



Who Speaks for the Negro?

By Robert Penn Warren

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First published in 1965, this is a unique text in the history of the American Civil Rights Movement. Robert Penn Warren interviewed a wide range of African American leaders, activists, and artists across the country, among them Martin Luther King, Malcom X, and James Baldwin. Sections from the transcripts of these interviews are combined with the author's reflections on the interviewees and the Civil Rights Movement as a whole to create a powerful oral history of this all-important struggle. A new introduction by David W. Blight places Warren's book in historical perspective.

" In this new edition introduced by the eminent historian David Blight, *Who Speaks for the Negro?* reveals a provocative admixture of history's variance. Warren's book is a burden of the past from which we cannot escape. It summons us to awaken a more vital national heartbeat of reparations for an American dilemma."—Houston Baker, Vanderbilt University

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Who Speaks for the Negro? By Robert Penn Warren Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1105698 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-09-30
- Released on: 2014-09-30
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

"Warren's book remains a luminous volume about race, racism, the South, black America, and our national destiny. It consistently reflects the uncommon courage, integrity, and prophetic imagination that made him such a towering cultural interpreter when it first appeared. We ignore or forget his work at our peril."—Arnold Rampersad, Stanford University
(Arnold Rampersad)

"There are so many takes on history. In this new edition introduced by the eminent historian David Blight, *Who Speaks for the Negro?* reveals a provocative admixture of history's variance. Warren's book is a burden of the past from which we cannot escape. In somewhat melancholic ways, it is also symptomatic and axiomatic with respect to the nightmarish heartbeat of America's indefatigable repetition of racial discrimination. It summons us to awaken a more vital national heartbeat of reparations for an American dilemma."—Houston Baker, Vanderbilt University
(Houston Baker)

"Not exactly a stroll down memory lane and certainly not a song to sing, yet, *Who Speaks For The Negro*, brings back a question one would have thought already answered. We still search America's soul for how to and who to include. Robert Penn Warren has, as did Gunnar Myrdal a bit later, brought the possibilities forward. This is still a book worthy of your time and somehow still a part of ours."—Nikki Giovanni

(Nikki Giovanni)

"As one interviewed by Robert Penn Warren I was both suspicious and hopeful about his project. Amid the turmoil of Vietnam and the Selma to Montgomery march the book was underappreciated. Fifty years later we have this archival treasure that demonstrates why the Civil Rights Movement in fact gave our land its second equality, life and liberty movement."—Reverend James Lawson
(Reverend James Lawson)

About the Author

Robert Penn Warren (1905–1989) was an American poet, novelist, and literary critic. He received the Pulitzer Prize three times: for the novel *All the King's Men* in 1946 and for poetry in 1958 and 1979. David W. Blight is Class of 1954 Professor of American History at Yale University and director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel McCullough:

This *Who Speaks for the Negro?* book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This kind of *Who Speaks for the Negro?* without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical

in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Who Speaks for the Negro? can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Who Speaks for the Negro? having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

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