Record Nr. UNINA9910882893003321 Autore Bassey Magnus O. Titolo Student Activism in 1960s America: Stories from Queens College / / by Magnus O. Bassey Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer Nature Switzerland:,: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan, , 2024 **ISBN** 9783031547942 3031547942 Edizione [1st ed. 2024.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (294 pages) Collana Palgrave Studies in the History of Social Movements, , 2634-6567 Disciplina 378.1981 Soggetti Social history World politics United States - History Social justice Education - History Oral history Social History Political History **US** History Social Justice History of Education **Oral History** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto 1. Introduction -- 2. Queens College: A History -- 3. The Pioneers -- 4. The Trailblazers -- 5. The Bridge Leaders -- 6. The Rebuilders -- 7. Those Who Volunteered and Why They Volunteered -- 8. Conclusion. Sommario/riassunto This book sheds light on the untold stories of individual student activists at Queens College, New York City, during the 1960s. Against the backdrop of the ongoing Vietnam War and the assassination of

President John F. Kennedy, some Americans began to lose faith in their government. Based on injustices that students saw in their campuses, in the country, and in the world at large, they began to question their

political leaders. Students organized their discontents over three major issues: civil rights, free speech, and anti-war sentiments. Their protests involved direct actions such as sit-ins, marches, picketing, and boycotts. At Queens College (QC), as the students moved away from the repressive McCarthy era of the 1950s, they began to confront and challenge those in power at the college in the 1960s. The defining characteristic of this break from the past was a student strike in 1961 in objection to the ban of controversial speakers who had been invited to campus by student clubs. The student strike of 1961 gave the activists among them a direct and immediate way to fight power on campus and to fight racism and discrimination. The author argues that student movements cannot be attributed to a single explanation, and therefore, he focuses on individual historical contexts, presenting firstperson narratives from the actual participants, and tells their stories in their own voices, from their own records, and from the documents they left behind. The book identifies the QC student activists of the 1960s, exploring how and why they became activists; their activities; their achievement as activists; and what motivated them to think that they could make history themselves by confronting racism. It provides an intimate look at the students' lives and their social justice journey, beginning at Queens College and as they moved into their careers. Magnus O. Bassey is Professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Youth Services at Queens College, the City University of New York, USA.