

# AT WAR WITH POLITICS



Dr Stephen Graves

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A Journey from Traditional  
Political Science to Black  
Politics

The Black Studies Collection

Collection editor  
**Dr Christopher McAuley**



To my brother YaKima Donnell Ward.

To Arpad Kadarkay, AT, Otty, Krohn, Pitre, Robert Ostergard,  
Luqman, K Lynn, Arthur, Ben, and my wonderful parents and  
children who gave me everything I needed to be who I am.

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## **Abstract**

By reflecting on his own background and educational experiences, political scientist Stephen Graves, PhD explores the relationship between his career path and his own identity. Graves employs a personal lens to investigate the journey of a Black scholar looking for the best way to make changes in his community. His collegiate career studying politics is defined by challenging major themes in American government while the political issues he identifies as important to Black communities are invisible among the academic discourse he encounters. With seemingly no clear political home to find himself, he turns to political philosophy and discovers his own brand of Black politics. Mixing political philosophy and Black studies, Graves employs a personal lens that ultimately empowers him throughout his education and into his future. Ultimately finding a career in teaching provided the opportunity to engage students pursuing their own paths and identities in politics, while hoping to be agents of change.

## **Key words**

African American; Black politics; political science; autobiography; philosophy; political theory; American government; higher education; racism