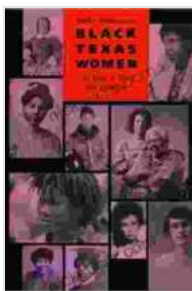


Black Texas Women: 150 Years of Trial and Triumph

Black women have played a vital role in the history of Texas, from its founding to the present day. They have faced countless challenges, but they have also achieved great successes. This article tells the stories of some of these extraordinary women.



Black Texas Women: 150 Years of Trial and Triumph

by Ruthe Winegarten

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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Early History

The first black women to arrive in Texas were enslaved Africans who were brought to the region by Spanish explorers in the 16th century. These women were forced to work in the fields and homes of their white masters. They were often subjected to harsh treatment and sexual abuse.

In the 19th century, Texas became a slave state. The number of black women in the state increased dramatically as more slaves were brought in

from other parts of the United States. Black women continued to be subjected to slavery and discrimination, but they also began to resist their oppression.

One of the most famous black women in Texas history is Harriet Tubman. Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland in 1822. She escaped to freedom in 1849 and became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, helping hundreds of other slaves escape to freedom. Tubman also fought for the Union Army during the Civil War.

Reconstruction and the Jim Crow Era

After the Civil War, Texas entered a period of Reconstruction. During this time, black women gained some new rights and opportunities. They were able to vote, serve on juries, and attend school. However, they continued to face discrimination and violence.

In the late 19th century, Texas passed a series of laws that established a system of racial segregation known as Jim Crow. These laws restricted black people's access to housing, education, and employment. Black women were particularly hard hit by Jim Crow, as they were often denied the opportunity to work in white-collar jobs or to attend college.

Despite the challenges they faced, black women in Texas continued to make progress. They established their own businesses, schools, and churches. They also fought for their civil rights. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was passed, which outlawed racial discrimination in voting. This law helped to increase black voter turnout in Texas and across the country.

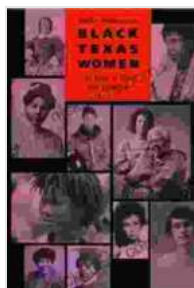
Modern Era

In the modern era, black women in Texas have made significant strides in all areas of life. They have been elected to high office, served in the military, and achieved success in business, education, and the arts. They have also continued to fight for social justice and racial equality.

One of the most important black women in Texas history is Barbara Jordan. Jordan was born in Houston in 1936. She graduated from Texas Southern University and went on to earn a law degree from Boston University. In 1972, she was elected to the Texas Senate, becoming the first black woman to serve in that body. In 1974, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served for four terms. Jordan was a powerful voice for civil rights and social justice. She was also a role model for black women across the country.

Black Texas women have made a significant contribution to the history of the state. They have faced countless challenges, but they have also achieved great successes. They are an inspiration to us all.

The history of black Texas women is a story of trial and triumph. They have faced countless challenges, but they have also achieved great successes. They have made a significant contribution to the history of Texas and the United States. They are an inspiration to us all.



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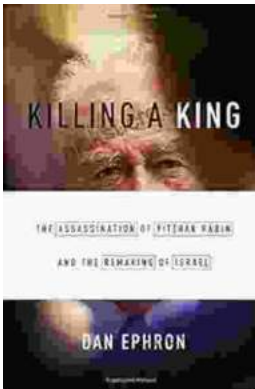
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