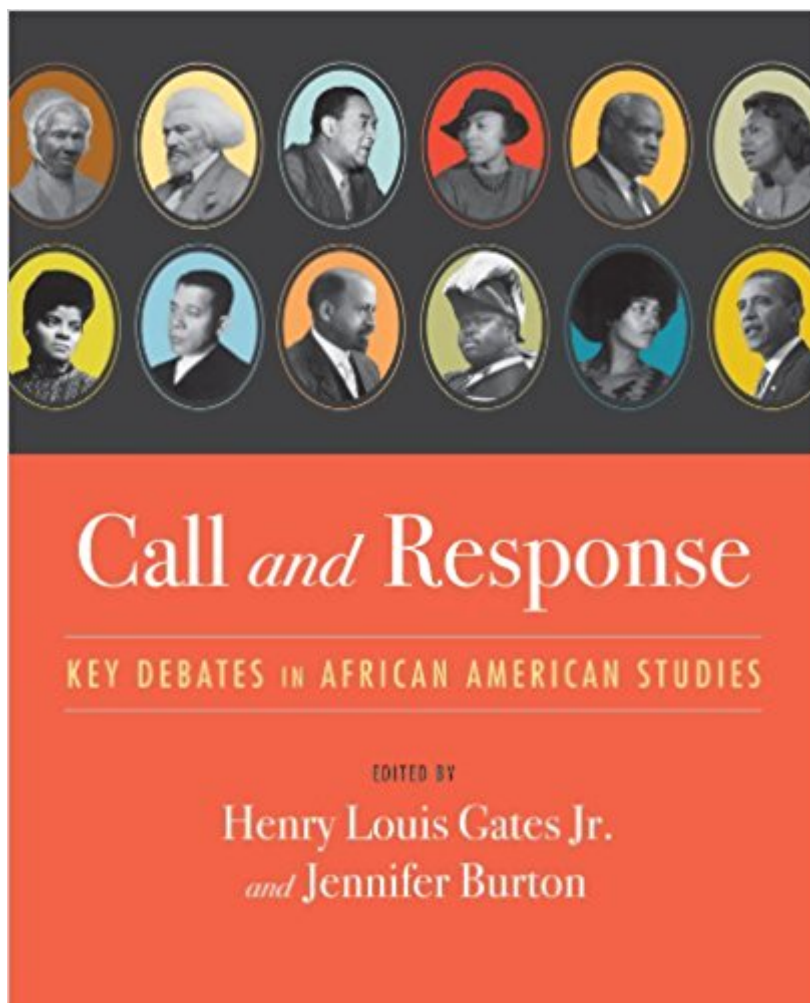


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# Call And Response: Key Debates In African American Studies



## Synopsis

Class-tested by Henry Louis Gates Jr. in his groundbreaking course, *Call and Response* is an innovative core reader for African American Studies. Unprecedented in scope and approach, this primary-text reader offers a fresh and flexible framework for exploring signal issues of the black experience in the United States. With voices ranging from Phillis Wheatley in the late eighteenth century to Barack Obama in the twenty-first, *Call and Response* presents multiple perspectives on key controversies that probe the fundamental relationship between race and democracy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Ph.D. Cambridge), is Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and American Research, Harvard University. He is the author of *Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History, 1513-2008*; *Black in Latin America*; *Tradition and the Black Atlantic: Critical Theory in the African Diaspora*; *Faces of America*; *Figures in Black: Words, Signs, and the Racial Self*; *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Criticism*; *Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars*; *Colored People: A Memoir*; *The Future of Race with Cornel West*; *Wonders of the African World*; *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*; and *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley*. He is also the writer, producer, and narrator of PBS documentaries *Finding Your Roots*; *Black in Latin America*; *Faces of America*; *African American Lives 1 and 2*; *Looking for Lincoln*; *America Beyond the Color Line*; and *Wonders of the African World*. He is the editor of *African American National Biography* with Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham,

and *The Dictionary of African Biography* with Anthony Appiah; *Encyclopedia Africana* with Anthony Appiah; and *The Bondwoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts, as well as editor-in-chief of *TheRoot.com*. Jennifer Burton (Ph.D. Harvard) is currently a visiting scholar at the University of California, San Diego, where she has taught courses on the debates within African American studies. In addition to teaching at UCSD, she has taught at the University of San Diego and Harvard University. Along with Henry Louis Gates Jr., Burton edited the 31-volume series *African-American Women Writers, 1910-1940*, and was the volume editor for *The Prize Plays and Other One-Acts: Zora Neale Hurston, Eulalie Spence, Marita Bonner, and Others*. She also contributed to *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*, and *Great American Women*. Her essays, fiction, and plays have appeared in publications from the *Buffalo News* to the *Southeast Review*. She has been a DuBois Fellow, a Mellon Fellow, and a Henry Luce Scholar.

This collection is one of the best collections of African American discourse that have probably ever been collected, but I have one complaint. It does not include enough aspects of the debate within the African community on Africa, especially during Part V, the section on the Civil Rights Movement. In Part III, on the Great Migration and Black Renaissance, it mentions Garvey's Back to Africa movement and the emergence of the Pan-African movement with WEB Du Bois' conferences. In Part IV, it also doesn't mention the incredible response, both for and against, of the African American community to the 1935 Italian invasion of Ethiopia, which at that time was the last remaining independent African nation. If anything, African American interest in Africa increased during the civil rights movement as African nations gained their independence from colonialism during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1957, Ghana achieved its independence and Kwame Nkrumah invited African Americans to emigrate to his new nation and many took him up on his offer. African Americans reacted to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo in 1961. Here is one of the famous lines from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s, 1963 "Letter from Birmingham Jail," "The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jetlike speed toward gaining political independence, but we still creep at horse-and-buggy pace toward gaining a cup of coffee at a lunch counter." While the letter is included, it is not placed within the context of King's anti-colonialism and transnational connections to Africa. King was also very active in the anti-apartheid movement. As other debates were spread out over more than one period, anti apartheid activism of the African American community could also be shown to exist from supporting the Defiance Campaign against Unjust Laws in 1952 to supporting economic sanctions against South Africa in the 1980s. Like other

debates, these issues were not all one-sided, there were African Americans that argued that the struggle in the United States was more important than a struggle for independence half-a-world-away, for a group whom they did not consider their brethren. While several good books; e.g., *Proudly We Can Be Africans: Black Americans and Africa, 1935-1961*, accomplish this objective in the secondary literature this was the chance to publish primary sources to reflect this debate within the black community. Had more of these transnational connections been demonstrated in this collection it would be worth a five-star rating.

Bought this book for a gen ed course. Loved the course & the book! Very different approach to African American history.

Great deal for the price.

Order arrived promptly and accurate to the description. Thanks!

It was in good condition

As Advertised .

If you want to know African and African-American History and this is the best book though i don't know other books that are available. It is easy to read and easy to understand and you will be shock how much you learn. Its was delivered fast too.

Great awesome good quality well made we really enjoy it excellent purchase looks super we are glad we chose this one

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