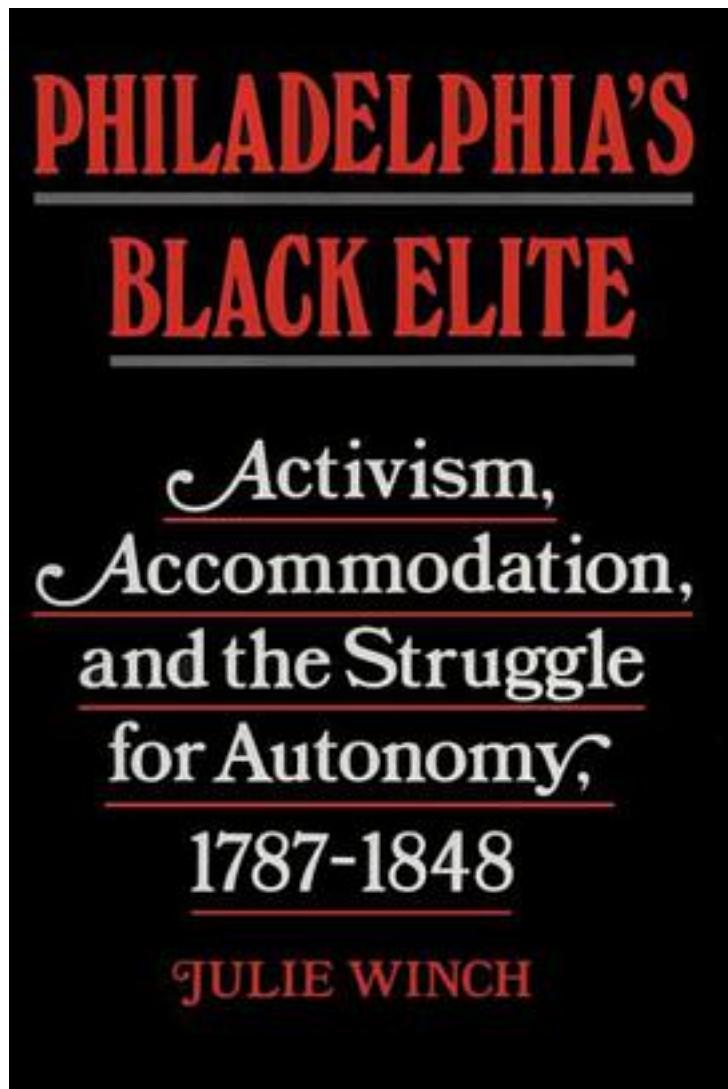


Philadelphia's Black Elite



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著者:Julie Winch

出版者:Temple University Press,U.S.

出版时间:1993-3-29

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9781566390880

"Philadelphia's Black Elite" traces the personalities and the policies of two generations of leaders in one of the largest and most influential free black communities in antebellum America. Moving beyond their commitment to antislavery, Julie Winch examines the range of other causes to which they devoted themselves, from moral reform and civil rights to Caribbean emigration. She also explores the dilemma confronting these early black leaders: while reflecting the needs and concerns of their black constituents, they had to retain the confidence of the white community.

"Philadelphia's Black Elite" discusses their attempts to reconcile the demands of the two communities and the reasons why many eventually abandoned the struggle. The leaders of Philadelphia's black community came from diverse backgrounds: former slaves, freeborn 'upper class' socialites, financially secure entrepreneurs, eloquent social reformers. The variety among the leadership added vitality to their efforts, but led to conflict and bitter debate. Winch addresses the political competition between blacks in New York City and Philadelphia, and evaluates the charge that Philadelphia's black elite were ineffectual leaders. Her study, which begins a full generation earlier than most social histories of the development of black leadership, traces community problems that arose as black Philadelphians inherited leadership positions and shows how some gradually lost sight of the difficulties confronting newly freed and runaway slaves. Author note: Julie Winch is Assistant Professor of Black Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

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