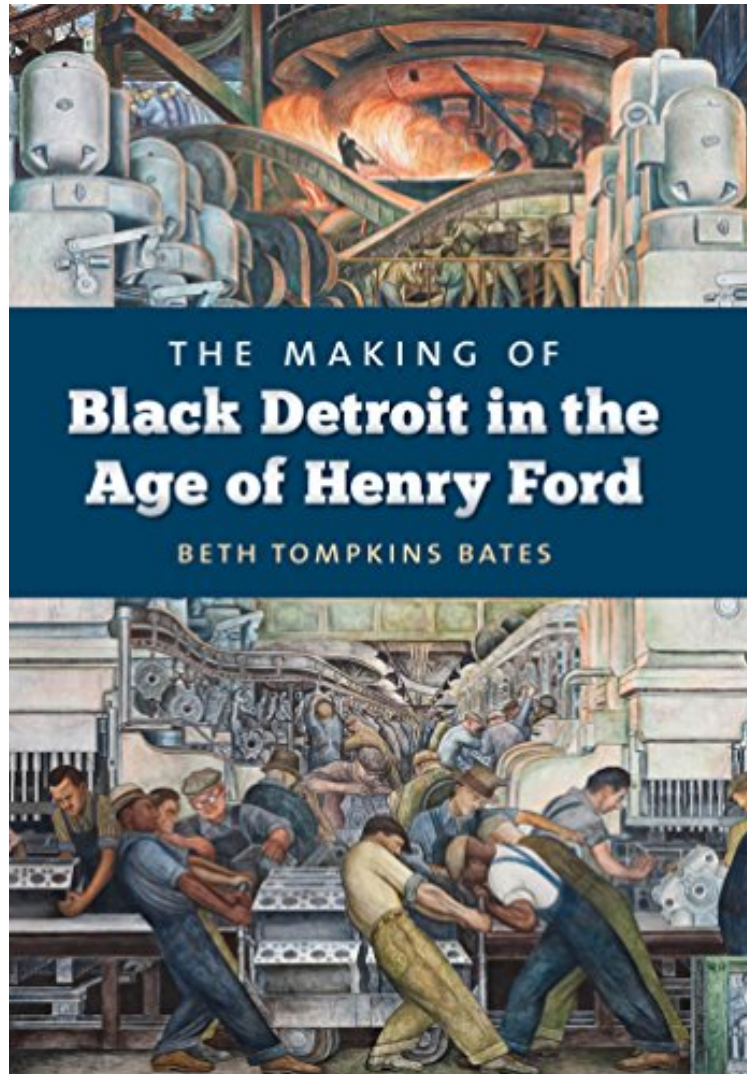


(Download free ebook) The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford

The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford

Beth Tompkins Bates

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Beth Tompkins Bates : The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. African Americans and Henry Ford
By Charles E. Coulter
The Making of Black Detroit is a wonderful book, even if the title is somewhat misleading. Beth Tompkins Bates examines the relationship between automaker Henry Ford and the African American in the years between the two World Wars. By the end of World War I, the Ford Motor Company had become a beacon for black migrants. Whatever his motives, Ford chose to open up jobs to black workers even when his competitors would not. Bates then carefully demonstrates how the relationship changed over time: how black workers moved from a position of loyalty (feigned or real) to a

position of assertively standing up to Ford by working to bring the United Autoworkers into Ford's plants; Ford was vehemently anti-union and apparently counted on the presence of loyal black workers to keep the union out. Bates' work, however, suffers from some of the flaws of many academic texts: repetitive writing, jargon and an overuse of acronyms. And the title: Several monographs written in the last 30 years or so have described the "making" of Black Detroit (most notably Richard Thomas' *Life for Us Is What We Make It*), but Bates really doesn't address the development of the African American community. Her work more accurately could be titled *African Americans and the Shadow of Henry Ford*. This work, however, still will be of interest to those students of African American history, urban history and labor history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating, uplifting eye-opener about Henry Ford and black Detroit. By Howard E. O'Leary, Jr. I was born and raised in Grosse Pointe, but lived in Detroit in a mixed neighborhood for five years. I learned a lot I never knew about Henry Ford and the black community, all of it fascinating. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It was a very good read, being that I'm from Highland Park Mi. By Shabazz Jazz. It was a very good read, being that I'm from Highland Park Mi, home of Henry Ford's car company it open my eyes to things that i never knew went on in the city before my time. I understand better now what happen to Black people in the city of Detroit.

In the 1920s, Henry Ford hired thousands of African American men for his open-shop system of auto manufacturing. This move was a rejection of the notion that better jobs were for white men only. In *The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford*, Beth Tompkins Bates explains how black Detroiters, newly arrived from the South, seized the economic opportunities offered by Ford in the hope of gaining greater economic security. As these workers came to realize that Ford's anti-union "American Plan" did not allow them full access to the American Dream, their loyalty eroded, and they sought empowerment by pursuing a broad activist agenda. This, in turn, led them to play a pivotal role in the United Auto Workers' challenge to Ford's interests. In order to fully understand this complex shift, Bates traces allegiances among Detroit's African American community as reflected in its opposition to the Ku Klux Klan, challenges to unfair housing practices, and demands for increased and effective political participation. This groundbreaking history demonstrates how by World War II Henry Ford and his company had helped kindle the civil rights movement in Detroit without intending to do so.

Recommended. All academic levels/libraries.--Choice A detailed and highly readable history of Ford's industrial goals, his controlling social vision for his workers, and his brutal response to unionization.--TriQuarterly Offers a clear and compelling account of Ford's motives for courting blacks.--Speedreaders.info Beth Tompkins Bates delves further back than others have into the 1920s and extends her critical eye to community formation and the political activities of Detroit's blacks, many of whom were in the first wave of the Great Migration.--Historian Combines the broader political, social and economic life of Detroit with the experiences endured at the Ford Motor Company, as African Americans quickened their pace on the long and seemingly never ending march, to paraphrase Martin Luther King Junior, to be treated according to the content of their characters rather than the colour of their skins.--Labour History An engaging book, lucidly presented and approachable to anyone with a curious mind.--SpeedReaders.info Black Detroit includes some remarkable and complicated stories [that explore] changing attitudes and realities within the city in a masterful manner. . . . It is an important addition to the Detroit Story.--American Historical Offers a more realistic view of the tensions that existed within the union . . . [and] highlights the role Black organizers played in the UAW drive at Ford.--Against the Current [This] very readable study will be of enormous interest to historians of the urban and industrial Midwest, to scholars interested in racial formation in the region, and to those who study African American experiences.--Middle West "Bates moves beyond shopfloor politics and traditional labor history to explore the complex relationship between Ford Motor Company and its migrant African American employees. She challenges the image of black Detroit as a pliant and politically quiescent community and posits instead that the labor and work-oriented issues they faced were central to early civil rights activism.--Steven Reich, James Madison University About the Author Beth Tompkins Bates is professor emerita at Wayne State University and author of *Pullman Porters and the Rise of Protest Politics in Black America, 1925-1945*.