

# The City on the Hill From Below: The Crisis of Prophetic Black Politics

Stephen H. Marshall

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Within the disciplines of American political science and political theory, African American prophetic political critique as a form of political theorizing has been largely neglected. In *The City on the Hill from Below*, Stephen H. Marshall interrogates the political thought of David Walker, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, James Baldwin, and Toni Morrison to reveal a vital tradition of American political theorizing and engagement with an American political imaginary forged by the City on the Hill.

Originally articulated to describe colonial settlement, state formation, and national consolidation, the image of the City on the Hill has been transformed into one richly suited to assessing and transforming American political evil. *The City on the Hill from Below* examines how African American political thinkers appropriated and revised languages of biblical prophecy and American republicanism to recast the classic American political self-image of the nation as the City on the Hill.