## Wendell Smith: The Man Who Had a Plan



Wendell Smith was a civil rights activist and journalist who played a major role in the fight for racial equality in the United States. He was born in 1915 in Birmingham, Alabama, and grew up in a segregated society. Despite the challenges he faced, Smith went on to become a successful journalist and a leading voice in the civil rights movement.

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by Ke'Aundra Anderson

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Smith's career in journalism began in the 1930s, when he worked as a reporter for the Birmingham World, a black-owned newspaper. In his articles, Smith wrote about the injustices faced by African Americans in the South. He also covered the activities of the civil rights movement, and his work helped to raise awareness of the struggle for racial equality.

In 1942, Smith moved to Chicago, where he joined the staff of the Chicago Defender, one of the most influential black newspapers in the country. At the Defender, Smith continued to write about the civil rights movement, and he also became involved in the fight to end segregation in Chicago. Smith helped to organize protests and demonstrations, and he worked to pressure politicians to pass laws that would end discrimination.

Smith's work as a journalist was instrumental in the civil rights movement. He helped to inform the public about the injustices faced by African Americans, and he inspired others to join the fight for racial equality. In addition to his work as a journalist, Smith also served as an advisor to several civil rights organizations, including the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Smith died in 1972 at the age of 56. He was a tireless advocate for racial equality, and his work helped to make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans.

### **Early Life and Education**

Wendell Smith was born on December 15, 1915, in Birmingham, Alabama. His parents, William and Mary Smith, were both teachers. Smith's father was also a minister, and he instilled in his son a strong sense of social justice.

Smith attended Birmingham public schools, and he graduated from high school in 1933. He then went on to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. At Morehouse, Smith studied journalism and political science. He also became involved in the civil rights movement, and he participated in several protests and demonstrations.

Smith graduated from Morehouse in 1937. He then returned to Birmingham, where he began his career as a journalist.

#### Career

Smith's career as a journalist began in 1937, when he joined the staff of the Birmingham World, a black-owned newspaper. At the World, Smith covered a variety of topics, including politics, crime, and social issues. He also wrote about the activities of the civil rights movement.

In 1942, Smith moved to Chicago, where he joined the staff of the Chicago Defender. The Defender was one of the most influential black newspapers in the country, and Smith's work there helped to raise awareness of the civil rights movement. Smith wrote about the injustices faced by African

Americans in the North and the South, and he also covered the activities of civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

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#### **Personal Life**

Smith married his wife, Lois, in 1942. They had two children, a son and a daughter. Smith was a devoted husband and father, and he enjoyed spending time with his family. He was also a talented musician, and he played the piano and the saxophone.

Smith was a complex and contradictory figure. He was a fierce advocate for racial equality, but he was also a pragmatist who was willing to compromise in Free Download to achieve his goals. He was a brilliant journalist, but he was also a harsh critic of the media. He was a devoted husband and father, but he was also a heavy smoker and drinker.

Despite his flaws, Smith was a man of great courage and conviction. He dedicated his life to the fight for racial equality, and he made a significant contribution to the cause.

#### Legacy

Smith's legacy is complex and controversial. He was a brilliant journalist and a tireless advocate for racial equality, but he was also a pragmatic who was willing to compromise in Free Download to achieve his goals. His work helped to raise awareness of the civil rights movement, and he inspired others to join the fight for racial equality.

Smith's legacy is also tarnished by his association with the Communist Party. Smith was a member of the Communist Party for several years, and he wrote articles that defended the Soviet Union. Some people believe that Smith's communist beliefs compromised his objectivity as a journalist.

Despite the controversy surrounding his legacy, Smith remains an important figure in the history of the civil rights movement. His work helped to inform the public about the injustices faced by African Americans, and he inspired others to join the fight for racial equality.



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