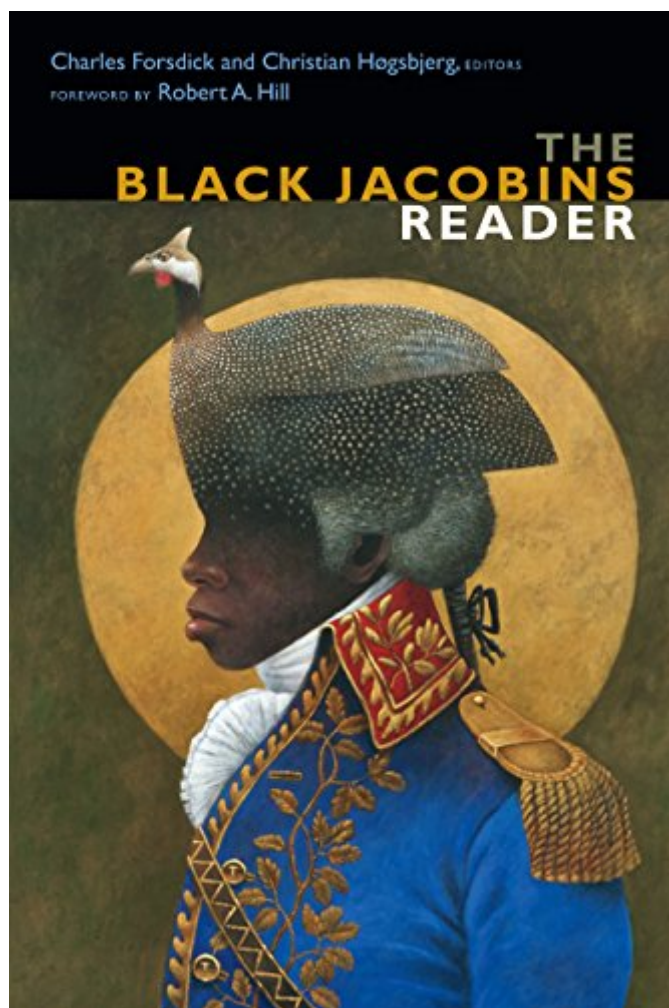


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The Black Jacobins Reader (The C. L. R. James Archives)



Synopsis

Containing a wealth of new scholarship and rare primary documents, *The Black Jacobins Reader* provides a comprehensive analysis of C. L. R. James's classic history of the Haitian Revolution. In addition to considering the book's literary qualities and its role in James's emergence as a writer and thinker, the contributors discuss its production, context, and enduring importance in relation to debates about decolonization, globalization, postcolonialism, and the emergence of neocolonial modernity. The Reader also includes the reflections of activists and novelists on the book's influence and a transcript of James's 1970 interview with Studs Terkel. Contributors: Mumia Abu-Jamal, David Austin, Madison Smartt Bell, Anthony Bogues, John H. Bracey Jr., Rachel Douglas, Laurent Dubois, Claudius K. Fergus, Carolyn E. Fick, Charles Forsdick, Dan Georgakas, Robert A. Hill, Christian Hfjerg, Selma James, Pierre Naville, Nick Nesbitt, Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Matthew Quest, David M. Rudder, Bill Schwarz, David Scott, Russell Maroon Shoatz, Matthew J. Smith, Studs Terkel

Book Information

File Size: 2641 KB

Print Length: 464 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0822362015

Publisher: Duke University Press Books (December 16, 2016)

Publication Date: December 16, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MS2WNZD

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #654,286 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #104

in Kindle Store > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Haiti #221 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies #249 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Historiography

Customer Reviews

This collection of essays on CLR James's *The Black Jacobins* are very rigorous and make cutting edge contributions to historical, literary, and political analysis. Particularly valuable is the discussion of how James later in life spoke of how he wrote and might re-write his classic history of the Haitian Revolution. Many comparative readings with the French and Russian Revolutions make clear James had on his mind "the black sans-culottes" and the inability of the Jacobins, French or Haitian, to sustain a radical democratic outlook. The focus on the Black Jacobins in the title of the original work was meant to vindicate Toussaint and others, despite their limitations, as being intelligent as any other radical cadre or statesman in revolutionary history. But it was also a warning against the emerging Black political class and how it might repress ordinary Black people's self-government at the post-independence moment. The essays by Carolyn E Fick, Rachel Douglas and Matthew Quest are particularly insightful.

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