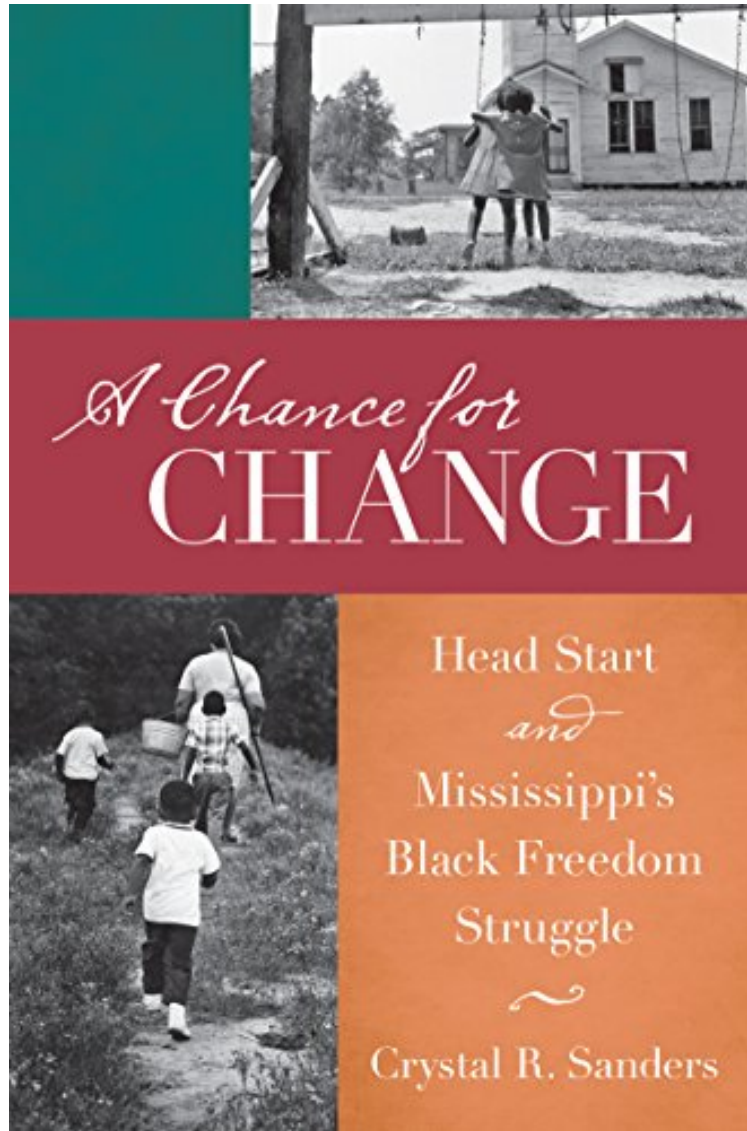


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A Chance for Change: Head Start and Mississippi's Black Freedom Struggle (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture)

Crystal R. Sanders

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not it would be worth my time, and all praised *A Chance for Change: Head Start and Mississippi's Black Freedom Struggle* (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read...By HGreenThis is a fabulous work for understanding how the Civil Rights Movement did not end in 1965. Rather, it inspired working-class black Mississippians, women in particular, to advocate for pre-K education that served the needs of their community and children. In many ways, they brought Head Start to the state through the CDGM before an intense white opposition caused its demise. Sanders writes in a clear prose and brings to the fore the under-appreciated voices of black women instrumental in which anyone (high school and up) can learn and become inspired by this fascinating historical episode.

In this innovative study, Crystal Sanders explores how working-class black women, in collaboration with the federal government, created the Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM) in 1965, a Head Start program that not only gave poor black children access to early childhood education but also provided black women with greater opportunities for political activism during a crucial time in the unfolding of the civil rights movement. Women who had previously worked as domestics and sharecroppers secured jobs through CDGM as teachers and support staff and earned higher wages. The availability of jobs independent of the local white power structure afforded these women the freedom to vote in elections and petition officials without fear of reprisal. But CDGM's success antagonized segregationists at both the local and state levels who eventually defunded it. Tracing the stories of the more than 2,500 women who staffed Mississippi's CDGM preschool centers, Sanders's book remembers women who went beyond teaching children their shapes and colors to challenge the state's closed political system and white supremacist ideology and offers a profound example for future community organizing in the South.

The book has the potential to greatly impact the education and development of teacher educators, teachers, and students in the field of development and early childhood education. For a wide audience. Highly recommended.--CHOICEThis fascinating, deeply researched book . . . reminds us that education has always been part of the black freedom struggle.--North Carolina Historical An important history for our time and deserves a wide readership.--Southern Register An extraordinary work, rich and revealing, *A Chance for Change* challenges common assumptions about what the movement was. I doubt any work on the struggle captures the process of individual transformation as vividly as this one does. At the same time, knowing that CDGM lost support because it was too successful changes our conceptions of what the War on Poverty might have been."Charles M. Payne, author of *I've Got the Light of Freedom**A Chance for Change* tells an important part of the history of the struggle for racial equality in Mississippi, as well as the political evolution of a Deep South state. Extensively researched, the book makes a signal contribution to the study of the modern civil rights movement, the 1960s, African American studies, educational studies, poverty studies, women's studies, and the modern South.--Susan Youngblood Ashmore, Oxford College at Emory UniversityAbout the AuthorCrystal R. Sanders is assistant professor of history and African American Studies at Pennsylvania State University.