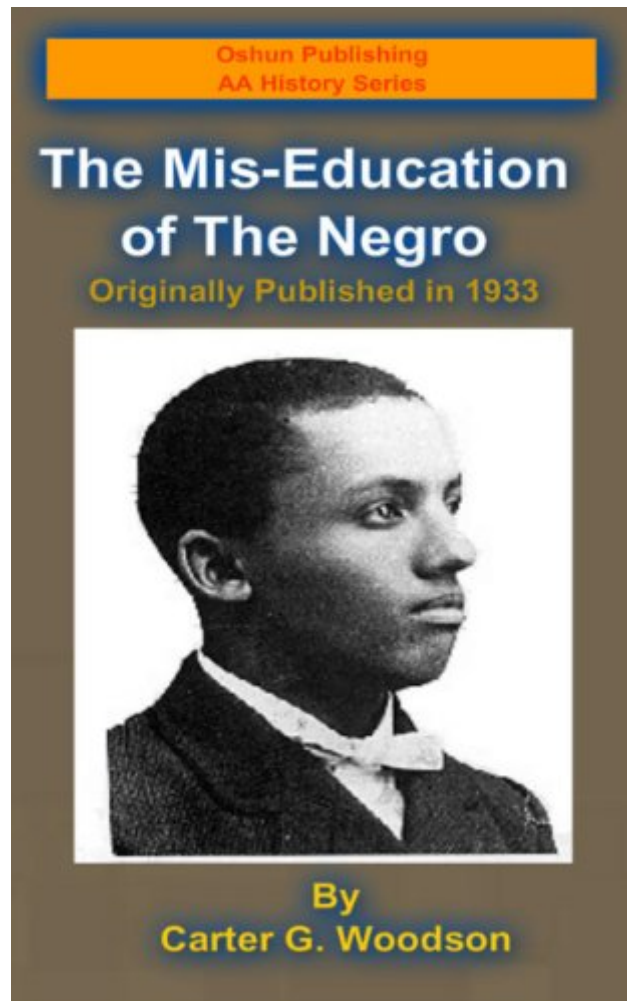


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# The Mis-Education Of The Negro (Oshun Publishing African-American History Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

Carter Godwin Woodson is considered by many to be the father of African-American history. The son of former slaves, in 1912 Woodson earned his Ph.D. in history at Harvard University, the second African-American to earn a doctorate – the first being W. E. B. DuBois. Noting that African-American contributions were overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of history textbooks and the teachers who use them, in 1926 he originated the concept of Negro History Week, which he set in the second week of February – which coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. That week of recognition soon became largely accepted, and was eventually extended for the full month of February – becoming known as Black History Month. The material that makes up *The Mis-Education of the Negro* was originally a series of speeches and essays delivered and written by Woodson in the late 1920s and early 1930s, but which he collected into book form in 1933. It is still considered a classic piece of African-American writing and is widely in high school and college classrooms.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book ought to be required reading for every teacher, educator, administrator, and parents who interact with children of African descent. Woodson's work helps us understand that African peoples are truly mis-educated. We largely receive an Eurocentric or White middle class, elitist education that by and large does not serve the needs of our communities. This mis-education creates a serious identity crisis on the part of African youth and it causes many Black "educated" middle class people to spend more time trying to reach the consumer American Dream rather than working toward a real self-determination agenda of African peoples. Thus it's of little surprise today that most African students never enroll in a course on African/African-American studies. In fact, these courses are becoming more rare in high school and colleges across the nation. Even with the current renaissance of Black literature in this country, the study of African/Black culture, politics, and spiritual life are rarely discussed. In Woodson's words: "Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it and make it better, but the instruction so far given Negroes [and still today] in colleges and universities [and elementary and secondary schools] has worked to the contrary. In most cases such graduates have merely increased the number of malcontents who offer no program for changing the undesirable conditions about which they complain. " Woodson's book is clearly not out-dated. In fact, it reads as if it were published last year, instead of 1933. I would like to close this response to Woodson's work with another classic quote from him: "If you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his action.

Folks, if it were possible to save one portion of a book and tear out the rest, I would do it with this. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), one of the first Black Americans to obtain an earned doctorate from Harvard, was the founder of Black history month and a stickler for accuracy in Black studies. The *Miseducation of the Negro* (1933) was a classic analysis of the situation of Blacks from slavery to the 1930s. What it says about Black American politics, religion, and education remains largely true today. As a teacher of Black History, I have often recommended this text to my students. The Willie Lynch letter on the other hand, is a recent fabrication and an insult to the intelligence of Black Americans. This junk has no business between the same covers of the work of a serious scholar such as Dr. Woodson. The WLL was a piece of made up mess that originally appeared as a chain letter with a ridiculous tale of a slave owner who supposedly came to the James River in Virginia from an unspecified West Indian island in 1712 to give his fellow slaveowners a short speech (problem 1-why would a man travel that far to make such a short speech?). He tells them in language that was more common to the 1900s than the 1700s that he has a "fool proof method"

(Problem 2-No one used the words "fool proof" in the 1700s) to control slaves by separating the old from the young, the dark from the light, the male from the female, to control them for 1,000 years."A number of serious black historians, such as Dr. William L. Frierson of Fisk University, Prof. Manu Ampim of Merritt College in Oakland, Ca, and Dr. William Jelani Cobb of Spelman College have exposed this letter as a fraud dating back to 1993.

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