

The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Volume IV: Symbol of the Movement, January 1957-December 1958 (Martin Luther King Papers)

By Martin Luther King

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In *Volume IV*, with the Montgomery bus boycott at an end, King confronts the sudden demands of celebrity while trying to identify the next steps in the burgeoning struggle for equality. Anxious to duplicate the success of the boycott, he spends much of 1957 and 1958 establishing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. But advancing the movement in the face of dogged resistance, he finds that it is easier to inspire supporters with his potent oratory than to organize a mass movement for social change. Yet King remains committed: "The vast possibilities of a nonviolent, non-cooperative approach to the solution of the race problem are still challenging indeed. I would like to remain a part of the unfolding development of this approach for a few more years."

King's budding international prestige is affirmed in March 1957, when he attends the independence ceremonies in Ghana, West Africa. Two months later his first national address, at the "Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom," is widely praised, and in June 1958, King's increasing prominence is recognized with a long-overdue White House meeting. During this period King also cultivates alliances with the labor and pacifist movements, and international anticolonial organizations. As *Volume IV* closes, King is enjoying the acclaim that has greeted his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, only to suffer a near-fatal stabbing in New York City.

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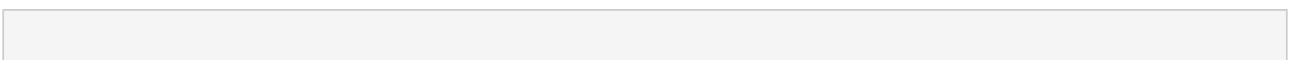
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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work as a champion of civil rights was largely realized through his marvelous abilities as a speaker and writer. This fourth volume of the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project chronicles his writings from the years 1957 and 1958 and highlights the end of the historic Montgomery bus boycott, King's trip to Ghana on the eve of its independence, his monumental "Pilgrimage for Freedom" address, and his "Advice for Living" column for *Ebony* magazine. It also details the creation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King's White House meeting with President Eisenhower, and the release of his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*. Edited by Clayborne Carson, director of the project at Stanford University, the writings were culled from 6,000 documents, including speeches, sermons, correspondence, published writings, and unpublished manuscripts.

Along with their historical significance, these writings reveal the human side of King as well. In a sermon delivered in Birmingham, Alabama, around the time of several bombings in black neighborhoods, a crestfallen King asked a haunting question: "Where is God while hundreds and thousands of his children suffer merely because they are desirous of having freedom and human dignity?" In his acceptance speech for the NAACP Spingarn Medal in Detroit, he proclaimed, "This is a great time to be alive in America. We stand today on the threshold of the most constructive period of our nation's history.... It is one of the ironies of present history that the Negro, in his struggle for freedom, is no longer struggling for himself alone, but he is really struggling to save America." In a letter, he cites Gandhi and Henry David Thoreau as intellectual influences. There are also interesting correspondences between King and Harry Belafonte, Elijah Muhammad, C.L.R. James, Eleanor Roosevelt, and many others, making this an excellent reference work to this complex warrior for peace. --*Eugene Holley Jr.*

Review

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From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy Parker:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Volume IV: Symbol of the Movement, January 1957-December 1958 (Martin Luther King Papers)*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

Morris Reyna:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Often the *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Volume IV: Symbol of the Movement, January 1957-December 1958 (Martin Luther King Papers)* is kind of publication which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Sabrina King:

Is it a person who having spare time and then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Volume IV: Symbol of the Movement, January 1957-December 1958 (Martin Luther King Papers)* can be the reply, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Joyce Tower:

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