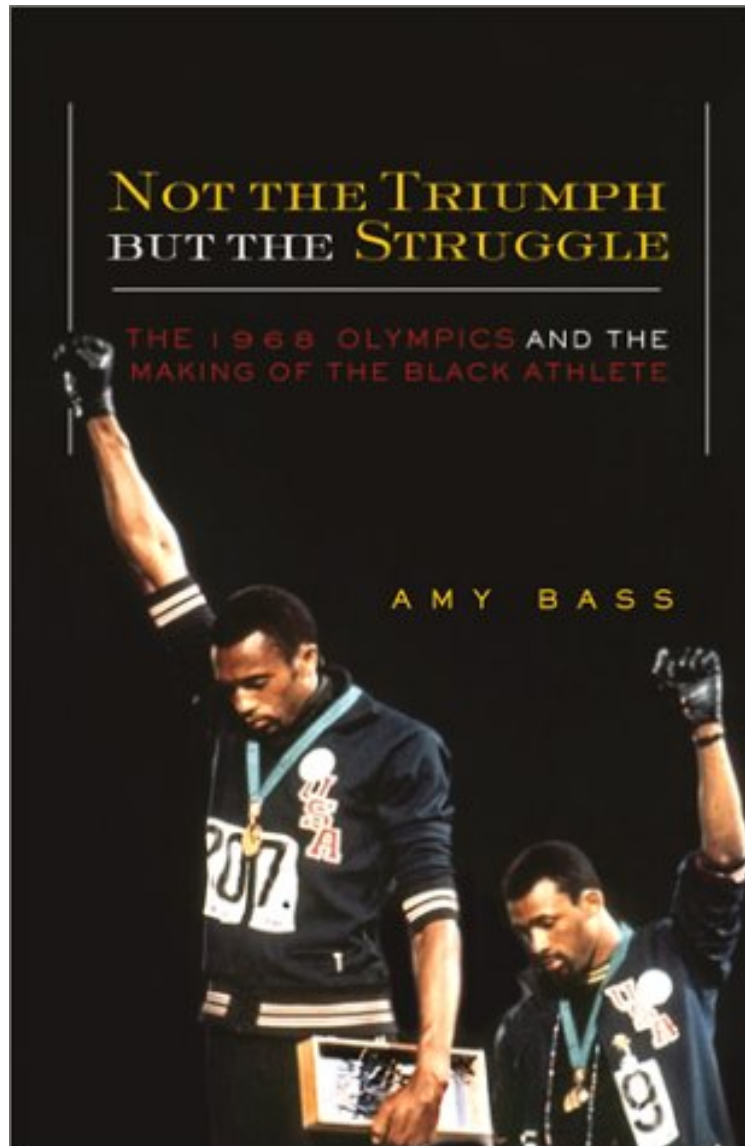


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Not the Triumph but the Struggle: The 1968 Olympics and the Making of the Black Athlete

Amy Bass

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Much more than what you see on the coverBy KennyThis book really helped to open my eyes about the events surrounding the 1968 Olympics. More than that, it also talks about many other significant issues such as women's roles during that time, the way certain people saw various events before, during, and after the times. Be prepared to be patient when you read this. Dr. Bass takes her time and goes way back with her research leading up to the games in the late 60's. There were some areas I was not too interested in, such as some scientists' claims that black superiority in the athletic arena is due to biological and genetic advantages. Yet there were other times in the book like when Tommie Smith explained the MEANING, the TRUE MEANING, behind he and Carlos' actions that really made me take it in and appreciate the courage they had to take a stand at that time on that particular stage. From the black socks to the scarf Smith wore on his neck to both of them not wearing shoes on the victory stand while the national anthem played. More than just discussing the Olympics, she digs deep into the perception of the black athlete, from the 1930's when Jesse Owens was the man to the 60's, and to the 90's with Michael Jordan. Like I said earlier though, be prepared to be patient when you are reading this. There were some parts that I had to bear with to get to what I wanted to read, but all in all, it's a read that can definitely challenge your views not only about the black athlete, but sports and life in general.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My reviewBy LCExcellent reading and historically informative. The book completed the missing historical social and political facts. That period was a very important time of social change.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Thomas J. BittnerBook was as advertised and service was good. Thank you.

A sweeping examination of the role of Black Power in the 1968 Olympic games in Mexico City reveals the emergence of militancy and political consciousness in American sports.

From Library JournalDuring the Mexico City Olympics in 1968, track-and-field medalists Tommie Smith and John Carlos defied the system by raising black-gloved fists at the flag as the "Star-Spangled Banner" was being played. Bass (history, Plattsburgh State Univ.) examines that protest, spotlighting the history of black athletes and media coverage of athletic events. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Amy Bass's powerful and nuanced account of the Olympic Project for Human Rights gives us the story behind this picture-a story that will change our conception of the history of sport and racial politics." -Robin D. G. Kelley "Beautifully written, as well as appropriately complex and wide-ranging. As much as sports might appear to be a straight-ahead business, where the 'best' might be rightly rewarded, Bass deftly reveals the difficulties of maintaining a sense of self, collective consciousness, and political urgency." -Philadelphia City Paper "Amy Bass sorts through the events and perceptions linked to some of the biggest names and moments in sports history and assesses their meaning beyond the playing field." -Bob CostasAbout the AuthorAmy Bass is assistant professor of history at the College of New Rochelle and is a member of the NBC research team covering the Olympic Games including Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Salt Lake 2002, and Athens 2004.