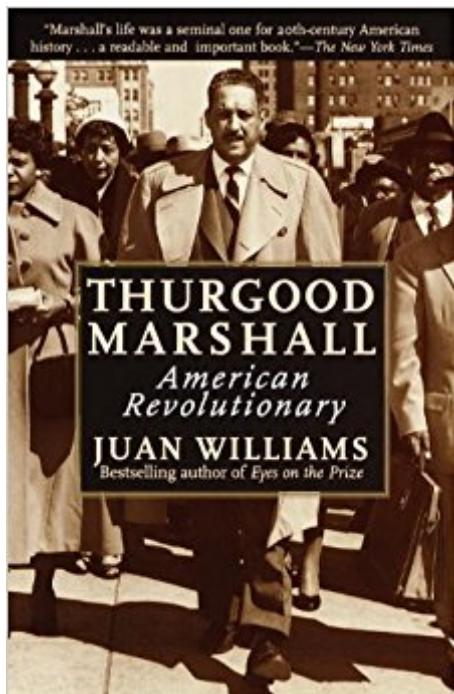


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Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary



Synopsis

This New York Times Notable Book of the Year, 1998, is now in trade paper. From the bestselling author of *Eyes on the Prize*, here is the definitive biography of the great lawyer and Supreme Court justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Washington Post correspondent and TV commentator Juan Williams has produced an illuminating look at a true giant of 20th-century American politics. Williams retells the story of Thurgood Marshall's successful desegregation of public schools in the U.S. with his victory in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, followed by his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1967 for a 24-year term. But he also recounts how W.E.B. Du Bois, then the head of the NAACP, gave a cold shoulder to the younger Marshall (who eventually helped oust Du Bois from the organization), and describes the tug of war between Marshall and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, as well as the mind games Lyndon Johnson played on Marshall before nominating him for the Supreme Court. Readers also learn about Marshall's relationship with his replacement, Clarence Thomas, which was surprisingly civil given their contrary views on affirmative action. Williams has captured many examples of Thurgood Marshall's heroism and humanity in this comprehensive yet readable biography of a complex, combative, and courageous civil rights figure. --Eugene Holley Jr. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Thirteen years before becoming the first African-American justice on the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall's place in American history was secured, with his victory over school segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Williams (*Eyes on the Prize*) offers readers a thorough, straightforward life of "the unlikely leading actor in creating social change in the United States in the twentieth century." Although he was denied access to the files of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where Marshall devoted more than 40 years of his law career, and worked without the cooperation of Marshall's family, Williams has managed to fill in the blanks with over 150 interviews, including lengthy sessions with Marshall himself in 1989. Marshall is portrayed as an outspoken critic of black militancy and nonviolent demonstrations. Williams mentions, but does not dwell on, Marshall's history of heavy drinking, womanizing and sexual harassment. But his private contacts with J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI, even while that organization was working to discredit Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, receives critical attention. This relationship "could have cost him his credibility among civil rights activists had it become known," writes Williams. Likewise, it would appear that his extra-legal activities and charges of incompetence and Communist connections would, if publicized, have kept him from the Supreme Court, as he himself admitted. Nevertheless, this work will stand as an accessible and fitting tribute to a champion of individual rights and "the architect of American race relations." Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Justice Marshall's victories as the lead NAACP lawyer in dozens of civil rights cases, beginning in the late-1920s, are astounding when one considers that most of the cases were thought to be unwinnable, given that many took place in the South during Jim Crow. Marshall faced his share of death threats as he represented black defendants who were being accused of rape or murder and faced the death penalty. And most of the time he won. He was accomplishing these legal victories decades before Jackie Robinson and later Martin Luther King became national figures. Because of his excellence in the courtroom as well as his integrity, Marshall more than earned his appointments as a Federal Judge, Solicitor General and Supreme Court Justice. Marshall's life is worth celebrating and Juan Williams did an excellent job telling the Justice's story.

Not much as been written about this American icon, but Juan Williams does a good job of having you appreciate the genius of Justice Marshall. In this era of political punditry or extreme partisanship such as the case with recent Supreme Court hearings of trying to marginalize Marshall's position, Williams brings you out of the hype to understand how social justice was/is affected and more

important WHY IT IS NECESSARY, even in 2010 and beyond.

Excellent, couldn't put it down. Learn so much about this great man.

Compelling; Historic fight for freedom. Thurgood Marshall was a hero in the fight for human rights for black humanity. Courageous and brave he took his fights to the courthouses and Supreme Court. This is a must read for all students of history of United States of America, if you are a human being. He was the legal voice of conscience for full integration against the "farce" of "Separate but Equal".

One of America's greatest lawyers and judges. A great figure in speaking, and acting to confront bias, discrimination, and human rights. A great Supreme Court Justice, in my opinion.

Great book! Very well written and nuanced. This book creates a context for the life and work of Justice Marshall that only enhances ones understanding of the enormity of his role as a litigator and humanitarian.

This seems to be a very thorough book but I have to guess because I want to leave the wrapping on it since it is a Christmas gift. I'll edit my review if this opinion should change although a friend told me of this book and how good it is, with much ground covered. I'll see.

Very informative and readable.

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