Groundwork: Local Black Freedom Movements in America

By Jeanne Theoharis, Komozi Woodard, Charles M. Payne

New York University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Groundwork: Local Black Freedom Movements in America, Jeanne Theoharis, Komozi Woodard, Charles M. Payne, Over the last several years, the traditional narrative of the civil rights movement as largely a southern phenomenon, organized primarily by male leaders, that roughly began with the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and ended with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, has been complicated by studies that root the movement in smaller communities across the country. These local movements had varying agendas and organizational development, geared to the particular circumstances, resources, and regions in which they operated. Local civil rights activists frequently worked in tandem with the national civil rights movement but often functioned autonomously from - and sometimes even at odds with - the national movement. Together, the path-breaking essays in Groundwork teach us that local civil rights activity was a vibrant component of the larger civil rights movement, and contributed greatly to its national successes. Individually, the pieces offer dramatic new insights about the civil rights movement, such as the fact that a militant black youth organization in Milwaukee was led by a white Catholic priest and in Cambridge, Maryland, by a middle-aged black...

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