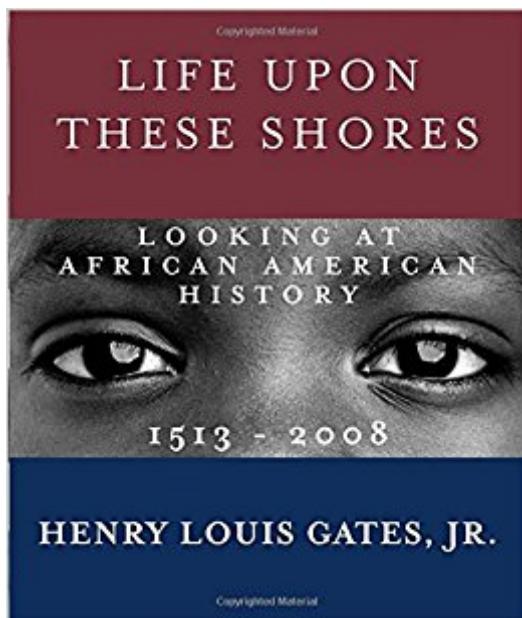


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Life Upon These Shores: Looking At African American History, 1513-2008



Synopsis

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., gives us a sumptuously illustrated landmark book tracing African American history from the arrival of the conquistadors to the election of Barack Obama. Informed by the latest, sometimes provocative scholarship and including more than seven hundred images—ancient maps, fine art, documents, photographs, cartoons, posters—Life Upon These Shores focuses on defining events, debates, and controversies, as well as the signal achievements of people famous and obscure. Gates takes us from the sixteenth century through the ordeal of slavery, from the Civil War and Reconstruction through the Jim Crow era and the Great Migration; from the civil rights and black nationalist movements through the age of hip-hop to the Joshua generation. By documenting and illuminating the sheer diversity of African American involvement in American history, society, politics, and culture, Gates bracingly dispels us of the presumption of a single “black experience.” Life Upon These Shores is a book of major importance, a breathtaking tour de force of the historical imagination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Henry Louis Gates’s Life Upon These Shores: A distinguished scholar surveys, with lavish illustrations, 500 years of the African-American experience. . . . From the conquistadors and the origins of slavery, through the Revolutionary period, the rise of abolitionism, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Jim Crow era, the Great Migration, both World Wars and the 20th century civil-rights movement, up to President Obama’s election, the supremely qualified Gates guides us through centuries of history . . . stunning illustrations . . . striking,

comprehensive.â•âœKirkus Reviewsâ•âœYou canâ•ât beat the fresh and heady scholarship of *Life Upon These Shores*â•âœChallenging the notion of a single â•âœBlack Experience,â•âœ Gates contextualizes his narrative with more than 800 images and doesnâ•ât duck controversy.â•âœLibrary Journalâ•âœGates documents the famous, the obscure, and the long forgottenâ•âœ[A] chronicle of the pressing issues and events of each generation and the incredible diversity covered by the appellation African American. A tour de force.â•âœBooklistâ•âœMeticulously researchedâ•âœa book that truly celebrates the resilience and achievements of African-Americans.â•âœBlackAmericaWeb.comâ•âœGates avoids clichÃ©, meticulously illuminating the influence and contributions of Blacks in America: from African conquistadors to the election of President Barack Obama. This ambitious title redefines the relevancy of the past to our lives.â•âœUptown Magazineâ•âœ[*Life Upon These Shores*] would make an excellent addition to a home or school. In fact, if youâ•âœre feeling generous this season, pick one up and donate it to the middle school library nearest you.â•âœJournal Sentinelâ•âœCompiled with rigorous ambition and scholarship by Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., this book weaves nearly 900 images and reams of clear-eyed storytelling into an extraordinary chronology. Not only does a breathtaking range of African-American expression and experience emerge, a portrait of independence, fortitude and deep faithâ•âœthe essence of American lifeâ•âœcomes shining through.â•âœNPR (Best Gift Books of 2012)â•âœan excellent example of Gatesâ•âœs ability to maintain high standards of scholarship while making a broad, dense subject accessible to a modern audienceâ•âœA remarkable accomplishment that should endure through many editions. Highly recommended.â•âœChoiceâ•âœReading *Life Upon These Shores* is like walking through history one day at a time. The rich content of this book pulls the reader in many different directions, and yet Mr. Gates keeps the direction focusedâ•âœWith each new story we sit at Mr. Gateâ•âœs feet, rest our chin in our hands, and listen and learnâ•âœMr. Gates makes us richer with the knowledge of what went beforeâ•âœand what can be in the future.â•âœNew York Journal of Booksâ•âœThis is not a book to plunk down on the coffee table and flip through on occasion. It deserves to be read and read closely, short essay by short essay.â•âœPhilly Onlineâ•âœ[Gates] tells things the way they were, not the way we would like them to beâ•âœThis book pulls together a valuable account of the African-American experience upon these shores. It is worth a read by all Americans who want to learn where we have been as a nation.â•âœHouston

Chronicleâ€”A stupendous undertakingâ€”a cornucopia of richesâ€”conceptualized and executed with loving care and rigorous intellectual grounding.â€”•â€”Counterpunchâ€”An amazing compendium of informationâ€”it is enlightening to have a wide-angle lens turned on this epic, to see a picture of the whole.â€”•â€”Arts Critic Atlanta

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and the director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. He is editor in chief of the Oxford African American Studies Center and of the daily online magazine The Root. He has received more than forty honorary degrees from institutions the world over.

You really don't know American history and culture until you've read "Life Upon These Shores" by Henry Louis Gates Jr. My father used to say most people in America that identify or lay claim as Americans are "like house renters pretending they're owners." Dr. Gates' latest historical masterpiece lays out a far fuller history about America's legacy and identity through the 500-year journey and investment of African Americans on this continent. Regardless of any individual American's ethnic or cultural background, there is a rich amount of factual content and context that renders a more accurate and truer picture of America's identity through the history of the people that mostly built, shaped, sacrificed, strengthened and still sustain it -- despite over 250 years of brutal enslavement. After reading this book, you also can't avoid comprehending the global impact (beyond patriotism, inventions, civil rights, Jazz, Rock & Roll, Hip Hop, and a growing \$1.1 trillion Black American consumer GDP) of the African American experience on popular and social cultures that have come in contact with America. As such, an excellent companion to this book is "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross" by Dr. Gates and Dr. Donald Yacovone -- based on the engaging PBS series. I'll be buying the DVD version on too. No doubt, "Life Upon These Shores" is a historical source that will stand the test of time.

Wonderful book!!! I love African American history books. The content of this book is most important but the beautiful pictures help one to visualize the story that is being told. I would recommend this book to those who love history.

Great book on information and kind of like a reference book. It is very thorough. I am learning way more about my history than I ever did in all my years in school. This book should be in every African

American household.

A must have for every classroom in America, not to mention every home. This book is amazing in its scope and impeccable in its historical accuracy. Truly demonstrates how and why Black history is American history.

Henry Louis Gates Jr. ---- A huge hit yet again!!! I purchased the hardback,..incredible photographs on quality glossy paper... amazing details of excluded American history. Brilliant ...now a treasure for my entire family. Wonderful and wonderfully done.

Awe inspiring, fascinating, beautiful!

I heard about this book on a radio talk show and decided to look it up on .com. Read other reviews and decided to purchase. This book is fantastic; the amount of information on African history is amazing. I've learned so much about our history and accomplishments. The pictures add another dimension to the educational value of this book. I knew some of the information on the historic figures in the book - I'm an avid reader and researcher. But the figures that I'd never heard of or the accomplishments I'd never read about was immense. I'm about half way through this book, but I keep going back to reread information; that's how interesting I find this book. Thank you Mr. Gates for this astonishing book. Again, this is a fantastic read.

An excellent review of African American history, although I noted some issues and/or people not reviewed in the book. But, there is so much to read, I can't expect everything to be covered in the book.

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