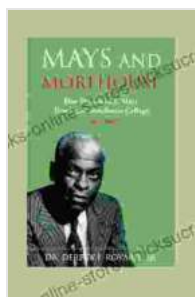


# Educational Visionary: Benjamin Mays' Transformative Leadership at Morehouse College, 1940-1966

Benjamin Elijah Mays, a renowned theologian, educator, civil rights activist, and author, served as the exceptional president of Morehouse College from 1940 to 1966. During his tenure, Mays transformed the institution into a leading center of higher education for African Americans, shaping the lives and careers of countless students.

## Early Life and Education

Born in Epworth, South Carolina in 1894, Mays was the son of former slaves. Despite facing significant obstacles and discrimination, he excelled academically, graduating from South Carolina State College in 1914. He subsequently earned his Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Chicago in 1917 and 1925, respectively.



## Mays and Morehouse: How Benjamin E. Mays Developed Morehouse College 1940-1966 by Nigel Blundell

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 516 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 172 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## **Leadership at Morehouse College**

In 1940, Mays was appointed as the seventh president of Morehouse College. He brought with him a transformative vision and a deep commitment to academic excellence, social justice, and human dignity. Under his leadership, Morehouse underwent a period of unprecedented growth and innovation.

## **Academic Reforms**

Mays implemented a rigorous curriculum, raising the academic standards and expectations for students. He introduced new programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and business, expanding the educational opportunities available to Morehouse students.

## **Faculty Development**

Mays believed that exceptional faculty were essential for student success. He actively recruited and supported talented scholars, many of whom became leaders in their fields. The faculty at Morehouse grew in number and quality during his presidency, contributing to the college's reputation for academic excellence.

## **Student Life and Leadership**

Mays fostered a vibrant and supportive student community. He encouraged students to participate in extracurricular activities, student government, and community service. He also established the Morehouse Debating Union, a platform for students to develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

## **Civil Rights Activism**

As a prominent civil rights leader, Mays used his platform as president to advocate for racial equality and social justice. He worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the movement, providing guidance and support. Mays' activism inspired Morehouse students to become involved in the fight for civil rights, contributing to the college's legacy as a center of social change.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Mays' transformative leadership left an indelible mark on Morehouse College and beyond. Under his guidance, the institution rose to prominence as a leading center of higher education for African Americans, producing generations of leaders in various fields.

## **Institutional Growth**

During Mays' presidency, Morehouse's enrollment, faculty, and campus size significantly expanded. He secured substantial funding for new buildings, including the John Hope Library and the Morehouse School of Medicine, enhancing the college's infrastructure and resources.

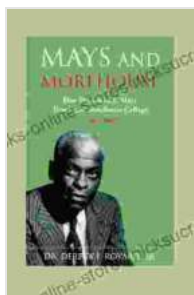
## **Transformative Education**

Mays' commitment to academic excellence resulted in a rigorous and transformative educational experience for Morehouse students. The college's curriculum, faculty, and student body underwent significant upgrades, producing graduates who were well-prepared for success in their careers and as leaders in their communities.

## **Social Activism**

Through his civil rights activism, Mays instilled in Morehouse students a deep sense of social responsibility and a commitment to fighting for justice. The college became a hub for civil rights organizing and activism, shaping the lives and careers of countless student activists.

Benjamin Mays' leadership at Morehouse College from 1940 to 1966 was a transformative chapter in the history of higher education for African Americans. His vision, determination, and unwavering belief in the power of education empowered generations of students to excel academically, lead with integrity, and contribute to a more just and equitable society. Mays' legacy as a visionary educator and civil rights leader continues to inspire and motivate countless individuals around the world.



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