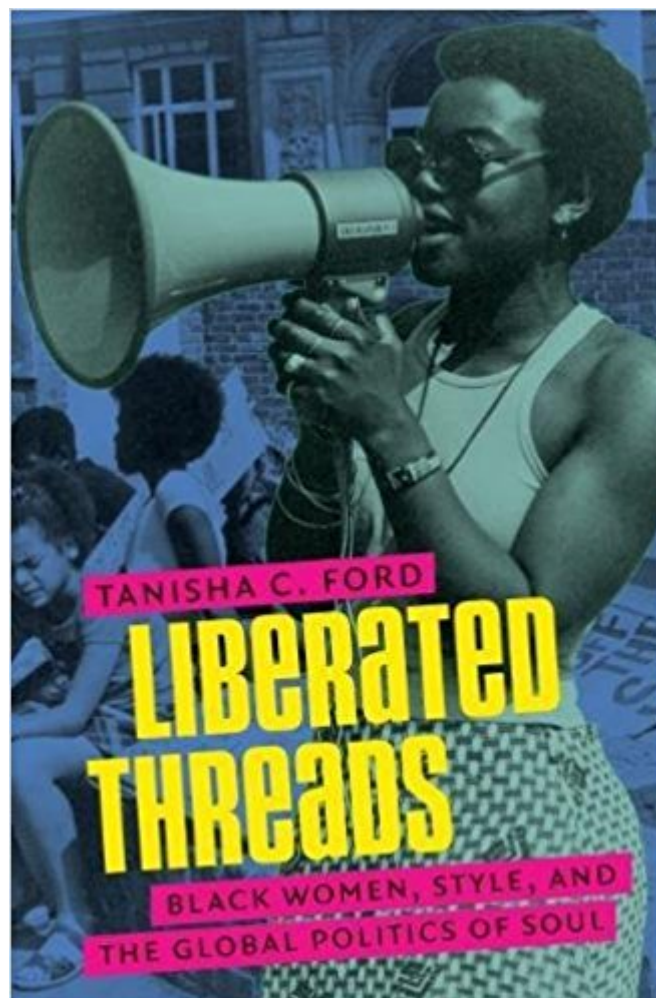




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# Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, And The Global Politics Of Soul (Gender And American Culture)



## Synopsis

From the civil rights and Black Power era of the 1960s through antiapartheid activism in the 1980s and beyond, black women have used their clothing, hair, and style not simply as a fashion statement but as a powerful tool of resistance. Whether using stiletto heels as weapons to protect against police attacks or incorporating African-themed designs into everyday wear, these fashion-forward women celebrated their identities and pushed for equality. In this thought-provoking book, Tanisha C. Ford explores how and why black women in places as far-flung as New York City, Atlanta, London, and Johannesburg incorporated style and beauty culture into their activism. Focusing on the emergence of the "soul style" movement—represented in clothing, jewelry, hairstyles, and more—*Liberated Threads* shows that black women's fashion choices became galvanizing symbols of gender and political liberation. Drawing from an eclectic archive, Ford offers a new way of studying how black style and Soul Power moved beyond national boundaries, sparking a global fashion phenomenon. Following celebrities, models, college students, and everyday women as they moved through fashion boutiques, beauty salons, and record stores, Ford narrates the fascinating intertwining histories of Black Freedom and fashion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ambitious and wide-ranging. . . . Makes a powerful and convincing case for how black women practiced the politics of civil rights, black power, and anticolonialism by crafting new, self-affirming

appearances and fashions.--American Historical ReviewCreates a fierce and vibrant dialog on the rarely recounted women's perspective on black style, beauty, and soul.--Library Journal, starred reviewAdds important elements to the conversation on resistance. . . . Highly recommended.--ChoiceA welcome addition to historical studies of civil rights and black power.--Journal of American HistoryA scholarly masterpiece that squarely situates fashion as central to the US civil rights and Black Power eras.--Winterthur PortfolioThe moving testimonies Ford presents of the black women who lived through soul style's heyday are proof that activist scholarship motivated by personal experience provides powerful contributions to the field of history.--Journal of Southern History

This book skillfully weaves together black women's political culture, fashion, and transnational cultural exchange, emphasizing the complexities of soul style. Ford's wonderful prose brings her sources to life. A stellar achievement.--Noliwe Rooks, Cornell UniversityLiberated Threads is innovative, impeccably researched, and bound to make a significant contribution to scholarly understandings of black beauty, fashion, and politics. In exploring the soul of style, Tanisha C. Ford offers a rare and much needed window into the activism and experiences of black women in the United States and abroad.--Tiffany Gill, University of Delaware

This book proves to be an important addition to the documentation of the cultural transformations that influenced generations of black women around the globe to dress and organize in a "soulful" manner.

Need for a special project in black women in fashion and beyond. A wonderful work!

Great read. Very entertaining and enlightening.

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