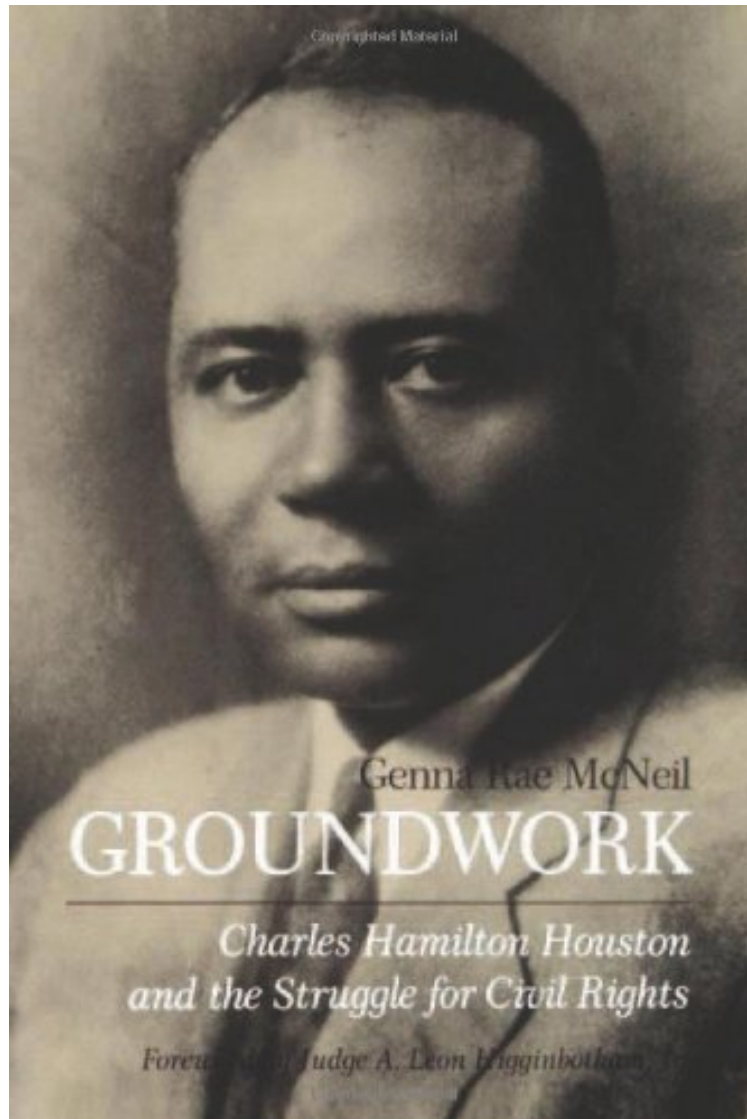


[Free pdf] Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights

Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights

Genna Rae McNeil

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Genna Rae McNeil : Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GROUNDWORK, CHARLES HOUSTON AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS By Edward Carter I loved the book but many of the cases were overwhelming. I did realize that

the book kind of bears out my philosophy. You can't always tell what the end result is going to be with a young boy in school. He didn't apply all of his skills at M Street until he had too. At Amherst he applied himself and became an outstanding student and later did the same in Harvard Law school. While reading the book, I tried to visualize being a minority student in an elite Ivy League school and achieving what he did back in those days, when folks didn't want him there in the first place. What was his social life? He contributed much more to the Civil Rights Movement back in those early days than many knew about then and now. It's too bad that his life was short-lived and he didn't get the recognition that Thurgood Marshall and many other forerunners (NAACP lawyers) got during that time and now. CHARLES HOUSTON LIVED TO MAKE "OPPORTUNITY" EQUAL FOR ALL AMERICANS. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. an absolute must read!!! By Darren Mercera fantastic book about the life and cases of an extremely important figure many people don't know about. Thurgood Marshall's teacher, colleague and very good friend. Charles H. Houston was an very important cog in the legal machinery that fought so graciously and valiantly for equal rights. he left us far too young but his impact was profound and still resonates today. 22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Early History of civil rights litigation By Alan Mills Charles Houston was the father of Brown v. Board of Ed--but tragically died in 1950, just as this historic litigation was getting underway. It is hard to imagine any other lawyer--not to mention a Black lawyer in the 1940's who could have had a greater impact on the law as we know it. A truly remarkable human being. He not only gave birth to the NAACP's school desegregation campaign, but he also broke ground in employment discrimination, union rights, and many other developing fields of law; not to mention founding the modern day Howard Law School, which has served as the incubator for virtually all of the civil rights litigation in the 20th Century, running a private practice, writing a regular newspaper column, and holding public office (the D.C. school board). Ms. McRae thankfully spends only a brief time on his family history, and then gets right to the story of Houston's legal career. However, one story from Houston's formative years is instructive: When Houston served in the (segregated) Army (in WWI), he was appointed to decide the fate of a Black soldier. His investigation showed that the alleged infraction had been blown out of proportion. However, he was ordered by his superiors to find the soldier guilty, and sentence him to hard time in the brig. As a result of this experience, Houston vowed to learn the law, so that he could devote his life to ensuring that Blacks could never again be subjected to this type of injustice. He succeeded beyond anyone's wildest dreams. The moral? I suppose the racist superior officer lived to regret the day that he set Charles Houston on the path of justice--a path which ultimately led to the destruction of legally enforced racial segregation in America--talk about a short-sighted victory for racism! Anyone who is interested in reading the story of a true (but underappreciated) American hero would do well to read this book!

"A classic. . . [It] will make an extraordinary contribution to the improvement of race relations and the understanding of race and the American legal process." Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., from the Foreword Charles Hamilton Houston (1895-1950) left an indelible mark on American law and society. A brilliant lawyer and educator, he laid much of the legal foundation for the landmark civil rights decisions of the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the lawyers who won the greatest advances for civil rights in the courts, Justice Thurgood Marshall among them, were trained by Houston in his capacity as dean of the Howard University Law School. Politically Houston realized that blacks needed to develop their racial identity and also to recognize the class dimension inherent in their struggle for full civil rights as Americans. Genna Rae McNeil is thorough and passionate in her treatment of Houston, evoking a rich family tradition as well as the courage, genius, and tenacity of a man largely responsible for the acts of "simple justice" that changed the course of American life.

"McNeil has filled a vast void with this book, and students in contemporary American legal history owe her an immense debt." Derrick A. Bell, New York University "Thanks now to Groundwork Houston's contributions to the struggle for civil rights, and in particular his pivotal role in the effort to integrate American schools, have been documented." New York Times "A moving and long overdue testament of a singularly neglected giant of our history." Ebony "The coalescence of speaker, sentiment, and site summarizes the story that is lovingly detailed in the pages of this jewel of American legal history." St. Louis Globe-Democrat "The legal community is indebted to Dr. McNeil for her outstanding scholarship." Harvard Law About the Author Genna Rae McNeil is Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She received her Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago.