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*NYU PRESS  
ANNOUNCES  
THE  
PUBLICATION OF*

**Fighting for  
US:**

**Maulana Karenga,  
the US  
Organization,  
and Black Cultural  
Nationalism**

**By Scot Brown**

Established in 1965 and chaired by Maulana Karenga, US—the Los Angeles-based Black Power, cultural nationalist organization—experienced a high point in its activism during a great resurgence in African American nationalism during the mid-1960s and early-70s. US's story, mirroring the wider Black Power movement, traveled a course shaped by an array of historical factors, including the anti-colonial struggles in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the Vietnam War, and state repression via the FBI's counterintelligence operations. Internal organizational matters, such as the cult of personality, authoritarianism, alternative lifestyles, gender stratification, and vanguard self-perception were also driving forces in the organization's plight.

During the 60s and 70s, US led an initial phase of the Modern Convention Movement,

MAULANA  
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FIGHTING FOR  
**US**



FOREWORD BY  
CARBORNE CARSON

*Scot Brown*

playing a leadership role in the planning of the Black Power Conference and the development of several Black united front initiatives. As cultural nationalists, US developed African-inspired rituals and holidays—the most well-known being *Kwanza*, currently celebrated by millions of people of African descent. Though US still exists today, the group's stature as a leading Black Power force began to decline by the early 70s under the duress of a violent feud with the Black Panther Party, factional in-fighting, and a breakdown in leadership. The story of US's legacy, as told in ***Fighting for US***, encapsulates the heroism, sacrifice, and pain that characterized 1960s' challenges to the prevailing social and political order of the day.

***Fighting for US*** is the first study of the US organization and will open up an entirely new discussion about cultural nationalism and Black Power.

**Scot Brown** is Assistant Professor of History at UCLA. His writings on African American resistance, social movements, and cultural nationalism have appeared in the *Black Scholar*, *American National Biography*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Journal of Negro History* and *Contributions in Black Studies*.

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***Fighting for US:***  
***Maulana Karenga, the US***  
***Organization, and Black***  
***Cultural Nationalism***

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ISBN: 0-8147-9877-2/ \$26.95

cloth

Publication Date: August 25,  
2003

[Purchase on Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

