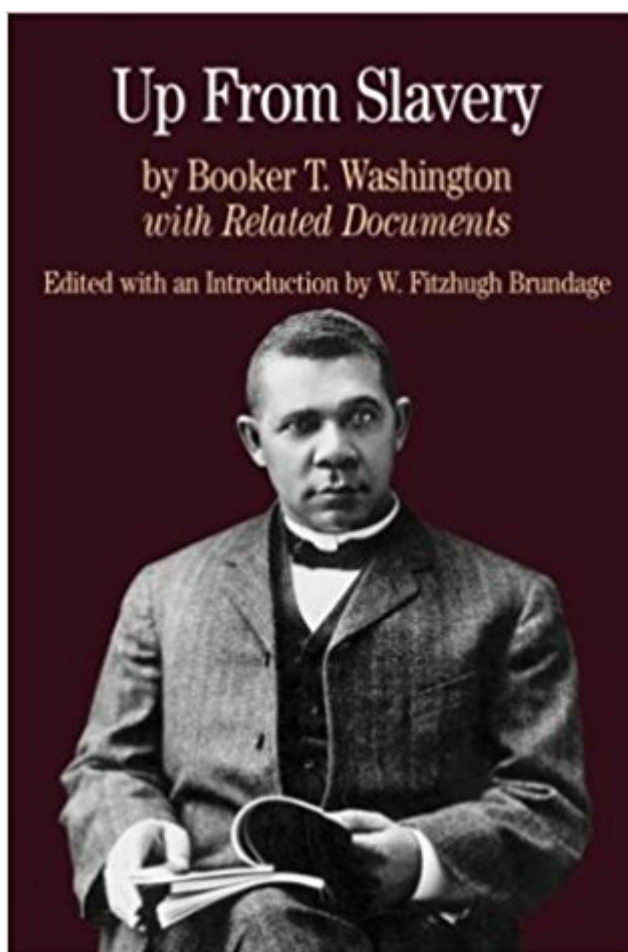


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Up From Slavery: With Related Documents (Bedford Series In History & Culture)



Synopsis

Up From Slavery is one of the most widely read African American autobiographies in the English language. It details how prominent African American leader Booker T. Washington rose from slavery to become one of the nation's most prominent orators and educators at the turn of the 20th century. This reprint of the original 1901 edition is enhanced by 12 related documents and an essay by W. Fitzhugh Brundage that provides students with the necessary background and context to appreciate the role of *Up From Slavery* in American history. It addresses Washington's life and career, criticisms of Washington from within the African American community, the social and political context in which the book was published, reactions to its publication, and the ways in which Washington carefully crafted his autobiography to further his cause among white audiences. Document headnotes, a chronology of Washington's life, questions for consideration, and a selected bibliography provide further pedagogical support.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This is an excellent book. It addresses a number of issues important to African American history and literature. The introduction is very successful in exposing the tension between the subject of autobiography--the crafted public self--and the far more complex, indeed enigmatic subject of real life. For those interested in the role of the individual in history, this book sheds light on the way Booker T. Washington used his skills of self-representation to amass power and influence in a racist society--his identity imposed forever upon the politics of racial self-help and the history of the New South."

What a Human Being. The world is a far better place for Booker T being born. His achievements are amazing and his ability to turn the other cheek is almost unbelievable. It is a pity that we could not have a Booker T Washington in every country in the world. Even though the story is a biography occasionally I skipped some of it due to the continual advising us of his achievements and this is why I only gave it FOUR STARS.If you have any interest in the Slave Trade and the abolition of it and how unprepared the slaves were to look after themselves once free you will then perhaps grasp a better understanding of how GREAT A HUMAN BEING BOOKER T WASHINGTON WAS.

This book gives insight into the latter days of slavery in the US. It also gives insight into one man who sought to better himself and caught a vision of how he could help his own people to also better themselves by learning a trade and becoming an asset to their community. He felt that much animosity toward the colored person could be overcome by providing needed skilled craftsmanship.Washington gives credit to many whites who gave personal assistance to him and who gave financial aid to the Tuskegee Institute. There is no rancor in his demeanor. He gave his life to improving the lives of former slaves by education and training. He explains well in this book his

educational philosophy. It makes me think that in certain areas the US educational today needs to apply some of the goals of Booker Washington.

Not sure which version I have - the cover does not match any currently featured as for sale.....HOWEVER - What an amazingly humble but inspirational and successful man he was. To come from such an under-privileged background to befriending Presidents and even meeting Queen Victoria. Should be compulsory reading for anyone feeling downtrodden or deprived in any way.

Regardless of your ethnic background, unless you are sophisticated and knowledgeable in the issues of racial relationships in the reconstruction days, this book will offer challenges to your understanding of race in American on every other page. Booker T Washington describes himself in his book in a way that would very likely cause outrage from every side, against any modern writer who dared to so thoroughly explore the real thinking of whites and blacks both in Booker T's day. It may be supposed that the author was keeping his audience in mind as he chose his words and topics - he was nothing if not a practitioner of real-politik - but even if you believe yourself competent to accurately read between his lines, you will still find much of what he has to say at least interesting if not unsettling. I strongly recommend reading this book, and this particular edition is a good value.

This is one of America's great books, and Booker T. Washington was a great American. Washington was born into slavery, freedom came when he was about six years old. As a child, he worked at farming and coal mining, while he sought an education. All of this time he lived in base poverty. After saving what little money he could, he set out from his home in West Virginia, for a black school in Virginia. The school was run by a retired Union Army officer, who recognized Washington's ability. Washington worked his way through school, graduated, and headed home to West Virginia to establish a school for blacks. There wasn't much money in it, but his dream was to help his people escape from ignorance and poverty. When the state of Alabama wanted to establish a school for blacks, the Tuskegee Institute, Washington was chosen to run it. His budget was pitiful, and he started teaching school in a dilapidated shanty and a hen house. His students tolerated these conditions, along with grinding poverty, because that's what it took to receive an education. The school always insisted that all students work while they study. They raised crops and animals, made bricks for sale, and built the various buildings which were needed to hold the school's ever expanding population. Money was always short, and Washington had to spend a lot of his time in

the North raising funds. He was a talented speaker, and became famous on that account. He eventually formed relationships with a number of wealthy patrons, who provided funds to run and expand the Tuskegee Institute. By the time the book was written, the Institute had 6000 graduates working across the South, and had trained a large number of teachers to educate southern blacks. This book is valuable, both for the information it holds, and for the fine example of Christian love which Washington models.

Should be read by every high school student. Especially every black student. Mr. Washington was born a slave but raised himself up to national prominence by his devotion to helping others. He was driven by the desire to be the best at whatever he did. He turned down offers of more money to stay where he was and to continue the struggle to educate blacks recently freed from slavery. You need to read this book.

Excellent historical account of an amazing time, place, and person. B.T.W. does not get the credit he deserves. To start life enslaved and rise to address and be recognized as equal to Presidents, Kings and Queens alike is quite a story. His humble beginnings set him apart from other "intellectuals" as W.E.B. and many others who chose to criticize his methods. BTW was "keeping it real" and "telling it like it is" before they became popular expressions. He is an inspiration to me and I enjoyed his book very much. He is graceful and grateful toward the many whites from the South and North who helped former slaves gain an education and work to sustain himself and family. This has been largely overlooked and forgotten. Slavery was a horrible tragedy in our history. We own it. But we replaced it with an imperfect society whose roots give flower now to our current prejudiced and racist and unequal society. We must continue to think of ways to improve ourselves and not ignore the lessons of individuals such as B.T.W. and many others. Peace.

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