Record Nr. UNINA9910467158603321 Autore Murrell Gary <1947-> Titolo "The most dangerous communist in the United States": a biography of Herbert Aptheker / / Gary Murrell; with an afterword by Bettina Aptheker Pubbl/distr/stampa Amherst, [Massachusetts];; Boston, [Massachusetts]:,: University of Massachusetts Press, , 2015 ©2015 **ISBN** 1-61376-359-X Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (468 p.) Disciplina 973.07202 Soggetti Historians - United States African Americans - Historiography Communists - United States Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto An immigrant family's New York -- The Red decade -- "Double V" --The Aptheker thesis -- Into the fires -- Prelude to McCarthyism -- The time of the toad -- Are you now or have you ever been? -- De facto dissolution of the Party -- Revelations and disputations -- Old Left and new -- The dangerous enemy in our midst -- Mission to Hanoi -- "Let my name forever be enrolled among the traitors" -- Aptheker and Du Bois -- Publishing Du Bois -- Yale historians and the challenge to academic freedom -- The American Institute for Marxist Studies --Conflict and compromise -- Black power and the freeing of Angela Davis -- An assault on honor -- Party control -- Renewal and endings -- Rebellion in a haunted house -- Comrades of a different sort --Now it's your turn -- Afterword / by Bettina Aptheker. Sommario/riassunto "When J. Edgar Hoover declared Herbert Aptheker 'the most dangerous Communist in the United States,' the notorious FBI director misconstrued his true significance. In this first book-length biography of Aptheker (1915-2003), Gary Murrell provides a balanced yet

unflinching assessment of the controversial figure who was at once a

leading historian of African America, radical political activist, literary executor of W.E.B. Du Bois, and lifelong member of the American Communist Party. Although blacklisted at U.S. universities, Aptheker published dozens of books, including the groundbreaking American Negro Slave Revolts (1943) and the monumental seven-volume Documentary History of the Negro People (1951-1994). He also edited four volumes of the correspondence and unpublished writings of Du Bois, an achievement that Eric Foner, writing in the New York Times Book Review, called 'a milestone in the coming of age of Afro-American history.' As Murrell shows, Aptheker the historian was inseparable from Aptheker the leading Communist Party intellectual, polemicist, and agitator. During the 1960's, his ability to rouse and inspire both black and white student radicals made him one of the few Old Leftists accepted by the New Left. Aptheker had joined the CPUSA during its heyday in the 1930's, convinced that only through the party's leadership could fascism be defeated and true liberation be achieved: he ended his affiliation five decades later in 1991 after the collapse of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe"--Provided by publisher.