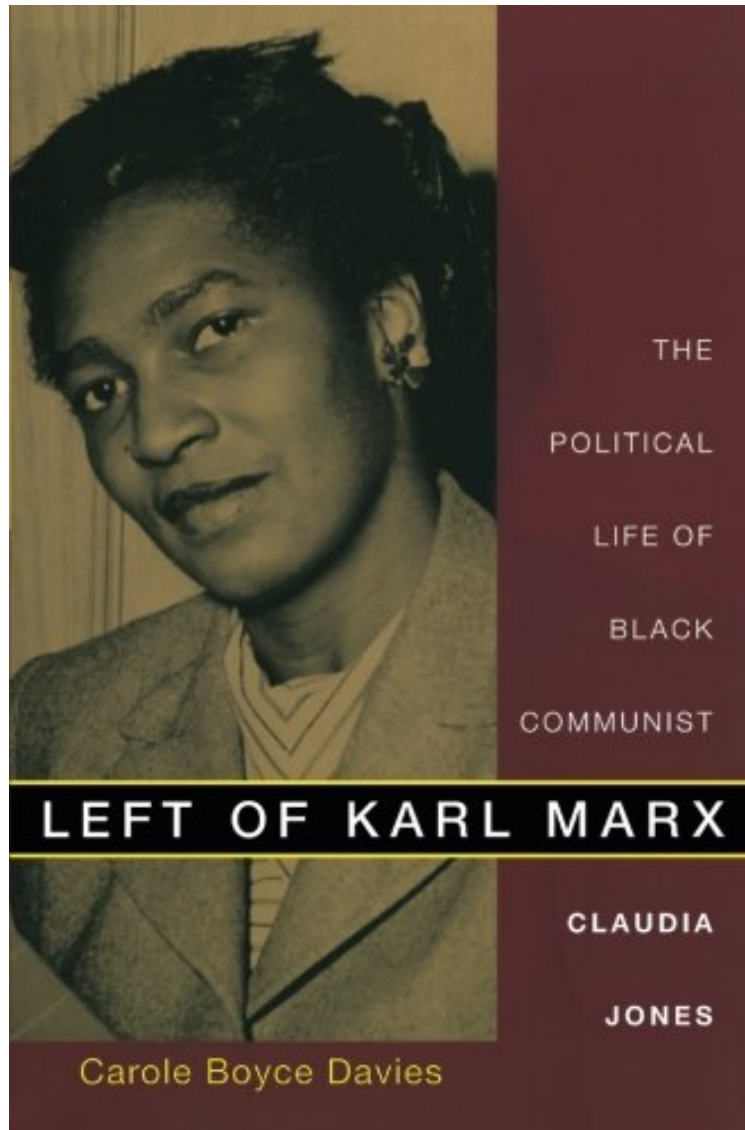


(Download free pdf) Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones

Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones

Carole Boyce Davies

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Carole Boyce Davies : Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. She's buried at Highgate. By the early bookworm Hard to find bio of an important person in Black/Communist American history. Well-written. 0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. Five StarsBy LGCarole is brilliant and this is such an important and beautiful read!1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Claudia Jones, an indispensable inspiration in black communist feminist historyBy Dani MThe life and work of Claudia Jones is a vibrant expression of the rich history of black communist women in the U.S. Alongside black revolutionary women such as Assata Shakur and Angela Davis, Claudia Jones goes down in a history as a must-know idol. Davies does an excellent job here of analyzing the multi-faceted personality, intellect, and impressive skill of Jones as an organizer and leader of working-class and oppressed communities in the U.S. and London. I have read biographies that emphasize Jones as a passionate and tireless agitator, and which have made little effort to show that she was a serious Marxist-Leninist intellectual - Davies takes care of that discrepancy here. She also does not hesitate to analyze her private life - for Jones, the personal was political and those two spheres could not be so easily or radically separate.I would highly recommend this book to anyone exploring the history and tradition of the black communist and black feminist left in the U.S.

In *Left of Karl Marx*, Carole Boyce Davies assesses the activism, writing, and legacy of Claudia Jones (1915-1964), a pioneering Afro-Caribbean radical intellectual, dedicated communist, and feminist. Jones is buried in London's Highgate Cemetery, to the left of Karl Marx's location that Boyce Davies finds fitting given how Jones expanded Marxism-Leninism to incorporate gender and race in her political critique and activism. Claudia Cumberbatch Jones was born in Trinidad. In 1924, she moved to New York, where she lived for the next thirty years. She was active in the Communist Party from her early twenties onward. A talented writer and speaker, she traveled throughout the United States lecturing and organizing. In the early 1950s, she wrote a well-known column, *Half the World*, for the *Daily Worker*. As the U.S. government intensified its efforts to prosecute communists, Jones was arrested several times. She served nearly a year in a U.S. prison before being deported and given asylum by Great Britain in 1955. There she founded *The West Indian Gazette* and *Afro-Asian Caribbean News* and the *Caribbean Carnival*, an annual London festival that continues today as the Notting Hill Carnival. Boyce Davies examines Jones's thought and journalism, her political and community organizing, and poetry that the activist wrote while she was imprisoned. Looking at the contents of the FBI file on Jones, Boyce Davies contrasts Jones's own narration of her life with the federal government's. *Left of Karl Marx* establishes Jones as a significant figure within Caribbean intellectual traditions, black U.S. feminism, and the history of communism.

Carole Boyce Davies has rendered a unique service in restoring to proper recognition the life and achievements of the Trinidad-born political activist and feminist Claudia Jones. From the turbulent struggles of Harlem, U.S.A. in the 1930s and 1940s to London in the 1950s and 1960s, Claudia Jones became a symbol of resistance and the standard by which others would measure their own integrity of commitment. *Left of Karl Marx* is the biography of an era of the most intense ideological combat where reputations were assassinated and careers erased by a single rumor of incorrect political affiliation. Here is the story of a singular triumph whose legacy has nourished the lives of another generation. George Lamming, author of *In the Castle of My Skin* and *The Pleasures of Exile*