



On March 14, 1968, Memphis State University students supporting the Memphis strikers confront Mayor Henry Loeb. The strike was the last campaign for justice taken up by Martin Luther King Jr. before his assassination.

Book Chronicles King's Final Days

Memphis campaign intertwined civil and labor rights

Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign tells the story of a strike where civil and labor rights became intertwined, and the struggle for justice resulted in some of the most poignant moments of the 20th century.

The deaths of two sanitation workers – crushed in the back of their truck due to outdated equipment and the indifference of their white supervisors – touched off one of the most significant labor strikes in the history of the nation, one that before its end would rock the plantation mentality of a Memphis government to its core and, on April 4, 1968, see the tragic death of King.

Michael K. Honey, professor of African-American history and labor studies at the University of Washington, untangles the complex relations and events of 1968 with the passion of one who participated in the movement.

Going Down Jericho Road offers a rare combination of broad scholarship with grassroots history told by the people who lived it. Through countless interviews and archival sources, Honey allows those who struggled through those troubled and uncertain times to speak for themselves.

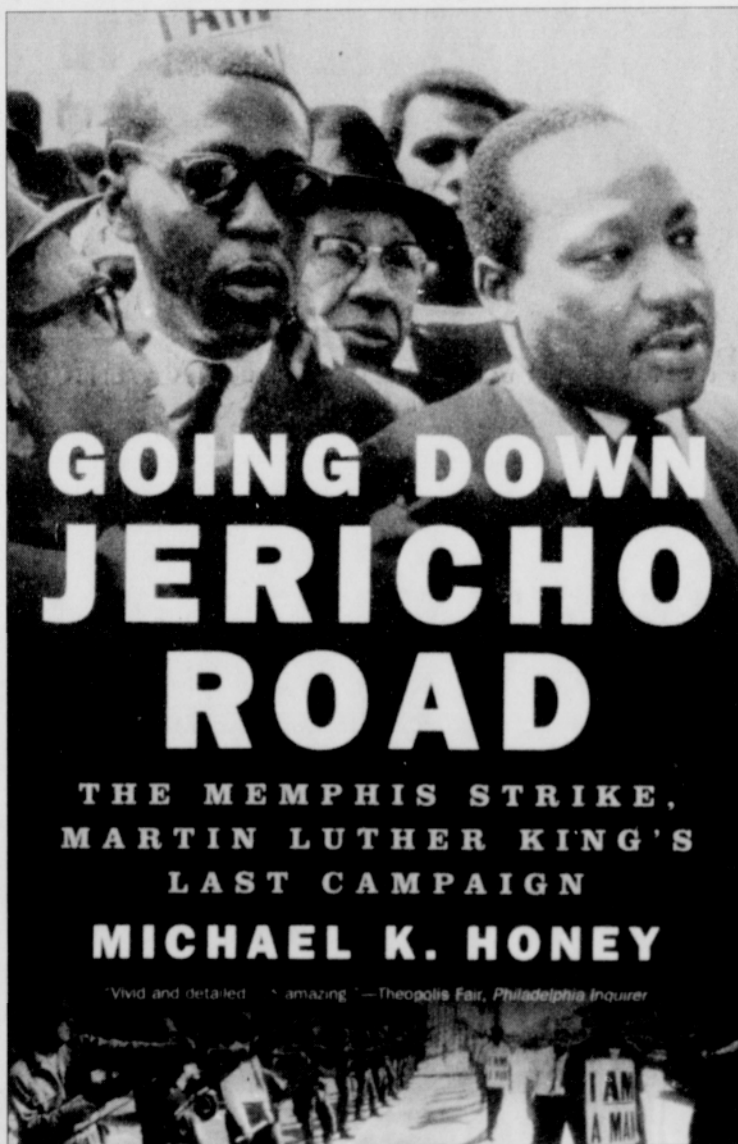
This is a story about Martin Luther King, but it is also a story about the plight of the unemployed and poor people in America who worked "full-time jobs at part-time wages."

The night before he was assassinated, King urged those supporting and participating in the

Memphis strike to follow the Jericho Road. By this, he meant that they should follow the example of the Good Samaritan, who helped the poor and the needy despite the potential personal cost to himself.

King said, "The question is not, if I stop to help this man in need, what will happen to me?" but "If I do no stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?"

With all the drama, detail and pacing of a



novel, Going Down Jericho Road draws us into the sweep of the forces marshaled against a peaceful solution to the crisis including the unbending Mayor Henry Loeb, who the day after King's death shook hands with clergy demanding a resolution to the strike.



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~Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967

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