

# THE MEANING OF FREEDOM

## Angela Davis

Angela Davis is a legendary speaker, known for the clarity and subtlety of her thought and the compelling passion of her delivery. This speech was delivered at a conference organized for the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in 1808, to talk about the meaning of freedom.

- What has that freedom meant for people of African descent?
- What has that freedom meant for the black world?
- And what has been the relationship to communities that are differently racialized but nonetheless suffer under these cycles of oppression?

Speaking in depth on the history of slavery in the US, the destructive nature of the prison-industrial complex, and the growing threat to democracy poised by ever-powerful global corporations, Davis ask listeners to recall inspiring moments of African American resistance and to work across lines of race and gender to foster grassroots democracy.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angela Davis is one of the iconic figures of this era. She was acquitted of conspiracy charges in 1972 after one of the most famous trials in U.S. history. She went on to become an internationally regarded scholar and writer. She is the author of many books, including *Women, Culture and Politics* and *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*. Governor Ronald Reagan of California vowed when he fired her from her position at UCLA that she would never again teach in the state system. Today, she is a tenured professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

## ACCOLADES

"Davis is an articulate and powerful analyst of contemporary culture."  
—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Behold the heart and mind of Angela Davis: open, relentless, and on time!"  
—June Jordan



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