his book follows suit. It is an eye opener to the events of the past that have wound themselves into our present. I didn't know a lot about the politics of Newark, only that NYC's neighbor to the south had as many corrupt politicians and privateers with special interests in making money on the backs of people of color as we did (and do!). And like us, a strong and persistent community of grassroots activists trying desperately to save the city from becoming a lost cause to its good and decent residents. The title is very apropos, although I am still in the first few chapters of the book, written as a memoir with photos and anecdotes to keep the history of the past vibrant. I am enjoying the read, learning a lot and am easily absorbed by the truthful story telling. This is a good book. I'm very happy to have it included in my personal library.

Unfinished Agenda is a strong, edge of your seat portrayal of the evolution of the city of Newark since the before the Newark rebellion in 1967. I was starting a drug treatment program called "Integrity House" at the time. Among other things, the book talks about the disparity of the races, the black power movement and the lawless gangs on the streets fueled by money from the lucrative drug trade. It is both a history book as well as a living portrayal of the clashing dissonance and civil disobedience and rampant addiction that cleared the way for a new city to evolve from the ashes of discontent.

A smooth, inspiring, and unexpected read, particularly because I've come to expect most "political memoirs" to be extremely pedantic. Junius Williams, however, provides a contemporary manual--written as a conversational recount of the events of his life and his reasons for continuing his efforts in Newark, NJ--for the "Occupy" generation to navigate the unyielding world of discrimination in an effort to not only reaffirm the voice of the underrepresented and underserved communities--like those mentioned from Jim Crow South to implied Jim Crow North--but to outline the successful paths needed to put power behind that voice. His style of writing has its own articulate "funk" that eases you through hell and high water and deciphers the scenery with clear precision and progressive detail. This is definitely a book for the budding revolutionist, the scholar in search of historical truth, and the book worm in need of a damn good story.

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