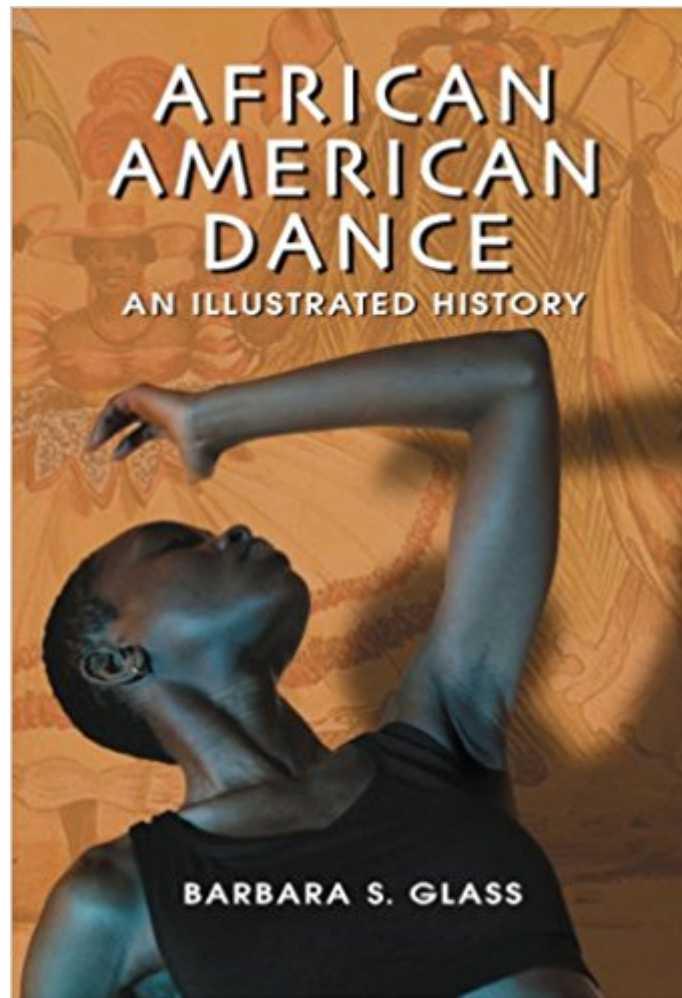




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# African American Dance: An Illustrated History



## Synopsis

Africans brought as slaves to North America arrived without possessions, but not without culture. The fascinating elements of African life manifested themselves richly in the New World, and among the most lasting and influential of these was the art of African dance. This generously illustrated history follows the dynamics of African dance forms throughout each generation. Early chapters discuss the African continent and the heritage of African American dance; the discrimination and marginalization of African Americans and the fortitude with which their dance forms survived; and black dance in the slavery era and later in the nineteenth century. Remaining chapters outline ten major characteristics that have consistently marked African American dance, and describe the various styles of black vernacular dance that became popular in America. The book concludes with a discussion of African dance at the end of the twentieth century and its important role in the flowering of African American arts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

African dance traditions survived the diaspora and took root in American soil, flourishing and evolving with vigor and grace to make African American dance one of the world's most influential artistic forces. Glass, who combines zeal for her subject with scholarly ardor, defines key "African-derived dance characteristics," and charts the ingenious intermingling of African and European dance styles that resulted in such "quintessentially American" dances as the Charleston, shimmy, black bottom, and Lindy Hop. Interwoven in Glass' fascinating aesthetic discourse are

eyebrow-raising disclosures of how racism impacted dance. The commentary is fresh and comprehensive, and the historic and revealing illustrations are astonishing in their coverage of the ring shout, the breakdown and buck dance (the roots of so many of today's moves), the bitter ironies of minstrel shows, the heyday of tap dancing, the cakewalk craze, the twist, break-dancing, and beyond. Glass profiles dozens of groundbreaking dancers, including Bert Williams and George Walker, Josephine Baker, Florence Mills, Bill Robinson, the Nicholas Brothers, and Chubby Checker, deepening appreciation for the power of dance. Donna Seaman

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"Highly recommended." --Choice "The commentary is fresh and comprehensive...illustrations are astonishing." --Booklist/RBB "Barbara S. Glass demonstrates great knowledge and exhaustive research...valuable...a worthwhile addition." --Dancer

I never knew a book like this existed. It is a great addition to my collection of African-American/Afro-Caribbean history.

I ordered a bunch of books from different sellers for my spring semester and this was the first to arrive. It was almost like new and I have no complaints.

ordered this book for my American Dance class. It was in great shape, and has provided me with a lot of background into the dance world.

This book offers an in-depth look into the history of African-American dance. I really enjoyed learning about how society, slavery, and the African heritage shaped the African American dance form. Highly recommended for those looking to learn more about African American culture and dance.

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