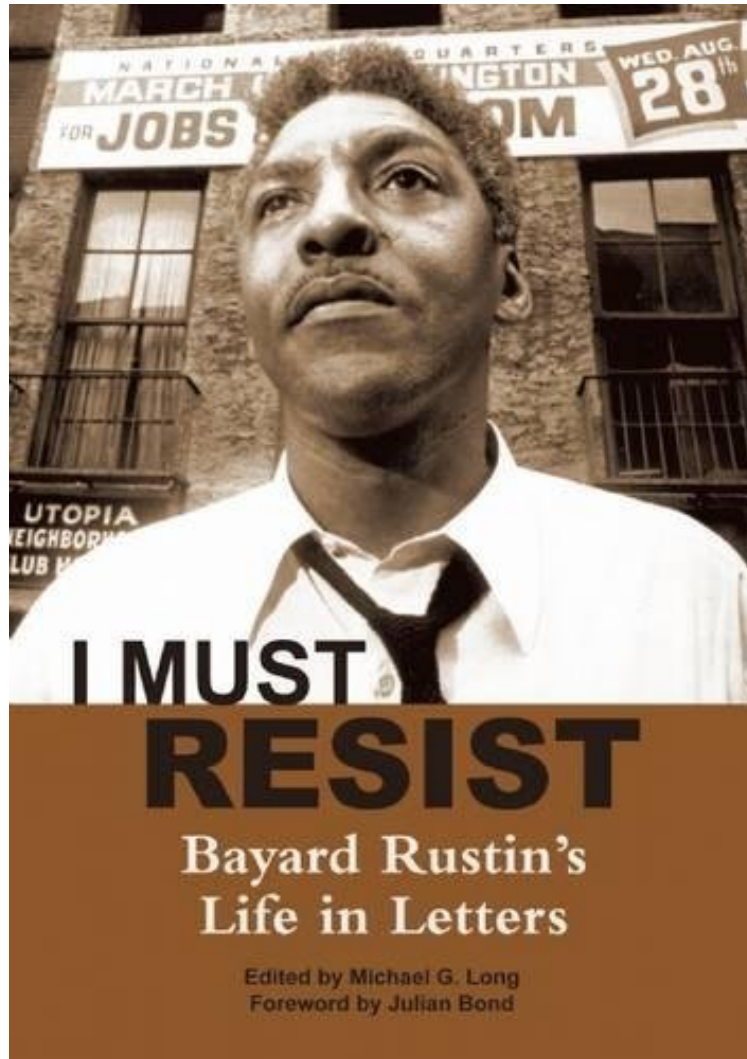


[Pdf free] I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters

I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters

Bayard Rustin

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BAYARD RUSTIN POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE 2013 PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard Rustin is best remembered as the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest nonviolent protests ever held in the United States. He brought Gandhi's protest techniques to the American civil rights movement and played a deeply influential role in the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., helping to mold him into an international symbol of nonviolence. Despite these achievements, Rustin often remained in the background. He was silenced, threatened, arrested, beaten, imprisoned, and fired from important leadership positions, largely because he was an openly gay man in a fiercely homophobic era. Here we have Rustin in his own words in a collection of over 150 of his eloquent, impassioned letters; his correspondents include the major progressives of his day including Eleanor Holmes Norton, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, Ella Baker, and of course, Martin Luther King Jr. Bayard Rustin's ability to chart the path "from protest to politics" is both timely and deeply informative. Here, at last, is direct access to the strategic thinking and tactical planning that led to the successes of one of America's most transformative and historic social movements. "Rustin was a life-long agitator for justice. He changed America and the world for the better. This collection of his letters makes his life and his passions come vividly alive, and helps restore him to history, a century after this birth. I Must Resist makes for inspiring reading." John D'Emilio, author of *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* "A vital addition to the history of the civil rights movement by an exceptionally determined, vital and creative force who was invaluable to Martin Luther King Jr and A. Philip Randolph among many others." -- Nat Hentoff "Bayard Rustin's courageously candid letters, most of which have never before been available to researchers, provide fascinating glimpses into the private life of one of history's most reticent public figures." -- Clayborne Carson, Founding Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University "These letters poetic, incisive, passionate, and above all political in the broadest meaning of the word span almost four decades not only of Bayard Rustin's life but of the emotional and spiritual life of America. There is hardly a social justice movement during this time in which Rustin was not involved from pacifism to ending poverty to battles for sexual freedom. Michael Long's brilliant editing has created a compelling historical narrative and reading these letters is to be witness to the ever-evolving conscience that guides our country's endangered, but surviving, commitment to freedom." -- Michael Bronski, author of *A Queer History of the United States* "Bayard Rustin was a committed but very complicated person. This marvelously annotated collection of letters explain the spirit, and evolution of the thoughts and actions of an often overlooked key figure in the 20th century civil and human rights movement." -- Mary Frances Berry, Geraldine Segal Professor of American Social Thought, University of Pennsylvania, and former Chair United States Commission on Civil Rights "All aspects of Rustin's experiences are captured in these letters, including his struggles with opponents dedicated to silencing him as an international symbol of nonviolent protests against racial injustice. This remarkable and deeply moving publication is a must-read." -- William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor, Harvard University

"A vital addition to the history of the civil rights movement by an exceptionally determined, vital and creative force who was invaluable to Martin Luther King Jr and A. Philip Randolph among many others." Nat Hentoff "Rustin was a life-long agitator for justice. He changed America and the world for the better. This collection of his letters makes his life and his passions come vividly alive, and helps restore him to history, a century after his birth. I Must Resist makes for inspiring reading." John D'Emilio, author of *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* "Bayard Rustin's courageously candid letters, most of which have never before been available to researchers, provide fascinating glimpses into the private life of one of history's most reticent public figures." Clayborne Carson, Founding Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University "These letters poetic, incisive, passionate, and above all political in the broadest meaning of the word span almost four decades not only of Bayard Rustin's life but of the emotional and spiritual life of America. There is hardly a social justice movement during this time in which Rustin was not involved from pacifism to ending poverty to battles for sexual freedom. Michael Long's brilliant editing has created a compelling historical narrative and reading these letters is to be witness to the ever-evolving conscience that guides our country's endangered, but surviving, commitment to freedom." Michael Bronski, author of *A Queer History of the United States* "Bayard Rustin was a committed but very complicated person. This marvelously annotated collection of letters explain the spirit, and evolution of the thoughts and actions of an often overlooked key figure in the 20th century civil and human rights movement." Mary Frances Berry, Geraldine Segal Professor of American Social Thought, University of Pennsylvania, and former Chair United States Commission on Civil Rights "I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters provides fascinating insights into Bayard Rustin's activist life. It includes hundreds of letters in Rustin's own words that reveal his tireless and brave efforts to promote American civil rights, as well as his personal tragedies. All aspects of Rustin's experiences are captured in these letters, including his struggles with opponents dedicated to silencing him as an international symbol of nonviolent protests against racial injustice. This remarkable and deeply moving publication is a must-read." William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor, Harvard University "The first entry in that wonderful collection of letters is a missive to a Quaker group that Rustin penned in 1942. Rustin's grandmother was a Quaker, and the letter, titled 'War is Wrong' in Long's anthology, places Rustin firmly in the long tradition of American pacifism." Hector Tobar, Los Angeles

Times "We know what King thought about race, poverty and war. But what was his attitude toward gay people, and if he was alive today would he see the gay rights movement as another stage of the civil rights movement? the debate over Kings stance toward gay rights has long divided his family and followers. That debate is poised to go public again because of the upcoming release of two potentially explosive books, one of which examines Kings close relationship with an openly gay civil rights leader, Bayard Rustin. King would have been a champion of gay rights today because of his view of Christianity, says Michael Long, author of, *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustins Life in Letters*."CNN.com"Despite the fact that Rustin was pivotal to the civil rights movement, including organizing the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, he is not nearly as well known as others in the movement. This collection of Rustins letters aims to set straight the record on his enormous influence."Booklist" In commemoration of the centennial of his birth, a new book, *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustins Life in Letters*, has just been published. It is a volume that is rich in Rustins wisdom and highly relevant to todays debates over issues from gay rights to affirmative action."The Chronicle of Higher Education" The letters in this book, which represent only a portion of Rustins prolific output, provide a detailed, vivid, and often surprising look into his life and mind. They reveal Rustins commitment to speaking the truth to power, which he encouraged in correspondence with students, citizens, and politicians, including every president from Truman to Reagan."Gay Lesbian "In *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustins Life in Letters*, editor Michael G. Long assembles an impressive narrative of Rustins remarkable achievements, helping on this 100th anniversary of his birth to revive the complex legacy of the civil rights struggles hidden man."Baltimore City Paper" Collected from over more than four decades, these letters are a reminder that one man can make a difference. culled with care by editor Long, who also provides scene-setting historical and cultural annotations."Richard Labonte, *The Rainbow Times*" This collection of letters sheds light on one of the great overlooked activists of the 20th century. Each letter is prefaced by a paragraph providing context, helpful for those who dont have a deep knowledge of the events of that era. His letters some 150 are collected here chronologically reveal an eloquent, persuasive activist, unafraid to challenge so-called authority figures when he encountered injustice."Philadelphia Gay News" The book provides insights into important aspects of protest. The letters are an example of a political activist's tireless efforts to promote American civil rights and throw light on the struggles one has to undergo against all opposition, especially when there are ideological differences: Rustins strongly held views on non-violence often clashed with other Trotskyite activists who believed that change was possible only through violence. Remarkably moving in their spirit and intention, the letters symbolise dedication to a political and social purpose intended for racial justice and equality."Shelly Walia, *Frontline*, India