



The Divine Nine: The History of African American Fraternities and Sororities

By Lawrence C. Ross Jr.

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America's Black fraternities and sororities are a unique and vital part of 20th-century African-American history. The Divine Nine tells how these organizations have played a major role in shaping generations of black leaders. Includes interviews with Star Jones, Shaquille O'Neal, Spencer Christian, and Nikki Giovanni. Two 24-page photo inserts.

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Editorial Review

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This history of black fraternities and sororities confirms the underlying purpose of these institutions: to provide a supportive educational environment for their members during college and social and business networks beyond college. Ross notes the substantial variation on the specific circumstances behind the formation of black fraternities and sororities. For example, Alpha Phi Alpha was formed at Cornell University just after the turn of the last century to counterbalance extreme racial hostilities aimed at the few black students. Shortly thereafter, in the more protective environment of predominantly black Howard University, Omega Psi Phi was formed. More recently (1963), older commuter students at Morgan State formed Iota Phi Theta. The underlying theme in all cases was camaraderie with a special emphasis on providing support to minorities in hostile environments, whether on campus or the broader racial environment of the U.S. Ross profiles several members of black fraternities and sororities, many of them prominent, and notes the contributions the groups have made to black leadership in the U.S. *Vernon Ford*

From the Back Cover

Never before has information about African American fraternities and sororities been published for the general public, until now...

America's black fraternities and sororities are a unique and vital part of 20th century African American history, providing young black achievers with opportunities to support each other while they serve their communities and the nation.

From pioneering work in the suffragette movement to extraordinary strides during the Civil Rights era to life-changing inner-city mentoring programs in the 1990s, members of these organizations share a proud tradition of brotherhood, sisterhood, and service.

Today, America's nine black fraternities and sororities are two and one-half million members strong with chapters at major universities and colleges, including Stanford University, Howard University, and University of Chicago.

This extensive yet very accessible book celebrates the spirit of excellence shared by African American fraternity and sorority members, both past and present, and is sure to be treasured for generations to come.

INCLUDES INTERVIEWS WITH FAMOUS MEMBERS OF THE DIVINE NINE --

From John H. Johnson and Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby-Grant to Star Jones and Shaquille O'Neal

PLUS INSPIRING PROFILES OF OTHER FAMOUS MEMBERS --

From Langston Hughes and Ella Fitzgerald to Toni Morrison and Colin Powell

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