

ABSTRACT

The Life and Work of Otto Huiswoud: Professional Revolutionary and Internationalist (1893 - 1961)

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This dissertation examines the Life and Work of Otto Huiswoud, one of the Charter members of the American Communist Party and an important Black official working for the Communist International in the 1930s. Huiswoud's involvement with, and his contribution to: American Communism; International Communism; and the National Liberation Movement, has been studied by using new archival material. The underlying analysis throughout this study is directed at the question, why Huiswoud did not receive the recognition befitting his work and his commitment to: the 'Negro Question'; labour and trade unionism; anti-imperialism and National Liberation. History is more than the actions and deeds of great individuals, as C.L.R. James liked to propound. The *Zeitgeist* of anti-communism deprived Huiswoud of recognition and prevented the newly emerging independent nations from truly liberating themselves of colonial domination. By denying the Marxist-Leninist legacy of Caribbean and African revolutionaries, the colonial powers have failed in directing the decolonization process towards the creation of a new social order.

Keywords: Maria Gertrudis van Enkevort; Otto Huiswoud; biography; International Communism; Black Nationalism; Caribbean Radicalism; 'Negro Question'; right of self-determination; National Liberation.