



Stokely: A Life

By Peniel E. Joseph

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Stokely Carmichael achieved iconic status during the turbulent 1960s with his call for black power. He was widely perceived as a strident counterpoint to the more diplomatic Martin Luther King Jr., the icon of the civil rights movement. But historian Joseph offers a more nuanced portrait of this activist, who started as a community organizer fighting for and with the underclass and who jolted the racist core of the American consciousness. He broadened the scope of his humanitarian concerns beyond the U.S. to develop a Pan-African perspective. He married South African singer Miriam Makeba and developed close friendships with African leaders Kwame Nkrumah and Sékou Touré, further provoking the suspicions of an already suspicious U.S. intelligence force. Like King, Carmichael became a critic of the Vietnam War, and following King's assassination the civil rights establishment distanced itself even more from Carmichael. Despite Carmichael's highly racialized rhetoric, his personal humanistic values suggested a closer link to American core values than many may have thought. --Vernon Ford

Review

Counter-Punch

"Peniel E. Joseph's newly published biography of Black liberation activist Stokely Carmichael not only takes its rightful place next to Taylor Branch's epic trilogy *The King Years*, but also to one of the most powerful autobiographies by any American: Stokely Carmichael's own *Ready For Revolution*.... *Stokely: A Life* is a quality read. By highlighting the life of one of the US civil rights/black liberation most important organizers and thinkers, Peniel E. Joseph has done a great service to history and to the people Stokely fought for. Furthermore, Peniel's text has lifted Carmichael out of an obscurity he not only didn't deserve, but which also prevented a more complete understanding of a man who, with Malcom X and Martin Luther King, Jr., deserves to be recognized as one of the great leaders of one of the greatest grassroots movements for liberation in history: the Black freedom struggle in the United States."

Afro-American

"Meticulously-researched and painstakingly-detailed, *Stokely: A Life* is a fast-flowing, informative read which intimately follows its subject from the cradle to the grave in absorbing fashion. In the process, this powerful portrait effectively re-positions him as an uncompromising prophet who played a pivotal role in the struggle for black equality."

2014 winner of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change National Book Award

***Daily Beast* Best Books About the Volatile 60s**

New York Times Book Review

"An insightful, highly engaging and fluently written biography"

Washington Post

"Joseph's account of Carmichael's life is well-written and well-researched, providing persuasive explanations for his appeal.... Joseph's biography fills a huge void and is a welcome addition to the scholarly literature on the civil rights movement."

Boston Globe

“This is at its heart a book of ideas — ideas about power, freedom, and identity — and of a life, the author writes, that ‘took shape against the backdrop of a domestic war for America's very soul.’”

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“Mr. Joseph's detail rich biography delves into the life of a political activist turned icon while not forgetting to show us his human side.”

Post & Courier

“A thorough and engaging account of one of the most important figures of the civil rights movement. *Stokely* achieves its primary goal of restoring Carmichael to his rightful place in the pantheon of influential Americans.... Offers delicious details, thoughtful analysis and a good amount of drama concerning this enigmatic figure.... Joseph's landmark book is the best portrait yet of this important, complicated man and the America he so wanted to love but could not.”

Daily Beast

“An unflinching look at an unflinching man.”

About the Author

Peniel E. Joseph is a professor of history and the director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy at Tufts University. He lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eva Dawson:

Here thing why this *Stokely: A Life* are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. *Stokely: A Life* giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no e-book that similar with *Stokely: A Life*. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your technique home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of *Stokely: A Life* in e-book can be your option.

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