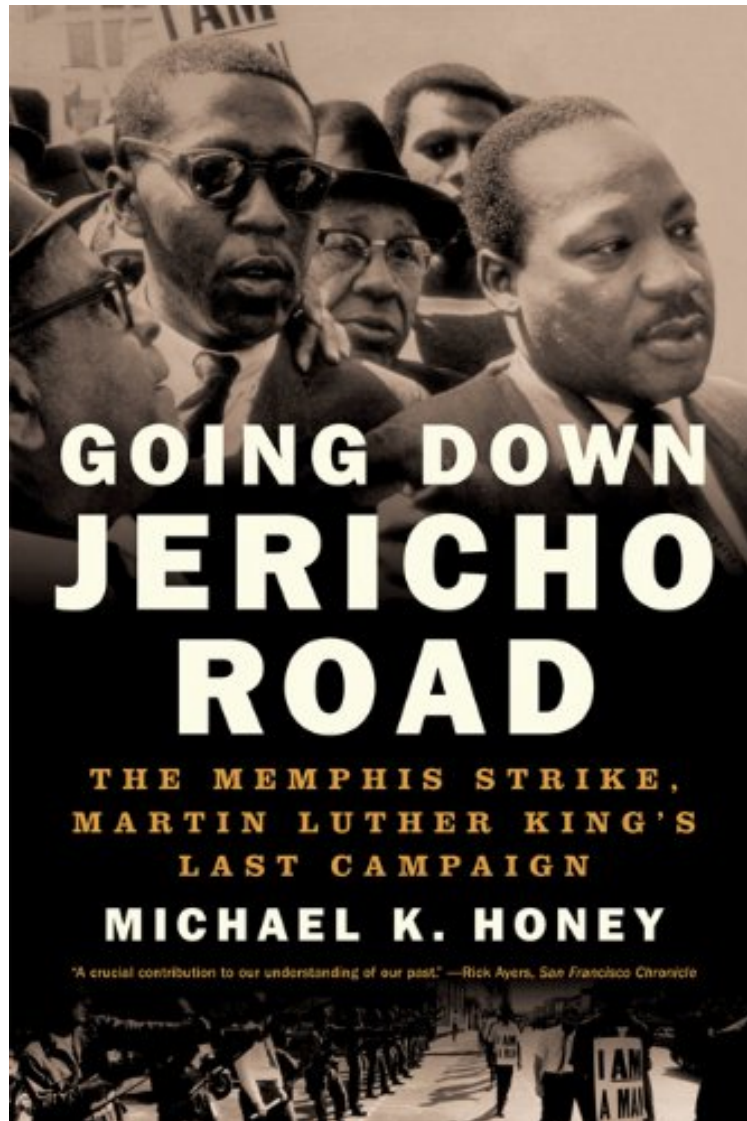


Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign

Michael K. Honey

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Michael K. Honey : Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is an amazingly readable, detailed, account of ...By Michael G. Cassidy This is an amazingly readable, detailed, account of the Sanitation Worker's strike in Memphis in 1968. I was a college student in Memphis in 1968 and participated in the March 28th movement march and the memorial march

following MLK's assassination. However, Michael Honey's account provided background and detail's of which I was embarrassingly totally unaware. It will soon be fifty years since the events described here occurred; however, the underlying situation that existed, not only in Memphis but nationally, are still alive today. The promised land which Dr. King saw from the mountaintop the night before his death is still on the horizon. We may have moved closer to it, but we still are marching. If you want to understand from where we have come, Michael Honey's book will provide an in depth view of one key moment in the journey.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike and Martin Luther King: A HistoryBy SandorI am moved beyond words by this book. As someone who has been active in strikes and the labor movement, I have been enthralled by the story of the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike, and the detail which Michael Honey gives this history draws me in to its narrative more than even the film documentaries I have seen on the subject. Many times i have had to put the book down to absorb the emotions and images it evokes, described by someone who I am sure must have had firsthand knowledge of the events, the personalities involved, and the monumental history of a time that reverberated and shook the foundations of American society with the death of the Civil Rights Movement's greatest charismatic leader. To anyone who has little knowledge of this watershed moment in our history, which probably means most of us, I can't recommend this book highly enough. It's a forgotten, or overlooked history, restored to us in sharp detail. Thank you, Prof. Honey.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful evocation of the struggle of black workersBy Julian BeneThis vibrant account of MLK's last weeks before the assassination - and of the conditions of black workers in Memphis that drew him to the city - overcomes the cliches that have inevitably encrusted our view of the civil rights struggle. It reminds us what the fight was about and shows us how the actors behaved on all sides. The south in the 1960s was still a bastion of nakedly racist white power, exploiting black laborers unmercifully to keep the white middle class comfortable, with the media, cops, FBI and courts all stomping on the underdog. The book is a great case study of unionizing, of protest organizing and, for that matter, of strike-breaking and of undermining a progressive movement. It is enriched by a ton of detail culled from archival accounts, including FBI files.One message that comes out from this detailed look is King's generosity and morality: his dedication to lift up blacks and others who were much less well off than he and his educated class. Regardless of threats from white supremacists, dirty tricks by Hoover's FBI, disunity among black movement leaders and trade unions, and his own doubts about what approaches to the Poor People's Campaign could be effective, King stuck with the sanitation workers. The rare altruism described in this book is an inspiration. It's a shame for our entire society that he had no true successors - and that the obstacles to progress towards a decent and just society are so darned hard to surmount.Anyone looking to understand the late stages of the civil rights movement, the history of Memphis, the South in the 1960s, or the turmoil that Martin Luther King had to deal with will appreciate this book. It helps that it is intelligently and sensitively written from as balanced and objective a perspective as possible.

The definitive history of the epic struggle for economic justice that became Martin Luther King Jr.'s last crusade.Memphis in 1968 was ruled by a paternalistic "plantation mentality" embodied in its good-old-boy mayor, Henry Loeb. Wretched conditions, abusive white supervisors, poor education, and low wages locked most black workers into poverty. Then two sanitation workers were chewed up like garbage in the back of a faulty truck, igniting a public employee strike that brought to a boil long-simmering issues of racial injustice.With novelistic drama and rich scholarly detail, Michael Honey brings to life the magnetic characters who clashed on the Memphis battlefield: stalwart black workers; fiery black ministers; volatile, young, black-power advocates; idealistic organizers and tough-talking unionists; the first black members of the Memphis city council; the white upper crust who sought to prevent change or conflagration; and, finally, the magisterial Martin Luther King Jr., undertaking a Poor People's Campaign at the crossroads of his life, vilified as a subversive, hounded by the FBI, and seeing in the working poor of Memphis his hopes for a better America.