

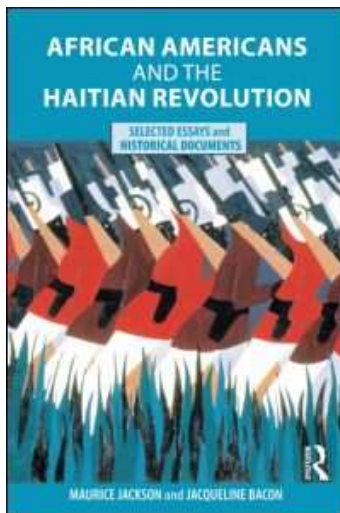
Books of Interest



Millery Polyné, *From Douglass to Duvalier: U.S. African Americans, Haiti, and Pan Americanism, 1870–1964*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2011, ISBN: 0813037638, 296 pp.

Haiti has long been both a source of immense pride--because of the Haitian Revolution--and of profound disappointment--because of the unshakable realities of poverty, political instability, and violence--to the imagination of the African Diaspora. Charting the long history of these multiple meanings is the focus of this book which offers a transnational history of U.S. African Americans and Haitians relations. Thus, the book also examines the creative and critical ways these populations engaged the idealized tenets of Pan Americanism--mutual cooperation, egalitarianism, and nonintervention between nation-states--in order to strengthen Haiti's

social, economic, and political growth and stability.

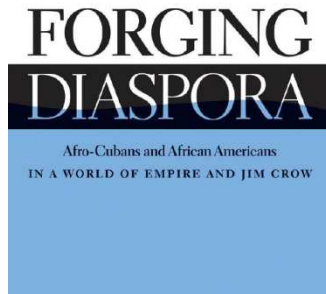


Maurice Jackson and Jacqueline Bacon, eds. *African Americans and the Haitian Revolution: Selected Essays and Historical Documents*. New York: Routledge, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-415-80376-2, 272, pp.

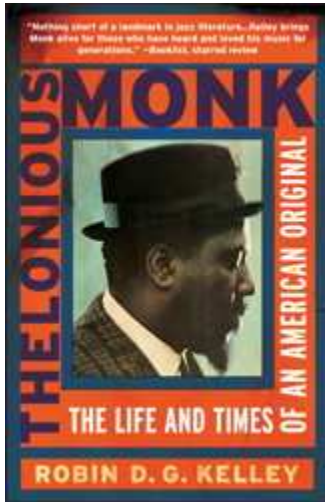
Bringing together scholarly essays and helpfully annotated primary documents, *African Americans and the Haitian Revolution* collects and showcases texts written by African Americans about the Haitian Revolution. Rather than being about the revolution itself, this collection attempts to show how the events in Haiti served to galvanize African Americans to think about themselves and to act in accordance with their beliefs.

Frank Andre Guridy

Guridy, Frank Andre. *Forging Diaspora: Afro-Cubans and African Americans in a World of Empire and Jim Crow*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-8078-3361-2, pp.228.



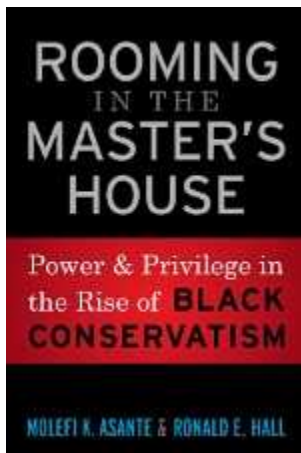
Cuba's geographic proximity to the United States and its centrality to U.S. imperial designs following the War of 1898 led to the creation of a unique relationship between Afro-descended populations in the two countries. In *Forging Diaspora*, Frank Andre Guridy shows that the cross-national relationships nurtured by Afro-Cubans and African Americans helped to shape the political strategies of both groups as they attempted to overcome a shared history of oppression and enslavement. Drawing on archival sources, Guridy traces four encounters between Afro-Cubans and African Americans. These hidden histories of cultural interaction--of Cuban students attending Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute, the rise of Garveyism, the Havana-Harlem cultural connection during the Harlem Renaissance and Afro-Cubanism movement, and the creation of Black travel networks during the Good Neighbor and early Cold War eras--illustrate the significance of cross-national linkages to the ways both African-descended populations negotiated the entangled processes of U.S. imperialism and racial discrimination. As a result of these relationships, argues Guridy, African descended peoples in Cuba and the United States came to identify as part of a trans-cultural African Diaspora.



Kelley, Robin G. *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original*. New York: Free Press, 2010, pp.624. ISBN-10: 1439190461.

This is the first book on Thelonious Monk based on exclusive access to the Monk family papers and private recordings, as well as a decade of prodigious research, prize-winning author brings to light a startlingly different Thelonious Monk—witty, intelligent, generous, family-oriented, politically engaged, brutally honest, and a devoted father and husband. Indeed, *Thelonious Monk* is essentially a love story. It is a story of familial love, beginning with Monk’s enslaved descendants from whom Thelonious inherited an appreciation for community, freedom, and Black traditions of sacred and secular song. It is about a doting mother who scrubbed floors to pay for piano

lessons and encouraged her son to follow his dream.



Asante, Molefi K. and Ronald E. Hall. *Rooming in the Master’s House: Power & Privilege in the Rise of Black Conservatism*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2010, pp.208. ISBN-10: 1594518912.

An analytical narrative of the origins, evolution, and development of a political and cultural sector of the African American community that abandoned the idea of collective liberation for the idea of individual salvation. Hence, a penetrating examination of the psychological and social disorders of self-negation, self-hatred, and group disdain that have affected the most extreme elements of the Black community, especially as seen in those who share identification with the oppressing class more than with the oppressed. Discovering the seeds of this attitude and accompanying behavior in the antebellum period the

authors demonstrate that the legacy continues today in the modern day Black conservatives who espouse versions of the arguments offered by house Negroes during the enslavement. Using Malcolm X's notion of a dichotomy between the house Negroes and the field Negroes the authors show how the current Black conservative movement is organically linked to this social division.



Johnson-Redd, Larry Ukali. *Long Distance Love*. Kindle Edition (Amazon Media, Amazon Digital Services), ASIN: B003XRE66G, 539 KB.

This poet, writer, school administrator sits in his principal (or site leader's office) and dreams about returning to Nigeria and writing a new novel. A good Nigerian friend then decides to introduce him to his niece in Lagos, Nigeria. The relationship blossoms online, through the telephones and through letters. Thus, he travels to Nigeria for the first time in 24 years to meet his lovely fiancé to be, and while there, he flies to his beloved Benin City and upcountry to a village called Ubiaja in Edo State in Nigeria among others 80 miles up country where he

runs into twin politician friends. As he waits and goes through the finance visa process he writes some love poetry as he profess his love for to Ese. Ese. Eventually a visa given after 4 years and this young fiancé arrives only to get cold feet and returns to Nigeria. In short, *Long Distance Love* is a cultural travel narrative and autobiographical nonfiction love story about African American and Nigerian personal relationships.