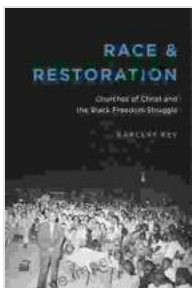


Churches of Christ and the Black Freedom Struggle: Making the Modern South

A Monumental History by David W. Wills

In his groundbreaking work, "Churches of Christ and the Black Freedom Struggle: Making the Modern South," renowned historian David W. Wills unveils the profound and often overlooked role that Churches of Christ played in the Black freedom struggle and the shaping of the modern South. Through painstaking research and captivating storytelling, Wills paints a vibrant portrait of African American Christians who boldly stood on the frontlines of the fight for civil rights and justice.

Spanning from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, Wills' narrative traces the evolving relationship between Churches of Christ and the Black freedom movement. He explores how these churches, often rooted in rural communities, became hubs for activism, fostering a spirit of resistance and providing crucial support for key figures in the movement.



Race and Restoration: Churches of Christ and the Black Freedom Struggle (Making the Modern South)

by Barclay Key

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2254 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 264 pages

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A Call for Justice

The Antebellum Roots

Wills begins his account by examining the antebellum period, highlighting the ways in which enslaved African Americans found solace and a sense of community within Churches of Christ. These early congregations provided a safe haven for the oppressed, nurturing a spirit of resilience and a desire for freedom.

The Civil War and Reconstruction

During the Civil War and Reconstruction, Churches of Christ became even more central to African American life. They played a vital role in organizing freedmen, establishing schools, and advocating for political rights. Notable figures such as Martin Luther King Sr. and C.T. Vivian emerged from these congregations, laying the groundwork for the future civil rights movement.

The Rise of the Civil Rights Movement

The Mid-Twentieth Century

Wills dedicates significant attention to the mid-twentieth century, a period marked by the rise of the modern civil rights movement. He traces the involvement of Churches of Christ in the Montgomery bus boycott, the sit-in movement, and the Freedom Rides. Black Christian leaders, such as James Lawson and Bernard Lafayette, played instrumental roles in these campaigns.

Intersectional Struggle

Wills also highlights the unique perspective that Churches of Christ brought to the movement. They emphasized the importance of nonviolent resistance, drawing inspiration from their Christian faith. Additionally, they recognized the intersectionality of racial and economic justice, advocating for both civil rights and economic empowerment for African Americans.

Legacy and Impact

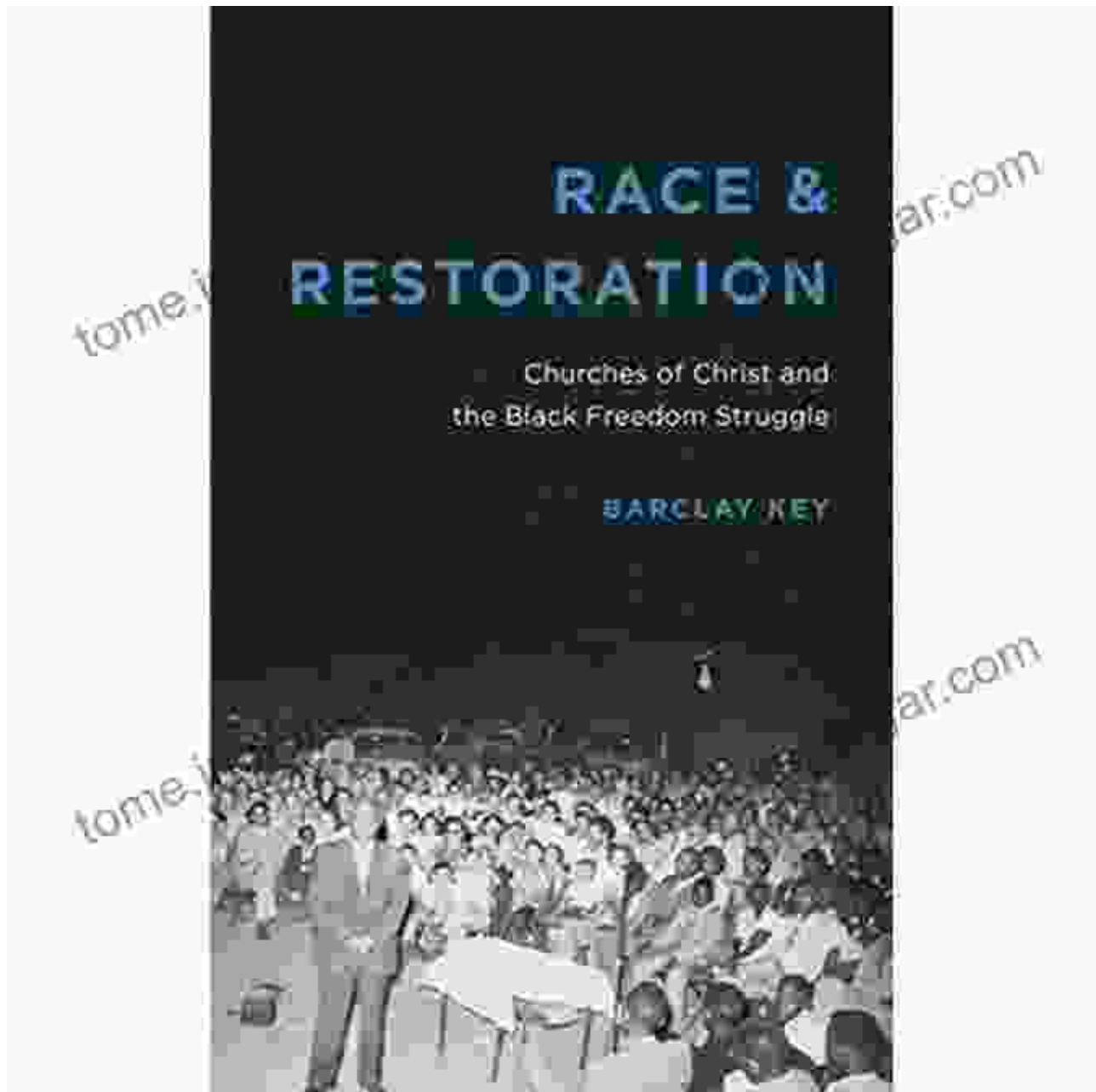
The Modern South

Wills concludes his work by assessing the enduring legacy of Churches of Christ in the Black freedom struggle and the modern South. He argues that these churches have been central to shaping the region's racial and social landscape, fostering a culture of both resistance and reconciliation.

A Call to Continue the Struggle

While acknowledging the progress that has been made, Wills also emphasizes the need to continue the struggle for justice and equality. He urges Churches of Christ and all people of faith to embrace the spirit of the Black freedom struggle, working together to create a more just and equitable society for all.

David W. Wills' "Churches of Christ and the Black Freedom Struggle: Making the Modern South" is an essential work for anyone interested in African American history, the civil rights movement, and the role of faith in social change. Through meticulous research and engaging prose, Wills offers a fresh and insightful perspective on the significant contribution made by Churches of Christ to the making of the modern South. This book is a testament to the power of faith, resistance, and the enduring struggle for justice.



Book cover image

About the Author

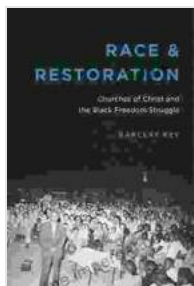
David W. Wills is Professor of History at Messiah University. He is an award-winning historian and author specializing in African American history and the American South. His research focuses on the intersection of

religion, race, and social justice. "Churches of Christ and the Black Freedom Struggle" is his most recent publication.

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