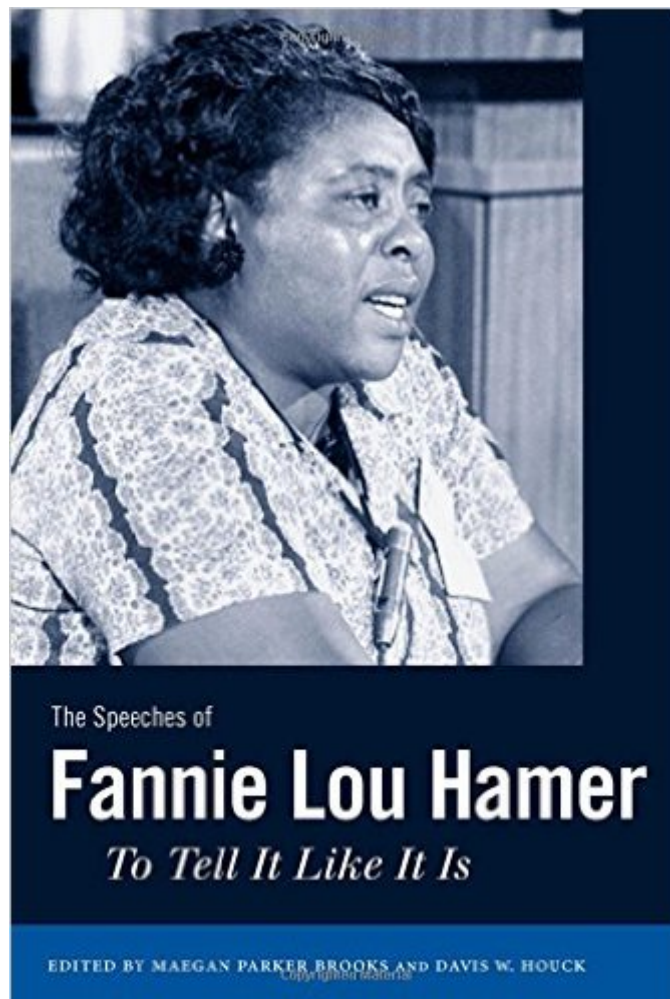


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# The Speeches Of Fannie Lou Hamer: To Tell It Like It Is (Margaret Walker Alexander Series In African American Studies)



## Synopsis

Most people who have heard of Fannie Lou Hamer (1917-1977) are aware of the impassioned testimony that this Mississippi sharecropper and civil rights activist delivered at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Far fewer people are familiar with the speeches Hamer delivered at the 1968 and 1972 conventions, to say nothing of addresses she gave closer to home, or with Malcolm X in Harlem, or even at the founding of the National Women's Political Caucus. Until now, dozens of Hamer's speeches have been buried in archival collections and in the basements of movement veterans. After years of combing library archives, government documents, and private collections across the country, Maegan Parker Brooks and Davis W. Houck have selected twenty-one of Hamer's most important speeches and testimonies. As the first volume to exclusively showcase Hamer's talents as an orator, this book includes speeches from the better part of her fifteen-year activist career delivered in response to occasions as distinct as a Vietnam War Moratorium Rally in Berkeley, California, and a summons to testify in a Mississippi courtroom. Brooks and Houck have coupled these heretofore unpublished speeches and testimonies with brief critical descriptions that place Hamer's words in context. The editors also include the last full-length oral history interview Hamer granted, a recent oral history interview Brooks conducted with Hamer's daughter, as well as a bibliography of additional primary and secondary sources. *The Speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer* demonstrates that there is still much to learn about and from this valiant black freedom movement activist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From this modest of beginnings, Ms. Hamer would go on to challenge the President of the United States, the National Democratic Party, members of Congress and the American people about fulfilling the promised of democracy. She was the first black women ever seated on the floor of the House and the first black Mississippians since 1882. She opposed the war in Vietnam from the beginning. She organized programs to feed poor people, tend to their ills, house them and clothes them, train them for jobs. Fannie Lou Hamer was born in the Mississippi Delta. This was the place of the Senate seat of this wild eyed racist that American has ever known. Senator Eastland (Senator Jesse Helms was a political midget compared to Eastland). This is the place where Federal registrar didn't dare shown there face and when they did they would pretend to be having business somewhere else. So this is the place where white men terrorize black people. Not just men, but women and children too. There was one more crucial element that molded this poor sharecropper into a leader\_ it was anger, touched with sorrow was the lack of control over her own life. Without her knowledge or permission, Fannie Lou Hamer was sterilized in 1961. What make Fannie Lou so great is that she was born under this shear terror and oppression.

I probably have heard many of these--Mrs Hamer was the greatest person I have ever met--brave eloquent passionate humble devout Mrs. Hamer why did you have to leave us so early? Unita Blackwell was right "She was a powerful lady. God set her aside to do work" Thank you June Johnson for combing her hair when she was too weak to do it herself This should be required reading in every school in America

Fannie Lou Hamer is a cornerstone for the Civil rigths Movement. There needs to be more books about Fanie Lou Hamer. needs to include books about African Americans on its Top 100 list. hire African Americans.

Loved it! Learned so much

Mrs. Hamer is one of the most articulate of the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement and this collection is very helpful in that regard.. The introduction by the author is, however, not helpful and doesn't do Mrs. Hamer justice. There are some historical mistakes and much repetitiveness and

some of the introductions are mutually contradictory. Her speeches deserve a much better collection, but if this is all there is go buy it.

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