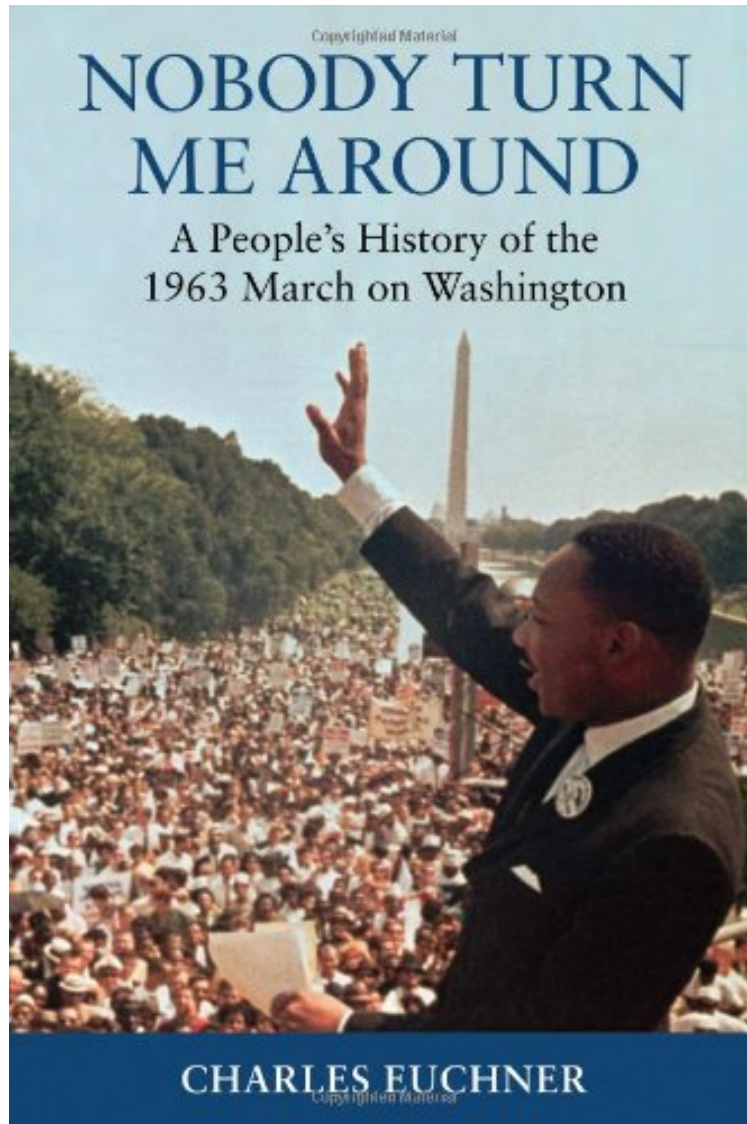


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Nobody Turn Me Around: A People's History of the 1963 March on Washington

Charles Euchner

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Charles Euchner : Nobody Turn Me Around: A People's History of the 1963 March on Washington before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nobody Turn Me Around: A People's History of the 1963 March on Washington:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Nobody Turn Me Around By Fred T. "We want to keep our customs," "We want our Country Back," "Give us time," on and on. As part of my prep for the 47th March on Washington I have

been reviewing books, videos, etc. from the past to be reacquainted Why the March was necessary....in the first place??? Charles Euchner does an outstanding job in weaving an event that many know about, but in a way to bring those known and unknown into life, as if you're sitting in the room with the interviewer. The book is current and he does a great job to place you in the planning phases of the march as well as the behind the scene debates and issues that have not been communicated before. Most have seen Dr. King's speech but there were many, many more people which the author put before you. The notion of wanting one's country back is more profound as just like in 1963, some from the majority was fearful of sharing what they had or allowing equal rights for all and in today's term these acts seem pretty petty but right before our eyes in 2010 the same climate which was in the air and caused for The March is in the air today, as while the nation overwhelmingly supports change and took the bold step in electing an African-American as our leader, it is the minority who is hell bent on going back to the good old days or getting their country back and to Mr. Euchner's credit in writing the book, so you see a stark parallel in today's environment. Even today, some want to re-fight the Civil War and Euchner takes time to amplify why the March was critical, particularly the conditions leading up to the march and the political games. The only criticism.....there were so many unsung heroes or characters who participated in the planning, it would have been nice to have some pictures. This book is an easy read and worth investing your money0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Important Book; Well worth Reading!By AbeAs a young adult of the 60s, I lived through the civil rights movement, so I found this book fascinating as it provides an accurate history of the movement. As the current CNN review of this decade illustrates, it was an important time in the history of our country and one well worth revisiting as we seem to be yet again fighting for the civil rights of so many of our citizens.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nobody Turn Me Around book by Charles EuchnerBy Janis McquarrieI found this book fascinating and full of facts that I did not know and some that corroborated what I did. Used the book for an intranet article at my jobs Diversity Council and we were hard pressed to decide how to keep the article to the required 600 words because there was so much info we didn't want to leave out!! Definitely recommend to those interested in the 1963 March.

On August 28, 1963, over a quarter-million people—about two-thirds black and one-third white—held the greatest civil rights demonstration ever. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” oration. And just blocks away, President Kennedy and Congress skirmished over landmark civil rights legislation. As Charles Euchner reveals, the importance of the march is more profound and complex than standard treatments of the 1963 March on Washington allow. In this major reinterpretation of the Great Day—the peak of the movement—Euchner brings back the tension and promise of that day. Building on countless interviews, archives, FBI files, and private recordings, Euchner shows freedom fighters as complex, often conflicted, characters. He explores the lives of Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, the march organizers who worked tirelessly to make mass demonstrations and nonviolence the cornerstone of the movement. He also reveals the many behind-the-scenes battles—the effort to get women speakers onto the platform, John Lewis’s damning speech about the federal government, Malcolm X’s biting criticisms and secret vows to help the movement, and the devastating undercurrents involving political powerhouses Kennedy and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. For the first time, Euchner tells the story behind King’s “Dream” images. Euchner’s hour-by-hour account offers intimate glimpses of the masses on the National Mall—ordinary people who bore the scars of physical violence and jailings for fighting for basic civil rights. The event took on the call-and-response drama of a Southern church service, as King, Lewis, Mahalia Jackson, Roy Wilkins, and others challenged the throng to destroy Jim Crow once and for all. Nobody Turn Me Around will challenge your understanding of the March on Washington, both in terms of what happened but also regarding what it ultimately set in motion. The result was a day that remains the apex of the civil rights movement—and the beginning of its decline.

From Publishers WeeklyOn August 28, 1963, a quarter of a million people converged on the nation's capital for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Martin Luther King, whose I Have a Dream speech highlighted the occasion, called it the greatest demonstration for freedom in the nation's history. Yale writing instructor Euchner (*The Last Nine Innings*) presents a pointillist portrait of the occasion, drawing material from historical records and taking oral histories from more than 100 participants. Although 1963 was the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, racial segregation remained deeply entrenched in the nation's South, and one specific, practical goal of the march was to desegregate restaurants and hotels. The Kennedy administration mobilized extensive military and police resources, but march leaders, including principal organizer Bayard Rustin and longtime civil rights activist Asa Philip Randolph, were confident (and accurate) in their belief that a peaceful mass demonstration of this scale was not only possible but could change the course of race relations in America. With deft brushstrokes, Euchner not only captures the myriad dimensions of the march itself but places it in its larger historical context, including the escalating war in Vietnam. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistOn August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people of all races and backgrounds gathered on the National Mall in support of social equality and jobs and to listen to what would become Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic “I have a dream” speech. It was the first nationally televised demonstration and a triumph of organization,

despite the unprecedented logistical demands and myriad ego-bruising conflicts behind the scenes. Euchner weaves together many of the diverse, complex elements of the event, drawing on interviews from hundreds of participants, to offer a portrait of the famous (A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Andrew Young) and the obscure (three young black men from Gadsden, Alabama). Euchner details King's preparation for his momentous speech, the behind-the-scenes support offered by Malcolm X, though he declined to participate, and the controversy surrounding John Lewis' intended fiery remarks. He also details FBI rumormongering, death threats against King and others, and the political maneuvering within the Kennedy administration as Congress pondered the fair employment legislation that was partially the impetus for the march. A sweeping, comprehensive look at a pivotal march in American history. -- Vanessa Bush "A sweeping, comprehensive look at a pivotal march in American history."—Vanessa Bush, Booklist"A short but dynamic account of the landmark 1963 protest march that ended with Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech."—Kirkus s, starred review"This compelling history of the march on Washington is accessible to general readers, who will be moved at the emotional heights of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. Those who enjoy popular history will find much to like here, and students will appreciate the original research."—Library Journal"Charles Euchner has turned the March on Washington into a 'people's history.' Compelling and dramatic, this book is an important contribution." —Juan Williams, author of *Eyes On The Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954–1965* and news analyst for NPR and FOX News "The March on Washington was a demand to make the Constitution of the United States work for black people—to cash the blank check, as Dr. King put it that day in the best speech of his life. Nobody Turn Me Around—Charles Euchner's superb book—brings it all back in vivid detail." —Roger Wilkins, author of *Jefferson's Pillow: The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism* "As was true of the historic March on Washington in 1963, so it is true of Charles Euchner's riveting new chronicle of the event: the massive human train of proud and determined Americans—ordinary, salt-of-the-earth citizens—is the heart and soul of this dramatic and inspiring story. Now, more than forty-five years later, those same people stride through Euchner's narrative as if it were a march in progress. The stars are here too, of course—Martin Luther King, Bayard Rustin, Roy Wilkins, John Lewis, and more—but the pages crackle and vibrate with the voices of unsung heroes who drove, flew, rode buses and trains, hitchhiked, even walked long distances to be there in the Great Emancipator's stone shadow as Dr. King spun out his immortal 'Dream.'" —John Egerton, author of *Speak Now Against the Day: The Generation Before the Civil Rights Movement in the South* "Nobody Turn Me Around brings important new insight to the story of the 1963 March on Washington. We see the Harlem Unity Rally, Malcolm X's bitter answer to the historic events in D.C., the escalating violence in the South and the movement's expansion to northern cities, and the genius of Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin's organizing strategies. The book also settles the question of how Martin Luther King Jr. came to utter his iconic words about the dream—and shows how King used the speech to arouse his followers and neutralize the extremes of white racism and black separatism. Vivid storytelling at its best." —Alex Heard, author of *The Eyes of Willie McGee: A Tragedy of Race, Sex, and Secrets in the Jim Crow South* "Nearly fifty years after the March on Washington, Charles Euchner has brought that historic event back to life by presenting a panorama of vivid characters, torn by discord over tactics yet united in their determination to shame a timorous government into stamping out Jim Crow." —Curtis Wilkie, author of *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey Through Events That Shaped the Modern South*