



The Black History of the White House, Clarence Lusane, City Lights Publishers, 2010, 0872865320, 9780872865327, . Official histories of the United States have ignored the fact that 25 percent of all U.S. presidents were slaveholders, and that black people were held in bondage in the White House itself. And while the nation was born under the banner of "freedom and justice for all," many colonists risked rebelling against England in order to protect their lucrative slave business from the growing threat of British abolitionism. These historical facts, commonly excluded from schoolbooks and popular versions of American history, have profoundly shaped the course of race relations in the United States. In this unprecedented work, Clarence Lusane presents a comprehensive history of the White House from an African American perspective, illuminating the central role it has played in advancing, thwarting or simply ignoring efforts to achieve equal rights for all. Here are the stories of those who were forced to work on the construction of the mansion at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and the determined leaders who pressured U.S. presidents to outlaw slavery, White House slaves and servants who went on to write books, Secret Service agents harassed by racist peers, Washington insiders who rose to the highest levels of power, the black artists and intellectuals invited to the White House, community leaders who waged presidential campaigns, and many others. Juxtaposing significant events in White House history with the ongoing struggle for civil rights, Clarence Lusane makes plain that the White House has always been a prism through which to view the social struggles and progress of black Americans. "Black folks built the White House in more ways than one. In this beautifully rendered narrative, Clarence Lusane recasts the whole of American history by revealing how slavery and emancipation, racial violence and civil rights, the black freedom movement and white supremacy, and dozens of unsung black heroes shaped the U.S. presidency and federal government in profound ways. Anyone who cares about this country and is not afraid of the truth must read this book, including President Obama. It can help him get his house in order." — Robin D. G. Kelley, author *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original* "Clarence Lusane is one of America's most thoughtful and critical thinkers on issues of race, class and power." — Manning Marable "Barack Obama may be the first black president in the White House, but he's far from the first black person to work in it. In this fascinating history of all the enslaved people, workers and entertainers who spent time in the president's official residence over the years, Clarence Lusane restores the White House to its true colors." — Barbara Ehrenreich "In the age of the tea party and the short memory of racism in America, *The Black History of the White House* is a must read. In bringing to life the histories of racial exclusion and humiliation exercised from within the walls of the nation's most abiding symbol, Clarence Lusane offers a searing reminder of the tenacious personal and political effort from the country's highest office it has taken to uphold racial privilege in the US. But this is a story too of the mountains that had to be climbed so courageously in the reach for freedom and ultimately, as George Clinton has put it, 'to make the White House black/brown,' to represent all of America." — David Theo Goldberg, author of *The Threat of Race: Reflections on Racial Neoliberalism* "Reading *The Black History of the White House* shows us how much we DON'T know about our history, politics, and culture. In a very accessible and polished style, Clarence Lusane takes us inside the key national events of the American past and present. He reveals new dimensions of the black presence in the US from revolutionary days to the Obama campaign. Yes, 'black hands built the White House' — enslaved black hands — but they also built this country's economy, political system, and culture, in ways Lusane shows us in great detail. A

particularly important feature of this book its personal storytelling: we see black political history through the experiences and insights of little-known participants in great American events. The detailed lives of Washington's slaves seeking freedom, or the complexities of Duke Ellington's relationships with the Truman and Eisenhower White House, show us American racism, and also black America's fierce hunger for freedom, in brand new and very exciting ways. This book would be a great addition to many courses in history, sociology, or ethnic studies courses. Highly recommended!"

•Howard Winant, UC Santa Barbara.

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From exclusion to inclusion the long struggle for African American political power, Ralph C. Gomes, Linda F. Williams, 1992, , 214 pages. This book is designed to explore the historical and current level of African American political participation, to assess the fruits of participation, and to provide ....

The Story of the White House , Esther Singleton, Jun 1, 1972, History, . .

Ronald Reagan and the 1980s Perceptions, Policies, Legacies, Cheryl Hudson, Gareth Davies, Oct 15, 2008, Biography & Autobiography, 268 pages. By the end of the 1980s, many Americans looked at the state of the nation with a renewed optimism. America was the world's only superpower, Communism had been defeated, the ....

Best Little Stories from the White House , C. Brian Kelly, Sep 30, 2005, History, 401 pages. A fascinating collection of more than 100 vignettes drawn from the life and times of America's most famous and legendary home. Here are stories about the house itself and how ....

The White House, a biography the story of the house, its occupants, its place in American history, Charles Hurd, 1940, Biography & Autobiography, 339 pages. .

The living White House , Lonelle Aikman, White House Historical Association, National Geographic Society (U.S.). Special Publications Division, 1987, Biography & Autobiography, 151 pages. A brief history of the White House, containing anecdotes of visitors, events, and the First Families from Presidents Adams through Reagan..

Racism, the Bible, and the American Dream From Slavery to Obama: A Frank Discussion, from a Christian Perspective, on Racial Discrimination in America, and Its Effect on Life, Liberty, and the, Elreta Dodds, Nov 1, 2010, , 380 pages. Presents an overview about racism in the United States, explores how the Bible has been misused to condone and perpetuate the concept, and explains what the Bible actually says ....

No Easy Victories Black Americans and the Vote, Clarence Lusane, 1996, , 160 pages. Examines the history of the African American struggle to achieve a voice in government in the United States, from before the Civil War to the present.

The Memory of Love , Aminatta Forna, Jan 4, 2011, Fiction, 464 pages. Now, in her newest novel The Memory of Love, Aminatta Forna evokes the haunting atmosphere of a country at war, and the powerful stories of two generations of African life. In ....

Speaking Truth To Power: Essays On Race, Resistance, And Radicalism , Manning Marable, Nov 10, 2008, Social Science, 292 pages. Through public appearances, radio and television interviews, and his many articles and books, Manning Marable has become one of America's most prominent commentators on race ....

London City of Disappearances, Iain Sinclair, Oct 25, 2007, Literary Collections, 672 pages. 'A book full of richness, unexpected enticements, short sharp shocks and breathtaking writing' Guardian Welcome to the real, unauthorised London: the disappeared, the ....

Let Nobody Turn Us Around An African American Anthology, Manning Marable, Leith Mullings, Jan

16, 2009, History, 704 pages. This anthology of black writers traces the evolution of African-American perspectives throughout American history, from the early years of slavery to the end of the 20th ....

Thirty-Six Years in the White House A Memoir of the White House Doorkeeper from Lincoln to Roosevelt, Thomas Pendel, Jun 4, 2008, Biography & Autobiography, 176 pages. In his 1902 memoir, Thomas Pendel documents his experiences as White House doorkeeper from the Lincoln presidency to the administration of Theodore Roosevelt. First assigned to ....

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