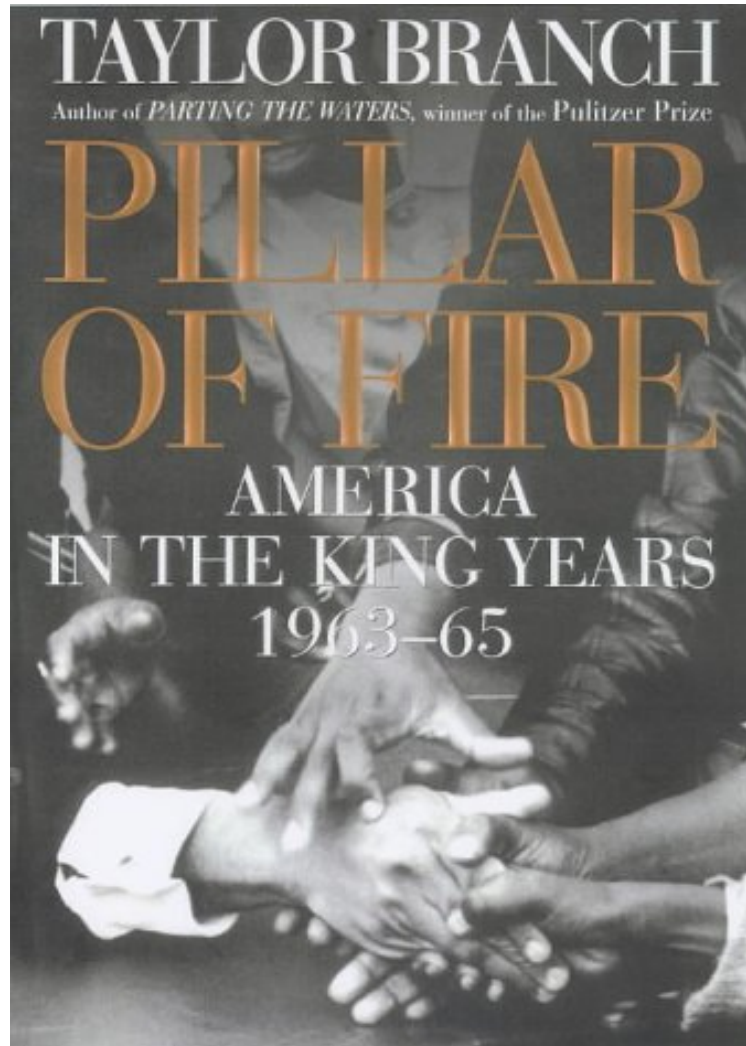


[Read download] Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65

Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65

Taylor Branch

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#671165 in Books 1998-02-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.00 x 6.75 x 1.50l, #File Name: 0684808196768 pages | File size: 29.Mb

Taylor Branch : Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A perfect combination of biography and history.By Mike Powers"Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-65" is the second volume of Taylor Branch's magisterial three-volume biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. First published in 1998, this masterful book picks up the story of King and the American civil rights movement right where "Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963" - the first volume of this trilogy - leaves off.By 1963, America is a nation in growing turmoil. Segregation of the races is still the law of the Deep South, and an unwritten code in much of the rest of the country. African Americans are deprived of basic rights in all aspects of their lives. They can't vote, and they are denied access to equal opportunities

for employment, education, housing, economic advancement and the use of public facilities. There is a rising tide of discontent among African Americans; they are becoming less willing to remain silent in their demands for equality, and more willing to fight...During the two-year period covered in "Pillar of Fire," some of the most important battles for equal rights are fought at Birmingham, Alabama; Greenwood, Mississippi; St. Augustine, Florida; and other places throughout the United States. Branch points out that by this time, Martin Luther King, Jr. has become the de facto leader of America's civil rights movement. Although he holds no "official" leadership position, he is, in effect, the voice and face of equal rights for all people of color. This is mainly due to his courage in speaking out, his commitment to non-violent confrontation to achieve equal rights, and his willingness to endure physical dangers and hardships along with those who march for freedom and equality. In "Pillar of Fire," Martin Luther King, Jr. is once again presented as the flawed but noble hero at the center of the epic battle for civil rights. Like its predecessor, "Parting the Waters," this book is a fabulously written, highly detailed account of a man and an era. It's a perfect combination of a brilliant biography and a penetrating study of one of the most disturbing but important periods of twentieth century American history. Most highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Pillar of Fire By David Bonesteel
The second volume of Taylor Branch's towering trilogy about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights movement covers so many momentous events, such as the assassinations of John Kennedy and Malcolm X, the Mississippi Freedom Summer, King's Nobel Prize, and America's entry into Vietnam, that it is difficult to believe that it spans a mere two years that also witnessed the exodus of black America from the Republican party to the Democratic. King's commitment to nonviolence in the face of overwhelming provocation is stunning. Branch often embeds events in an avalanche of detail about day-to-day goings-on that can be somewhat deadening but serves to make the point that there was no inevitability to the ultimate triumph of King. Throughout his career, he was beset by criticism, rivalry, and divisiveness from both within and without his ranks. The forces arrayed against him were formidable. This book is one more argument toward solidifying J. Edgar Hoover's status as one of the great villains of modern American history, with his underhanded and unconstitutional persecution and surveillance of King, even, at one point, sinking to the depths of having evidence of his infidelities sent to him along with a message urging him to commit suicide. Lyndon Johnson emerges as a pivotal figure, ever mindful of political reality but favorable toward black suffrage in a way that Kennedy wasn't. Writing in the early days of the Trump administration, I am reminded by this book that the most worrisome terrorists are the homegrown variety and encouraged by the precedent of citizens standing up to corrupt power and prevailing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Another Great Book By Maggie H.
This book serves to remind me that our Founding Fathers thought they were doing the right thing for this country by pushing the slave issue off into the future to be addressed at another time. It reveals they were not infallible. I recommend reading the other two books of this trilogy as well. This book also reminds me that Martin Luther King Jr. was a giant among men. Taylor Branch does an excellent job of showing what the movement was like as well as the bitter times it lived through. MLK was a man, no question about it, but what a brilliant, courageous man he was! The movement featured a number of heroes and heroines but MLK stands out as uniquely qualified to speak for all the people, black and white. Now read *Slavery by Another Name* and a book by Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream*.

Volume two of a three volume history of the American civil rights movement, *America in the King Years*. This volume takes the reader from the assassination of President Kennedy and describes Martin Luther King's struggle to hold his movement together in the face of factionalism and violence.

[.com](#) *Pillar of Fire* is the second volume of Taylor Branch's magisterial three-volume history of America during the life of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Branch's thesis, as he explains in the introduction, is that "King's life is the best and most important metaphor for American history in the watershed postwar years," but this is not just a biography. Instead it is a work of history, with King at its focal point. The tumultuous years that Branch covers saw the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the beginnings of American disillusionment with the war in Vietnam, and, of course, the civil rights movement that King led, a movement that transformed America as the nation finally tried to live up to the ideals on which it was founded. From *Library Journal* Following *Parting the Waters* (LJ 1/89), his magnificent Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the Civil Rights years 1954-63, Branch's second volume of a projected trilogy takes the story through the heady years that saw the Southern Freedom Rides, Congressional battles over the Civil Rights acts, the March on Washington, the Birmingham bombing, and the assassinations of John Kennedy, Medgar Evers, and Malcolm X. Once more, Branch's national epic is knit together by the charismatic figure of Dr. King. We only think we know this story, which in Branch's masterly version seems freshened and newly impressive, told without cant or cliché. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Comprehensiveness does not necessarily mean readability, and it certainly does not mean it here in the second volume of Branch's proposed trilogy on the civil rights era in U.S. history, following *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63* (1989). Although the previous volume was a best-seller and won the Pulitzer Prize--and for those reasons this follow-up volume will be in demand in libraries--readers will have to be dedicated to the subject to wade through this

unimaginatively presented assemblage of facts. Branch's research is impeccable and his knowledge of his material solid as he focuses on the civil rights movement's "peak years," when, beginning with the campaign in Alabama, Martin Luther King Jr. took strides forward in his program to deliver equality to his race. But the prose is so airless, the reader will gasp for breath as the author chronicles King's struggles within his own movement for leadership, struggles within the entire black community for direction in achieving racial fairness, and confrontations with the federal government, particularly the FBI. The book is significant for marshaling so much information, particularly the profiles of all the many individuals involved in the race issues of that time, but it lacks fluidity. Brad Hooper