

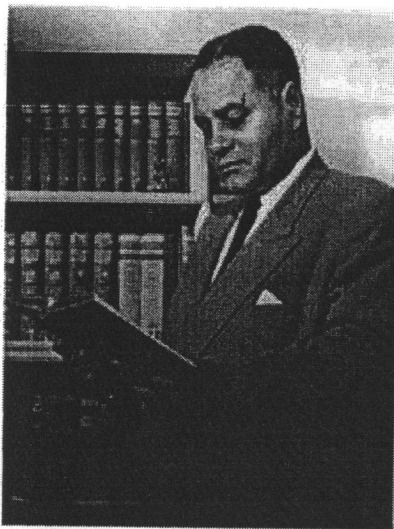
The Ralph J. Bunche Library of the U.S. Department of State

Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971)

-- one of the most prominent and gifted statesmen of the 20th century.

Ralph Johnson Bunche graduated at the head of his class from the University of California at Los Angeles. He was the first African American to receive a doctorate in Political Science from Harvard University. He organized and chaired Howard University's first Department of Political Science.

Throughout his life, Ralph Bunche was active in the American civil rights movement. He became a leading expert on European colonialism in Africa. While serving in the State Department from 1944 to 1947, Dr. Bunche worked on the future of colonial territories. He was involved with the United Nations from its beginning, serving as the principal author of two chapters of the UN Charter, one on trusteeship and one on non-self-governing territories. For brokering an armistice between Israel and its Arab neighbors, Ralph Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950. He was the first person of color to receive this highest of honors.



In recognition of Dr. Bunche's political and humanitarian contributions to America, the United Nations, and the world, and of his contributions to the world of learning, the Library of the Department of State was dedicated and renamed in his honor on May 5, 1997.

Milestones in the Life of Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche

- Born Detroit, Michigan, August 7, 1904
- UCLA, B.A. (summa cum laude), 1927
- Harvard University, Ph. D., 1934
- Howard University, professor, 1928-38
- Office of Strategic Services, 1941-44
- Department of State, 1944-47
- United Nations, Director, Trusteeship Dept., 1948-54
- United Nations, mediator:
 - on Palestine, 1948-49;
 - on Egypt, 1956;
 - on the Congo, 1960;
 - on Yemen, 1963
- Nobel Peace Prize Winner, 1950
- United Nations, Under Secretary, Special Political Affairs, 1958-67
- United Nations, Under Secretary-General, 1967-71
- Died New York City, December 9, 1971

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The Ralph J. Bunche Library
U. S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW, Room 3239
Washington, DC 20520-2442
<http://usds.library.net/>

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