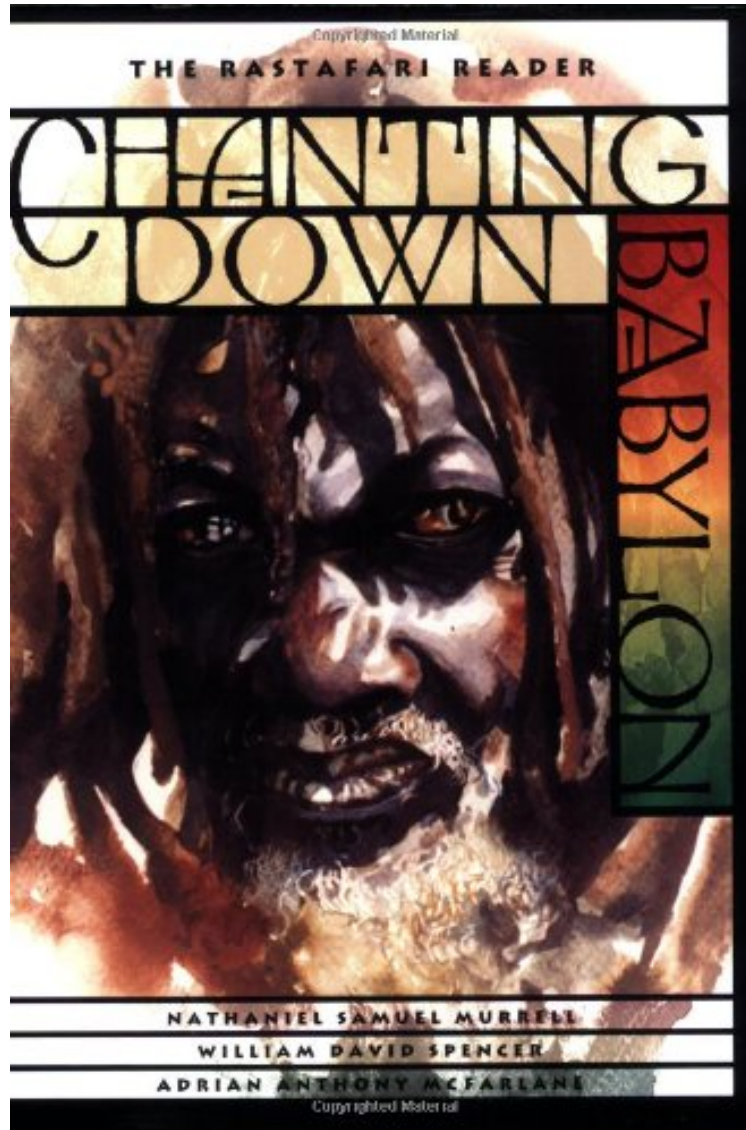


Chanting Down Babylon: The Rastafari Reader

Nathaniel Samuel Murrell

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Nathaniel Samuel Murrell : Chanting Down Babylon: The Rastafari Reader before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chanting Down Babylon: The Rastafari Reader:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still own it By Sarah Mahoney I purchased this book for a class a few years back. It was not my first choice for a history class, but the professor was an interesting one and it was an area of history that was not so familiar to me, so I took the class on the Caribbean. This was one of the books we used toward the end. It was definitely interesting to read, though I have yet to read the entire book. It is easy to dip in read a chapter

or so and skip around. This made it pretty low pressure, which was nice. It had a lot of unfamiliar information and cultural insight, which was also really good. The stories were interesting and held my attention. All of this even though my favorite era to study is earlier (500's ish-1600's ish) and favorite places are Europe and Asia. So, yeah, good book. If you want to know more about the Rasta movement Chanting Down Babylon is an excellent book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Rastamon Watch as Babylon Falls By OndaBeach The Rastafarian movement had largely been a Jamaican phenomenon from its inception in the 1930s until the 1960s, when immigrants from the Caribbean migrated internationally. This collection of essays attempts to define in populist manner Rastafari; its beginnings, successes, and failures; its belief system; and its religious, economic, cultural, psychological, and social connotations. With no formal structure, Rastafari is an evolving belief system based on the principles of Leonard Howell's *The Promised Key*. Its message of Afrocentricity is important, but the resistance and liberation psychology, along with reggae music, all give meaning to people's lives. The "Downpression" of Jamaican society reflects a "Babylonian" experience of the black's soulful desolation. From the life-affirming practices of Rastafari, selfhood and dignity is reclaimed. Bible study, fasting, and living with the earth were early components; later the African tradition of ganja smoking was used in rituals to commune on a higher plane. One way Rastafari !!! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Was a gift By Shay Reads more like a history book than a novel. Expected something a little less formal, but very good none the less and informational.

This anthology explores Rastafari religion, culture, and politics in Jamaica and other parts of the African diaspora. An Afro-Caribbean religious and cultural movement that sprang from the mean streets of Kingston, Jamaica, in the 1930s, today Rastafari has close to one million adherents. The basic message of Rastafari--the dismantling of all oppressive institutions and the liberation of humankind--strongly appeals even to non-believers who are captivated by the reggae music, the lyrics, and the "immortal spirit" of its enormously popular practitioner, Bob Marley. Probing into Rastafari's still-evolving belief system, political goals, and cultural expression, the contributors to this volume emphasize the importance of African history and the Caribbean context. "Long before the term 'Afrocentricity' came into popular use in the United States, Jamaican Rastafarians had embraced the concept as the most important recipe for naming their reality and reclaiming their black heritage in the African diaspora," Nathaniel Samuel Murrell notes in the Introduction. "CHANTING DOWN BABYLON" brings together scholarly commentary, a long-hidden founding document of the movement, and the voices of leading Rastas who explain and critique the beliefs and practices associated with Rastafari. Also included are a glossary, an annotated bibliography, and an interview with the pioneering scholar of Rastafari, Leonard Barrett.

From Library Journal The Rastafarian movement had largely been a Jamaican phenomenon from its inception in the 1930s until the 1960s, when immigrants from the Caribbean migrated internationally. This collection of essays attempts to define in populist manner Rastafari; its beginnings, successes, and failures; its belief system; and its religious, economic, cultural, psychological, and social connotations. With no formal structure, Rastafari is an evolving belief system based on the principles of Leonard Howell's *The Promised Key*. Its message of Afrocentricity is important, but the resistance and liberation psychology, along with reggae music, all give meaning to people's lives. The "Downpression" of Jamaican society reflects a "Babylonian" experience of the black's soulful desolation. From the life-affirming practices of Rastafari, selfhood and dignity is reclaimed. Bible study, fasting, and living with the earth were early components; later the African tradition of ganja smoking was used in rituals to commune on a higher plane. Recommended. ?Leo Vincent Kriz, West Des Moines P.L., Ia. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Long before the term 'Afrocentricity' came into popular use in the United States, Jamaican Rastafarians had embraced the concept as the most important recipe for naming their reality and reclaiming their black heritage in the African diaspora." --Nathaniel Samuel Murrell, from the Introduction From the Publisher A comprehensive and indispensable study of the Rastafarian Movement