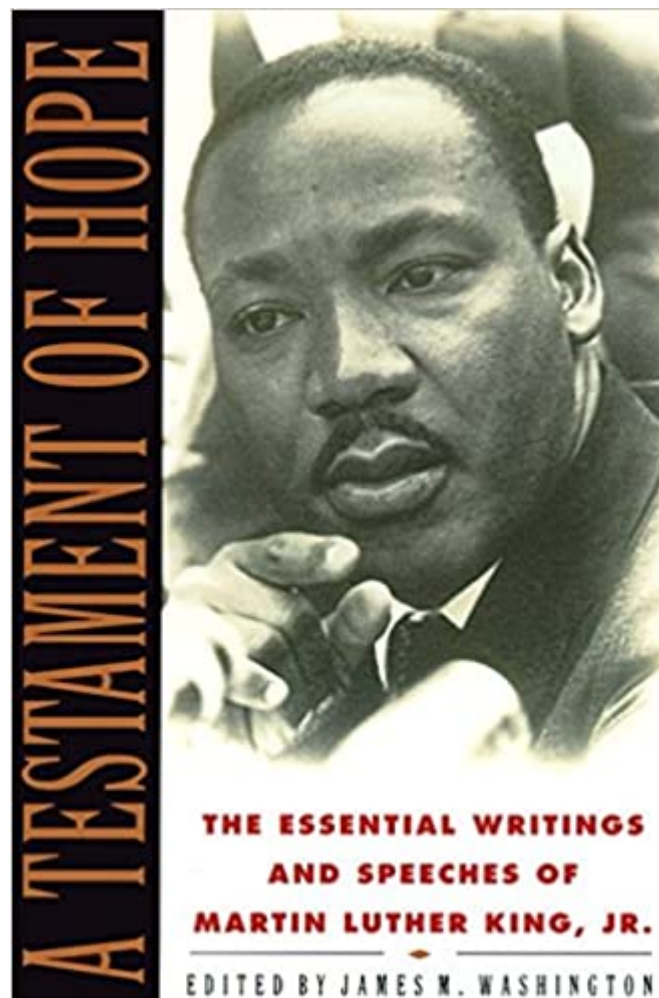




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A Testament Of Hope: The Essential Writings And Speeches Of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Synopsis

"We've got some difficult days ahead," civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., told a crowd gathered at Memphis's Clayborn Temple on April 3, 1968. "But it really doesn't matter to me now because I've been to the mountaintop. . . . And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land." These prophetic words, uttered the day before his assassination, challenged those he left behind to see that his "promised land" of racial equality became a reality; a reality to which King devoted the last twelve years of his life. These words and others are commemorated here in the only major one-volume collection of this seminal twentieth-century American prophet's writings, speeches, interviews, and autobiographical reflections. *A Testament of Hope* contains Martin Luther King, Jr.'s essential thoughts on nonviolence, social policy, integration, black nationalism, the ethics of love and hope, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Brings us King in many roles--philosopher, theologian, orator, essayist, interviewee, and author." -- San Francisco Chronicle Review "Here, in [King's] own words, are the philosophy and strategy of nonviolent protest . . . King's persuasiveness comes through again and again." -- The New York Times Book Review "The most powerful and enduring words of the man who touched the conscience of the nation and the world." -- The Kansas City Star

An exhaustive collection of the speeches, writings, and interviews with the Nobel Prize-winning activist.

I never knew much about M. L. King other than what I read in newspapers and articles. This book presents his real thoughts in his own words which gives you a very different perspective on this man. He was a deep thinker and a committed Christian. He was all about keeping religion in the public sphere. You don't have to read all of it but can jump around to letter to letter and speech to speech. He really comes across in his writings in a way the public has never really understood. A must read.

One needs to read or hear MLK's speeches to understand him. I prefer to listen. It takes me back to a time of hope and real change. The Reverend King was not always "fired up" and preaching. Often his voice is low-key. I think this was a conscious kind of holding back so as not to appear to be "above" his crowd, often a crowd of white people. It is his logic, his examples, his stories that still soar even when his voice is calm and even.

King's Testament of Hope...superb. timeless, both historical and applicable to today's class warfare His essence shines through to speak to us today who are frustrated, angry and despairing over a mushrooming oligarchy whose sociopathic and King Kong footfalls continues to crush the Great Middle Class on their way to their Holy Grail of unfettered power. Decades ago, King faced the Goliath of in-your-face racism at the hands of Southern White Masters who would lynch their economic black slaves if they crossed these written and unwritten power lines electrified by hate and fear posturing as force. King's "love your enemy" exhortations to remember that these human King Kongs were caught in a systemic web of evil was as hard then as seeing the humanity in the socially unconscious Koch Brothers and their ilk. But King's Love ethic in no way pointed to doormat behavior. At its core, his "love thy neighbor" polestar was girded by non-violent, resistant action--physically passive but powerfully, internally active. Such power of the soul touches the persecutor in way force fails--it changes the heart of the human and leads to reconciliation and thus a stronger society, where force amplified the fears of the persecutor prompting more counter-force, leading to a failed and hopelessly divided society. I am 100 pages into this 700 page time bible of personal and social action in the face of any zealous forces. I am more deeply grasping how to respond to multinationals and their bought out governmental puppets on the world, national, state and local levels. I need to transform my hatred of their actions to increasing purposeful behavior. I'd

rather be a disciple of King Jr. and Gandhi than armed militancy.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a brilliant man. This is not a quick read by any means, but you owe it to yourself to check it out. I wish good people could stick around for a while (instead of being snuffed out by evil), they could actually change the world. Just as a side note, I'm a white man, but I have the utmost respect for Martin Luther King Jr. and he is one of my favorite historical figures.

This book gives great insight into a man America needed and still needs. His writings and speeches really make you think about the healing and change he wanted for this nation. I recommend this book for everyone who wants to understand the "historical" Dr. King and why America needs to continue his legacy.

Good variety of King's works.

This was so great that I had to buy several copies for other people. It is great to see the text of the speeches, letters and sermons in print. Fantastic resource.

This is a fantastic book with the essential writings of Martin Luther King. It is an excellent book for people of different situations to understand this great man. He writes as if he is giving his true feelings as a free gift to all peoples.

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