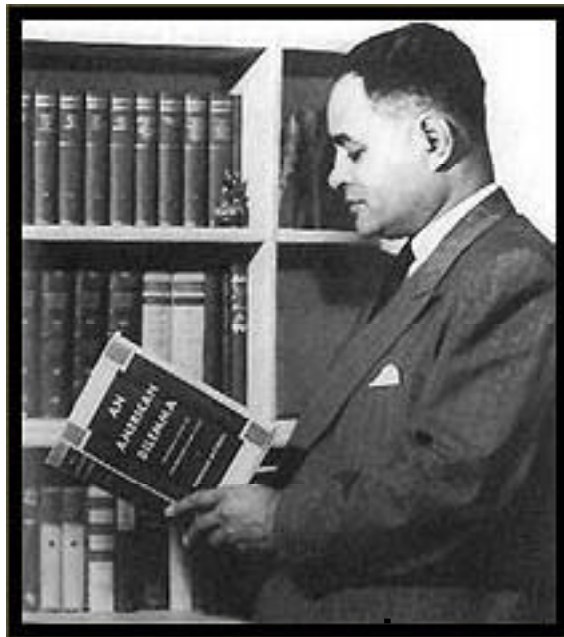




RALPH J. BUNCHE:
SCHOLAR, ACTIVIST, & BUREAUCRAT



Haines Hall, UCLA
February 20-21, 2004

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The Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA is pleased to welcome you to this symposium which brings together the leading scholars of the last ten years on the collaboration of Ralph J. Bunche and Gunnar Myrdal. 2004 marks the 60th anniversary of the publication of *An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy*, an investigation into American race relations conducted by Myrdal as principal investigator, with Ralph Bunche (then chairman of Howard University's Political Science department) as his chief collaborator. In *An American Dilemma*, Myrdal depicted African-Americans as being treated more like a caste than a class. His analysis of the United States' racial problems and what should be done about them inspired much analysis and intellectual debate in the latter half of the 20th century.

The two men who produced the work were also remarkable human beings. Both went on to greater glory. Bunche won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 for his work as a United Nations diplomat on the Arab-Israeli conflict in the early years of the state of Israel. Myrdal shared the 1974 Nobel Prize with Friedrich August von Hayek for (according to the Nobel Committee) his "penetrating analysis of the interdependence of economic, social and institutional phenomena."

Bunche's ideological position at the time of his collaboration with Myrdal has been depicted as that of a "vulgar Marxist" in contrast to Myrdal's perspective of viewing the American racial problem as one of caste rather than class. There is also the problem of interpreting the kinds of transformations both Myrdal and Bunche made in their later lives. Bunche went from being considered a radical during the time of his association with Myrdal to being all but tossed aside during the civil rights upheavals of the 1960s. From studying inequality at the national level Myrdal went on to study international inequality and development. Bunche became perhaps the best-known African-American diplomat of the 20th century despite never having served as an ambassador for the US State Department. Myrdal is now considered by some to be the greatest of all Swedish social scientists.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 2004

3:00-4:15 p.m. *Ralph J. Bunche and the "Scholar-Baller" Paradigm: Academic, Athletic, and Social Transformation* C. Keith Harrison, University of Michigan [Haines Hall 135]

4:30-5:30 p.m. '*...the great good that is in us*': A Centenary Celebration of Ralph J. Bunche Guided Exhibit Tour [Young Research Library Lobby]

5:30-7:00 p.m. RECEPTION [Haines Hall 135]

7:00-7:15 p.m. Welcoming Remarks Darnell Hunt, Director, The Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies [Haines Hall 39]

7:15-8:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker Charles P. Henry, UC Berkeley [Haines Hall 39]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 2004

8:00-9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST [Haines Hall 135]

9:00-10:30 a.m. Panel 1: *The Racial History of Ralph Bunche*

This panel will bring together some of the main biographers of Bunche to look at the ways Bunche's personal experiences with American racial politics famously affected critical decisions in his life. Panelists include Charles P. Henry, UC Berkeley, and Benjamin Rivlin, Bunche Institute for International Studies, CUNY. The panel will also feature the screening of a 30-minute video module on Bunche & Myrdal from William Greaves' documentary *Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey*. [Haines Hall 39]

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Panel 2: *The Bunche-Myrdal Collaboration*

The purpose is to present a critical appraisal of the collaboration of Myrdal and Bunche in light of what we now know from the recent archival and interpretative research. Panelists include Jonathan Holloway, Yale; Clare Spark; and Walter A. Jackson, North Carolina State University. [Haines Hall 39]

12:15-1:30 p.m. LUNCH [Haines Hall 135]

12:45-1:30 p.m. '*...the great good that is in us*': A Centenary Celebration of Ralph J. Bunche Guided Exhibit Tour [Young Research Library Lobby]

1:30-3:00 p.m. Panel 3: *Bunche, the UN, and Race*

This panel will focus on Bunche's place within the specific frame of the international politics of race which found its main forum during his time at the young United Nations. Panelists include Sir Brian Urquhart; Michael L. Krenn, Appalachian State University; and Brenda Plummer, University of Wisconsin. [Haines Hall 39]

3:15-4:30 p.m. Panel 4: *"An American Dilemma" Sixty Years Later*

The purpose is to foster debate by offering, on the same panel, presenters with different perspectives on American racial politics and Myrdal's predictions for the US in the 60 years since the book's publication. Panelists include Joseph Jewell, Texas A&M; Cary Fraser, Pennsylvania State University; and Sharon Harley, University of Maryland. [Haines Hall 39]

4:30-5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks



Top cover image: Portrait of Ralph J. Bunche by Leroy Neiman
Bottom cover image: Photo made available courtesy of the
Ralph J. Bunche Institute for International Studies, CUNY