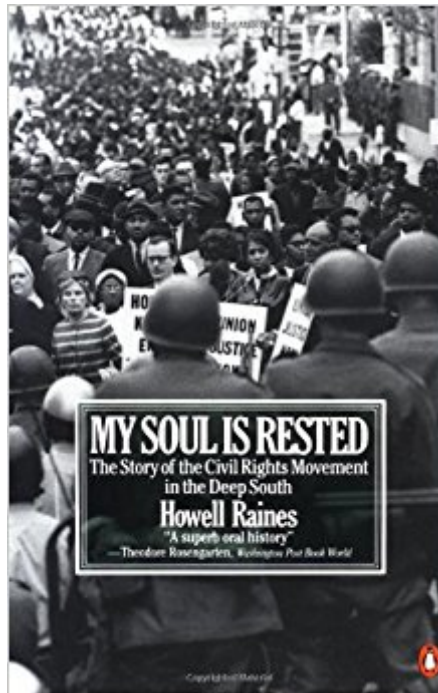




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My Soul Is Rested: Movement Days In The Deep South Remembered



Synopsis

The almost unfathomable courage and the undying faith that propelled the Civil Rights Movement are brilliantly captured in these moving personal recollections. Here are the voices of leaders and followers, of ordinary people who became extraordinary in the face of turmoil and violence. From the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1956 to the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, these are the people who fought the epic battle: Rosa Parks, Andrew Young, Ralph Abernathy, Hosea Williams, Fannie Lou Hamer, and others, both black and white, who participated in sit-ins, Freedom Rides, voter drives, and campaigns for school and university integration. Here, too, are voices from the "Down-Home Resistance" that supported George Wallace, Bull Connor, and the "traditions" of the Old South; voices that conjure up the frightening terrain on which the battle was fought. *My Soul is Rested* is a powerful document of social and political history, as well as a magnificent tribute to those who made history happen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"So touching, so exhilarating; no book for a long time has left me so moved or so happy."
—Anthony Lewis, *The New York Times Book Review* "Deeply affecting and searingly vivid"
—*Atlanta Journal* "Remarkable; the realities of our social history are described in a kind of magnificent humaneness."
—*Chicago Tribune Book World*

Before stepping down in 2003, Howell Raines was executive editor of *The New York Times*. He is

the author of *Whiskey Man*, a novel, and *My Soul Is Rested*, an oral history of the Civil Rights movement. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing in 1992.

This is one of the finest oral histories that I've ever read. Based on interviews with more than 100 people over the decade of the 1960's when Raines was a newspaper reporter in the field covering the civil rights movement in the South. Excellent interviews in peoples' own words. The interviews are not with the national leaders or the people who are always quoted. Rather, they are with the relatively unknown people who made up the grassroots of the civil rights movement, as well as with their opponents. This book is superbly edited by Raines to tell a thousand stories in a compelling and unique way. Highly Recommended.

A wonderful oral history of the Civil Rights movement -- yes, complete with statements from opponents. Presents the stories from the Montgomery bus boycott through the march from Selma. The interviewer, Howard Raines (formerly of the New York Times) does an excellent job eliciting stories from those who were there.

I read this book sometime ago. It remains one of the best books about stories of personal courage, and accounting of the events that helped create a societal shift towards a closer realization of the principles of civil rights and human dignity; our great task as a society is to recognize human rights for all groups of people wherever people live in this world. This book is a classic; one to keep in your collection.

Howell Raines is the new executive editor for "The New York Times," but he is at heart a writer. Both strengths come to the fore in this excellent book on the American civil rights movement. As an oral history, it necessarily contains first-hand accounts of dozens and dozens of the main (and not-so-important) players in the movement. Raines does a fine and fair job of putting their stories into essentially chronological order and editing or moving bits and pieces only where necessary to ensure good flow for the reader. There were a few names I had heard of before, but many were new to me. There are surprises in this book. While we mostly associate the civil rights movement with the deep south in the mid-1960s, it actually got its start in Chicago in the 1940s when groups of people protested with the first lunch-counter sit-ins (when a manager came out to scold one of these groups with the flat, "We don't serve colored folks here," one quick-witted participant fired back, "That's OK, we don't eat 'em!"). Another revelation was the tensions between the older blacks and

the younger black student generation. The older blacks, while not happy with segregation, sometimes felt that at least everyone knew where they stood with it--while the younger generation was champing at the bit to get out there and change the world overnight. Finally, it was interesting to read that many of the original founders of the movement were inspired far more by Gandhi than by Martin Luther King, Jr. A number of them express their opinion that King--while undoubtedly important and absolutely essential once the movement got underway--was not himself so convinced as to the value of a) the movement itself and b) non-violent protest--many of this friends and co-workers say here that he continued to espouse it only because eventually, he felt he had been thoroughly and unmistakeably identified with it. Although I was surprised that neither Coretta Scott King nor the Reverend Jesse Jackson were interviewed for Mr. Raines' book, their absence is my only quibble with what is otherwise an enormously valuable and terrifically readable history.

My Soul Is Rested was recommended to me by my friend Noel. It is a moving and soul searing oral history of the Civil Rights Movement from the courageous activists whose nonviolent direct action changed history. It also includes accounts from entrenched politicians and law enforcement individuals who did everything in their power including unspeakable violence to stop the tide of change.

All that was promised. Arrived in timely fashion.

This oral, sometimes behind-the-scenes history of the Civil Rights movement, from leaders and ordinary people who participated in it, as well as from people who virulently opposed it, is as interesting as history gets.

My soul has rested is a good book. It follows the civil rights movement. Worth the purchase if you can find it.

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