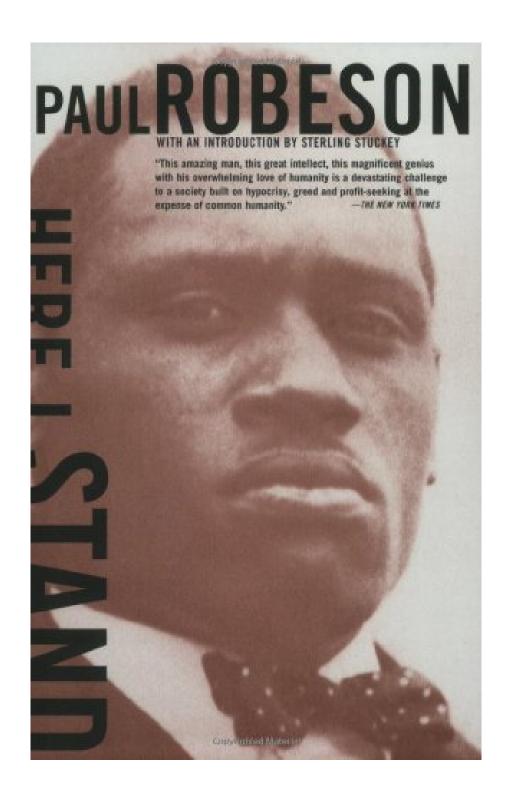


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Robeson's international achievements as a singer and actor in starring roles on stage and screen made him the most celebrated black American of his day, but his outspoken criticism of racism in the United States, his strong support of African independence, and his fascination with the Soviet Union placed him under the debilitating scrutiny of McCarthyism. Blacklisted, his famed voice silenced, Here I Stand offered a bold answer to his accusers. It remains today a defiant challenge to the prevailing fear and racism that continues to characterize American society.

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Robeson's life and legacy

By Elton Weaver

Here I Stand is Paul Robeson's remarkable autobiographical account. Robeson's candid account of his early years is a must read for students and anyone interested in learning about the formation of Paul Robeson. Robeson's personal testament describes how to develop one's own skills, how to become mentally empowered to believe in you, and how to achieve true greatness. As Robeson explained, "Success in life [is] not to be measured in terms of money and personal advancement, but rather the goal must be the richest and highest development of one's own potential (Here I Stand, p.18)." I liked how historian Sterling Stuckey's "Introduction" offered readers a well-balanced overview of Robeson's life and legacy. Dr. Stuckey informs the reader that Robeson's life is significant because he was a Black scholar, actor, and activist who remained "loyal to his own convictions." Robeson stood for what he believed in because he knew that if we do not stand for something we will fall for anything. Stuckey also explained how Robeson's critics often misinterpreted and misrepresented Robeson's message. Here I Stand is still essential because this forgotten primary source recounts the main elements—social, political and religious that helped shape the philosophical thought and social activism of Paul Robeson.

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Good Book

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Good book.

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A hero and visionary

By Christopher Cesar Garay

Robeson was by no means a perfect man; his blind spots at times for the oppression of dissidents and minorities in Soviet Russia under Stalin stands out to me. But his intellectual and personal bravery shine much brighter. An accomplished athlete, actor, singer and activist, Robeson is too often ignored or forgotten when it comes to an accounting of great Americans. He stood up to the Jim Crow power structure and black moderates alike. He never stopped advocating for working people of all races, even after being robbed of his career, fortune and fame by Joe McCarthy and his ilk. In these times, when working people are under savage attack by the forces of unfettered, unrestrained capital, and minorities are having their voting rights stolen by corrupt politicians funded by power-mad billionaires, its important to read the works of men and women like Paul Robeson, and learn from their insights. Read it!

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